



# KINFOLKS

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY, INC.

ISSN 0742-7654

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 75 - Society News                          | 88 - Ancestor Chart - Ruby Hawkins                     |
| 76 - SW LA Genealogical/Historical Library | 89 - An Interesting Ancestor - Miguel Juan Rosteet III |
| 76 - May Program - Colonial History        | 92 - Churches in Lake Charles - 1869/1950              |
| 80 - Road Trip for Road Blocks             | 101 - The Hurricane of 1918                            |
| 82 - American Legion Post #1 - continued   | 105 - <i>The Daily American</i> - 2 August 1897        |
| 83 - Calcasieu Women Who Served in WWI     | 107 - Index  |
| 108 - 2018 Officers & Patron Members       |  |

Volume 42 No. 3 - September 2018

**SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** 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 - individual, \$17 - families (husband and wife), and \$22 - patron (individuals 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Pujoe St., Lake Charles, LA. Programs include a variety of topics to instruct and interest genealogists.

**KINFOLKS** is published quarterly. Issues should be received by end of March, May, September and November. Notify the SWLGS of a change of address as soon as possible to assure delivery. Queries are free to members, \$2 for non-members. Each issue has a surname index. Single issues are \$4.00. Back issues are available from 1977. *Kinfolks* is indexed in the Periodical Source Index (PERSI), Fort Wayne, IN.

**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.

**SOCIETY ITEMS FOR SALE** - *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; and *Ancestor Charts & Tables, Vol. VIII (2009)* \$20.00 ppd. *Kinfolks - Subject Index II - Vol. 19 (1995) through Vol. 22 (1998)* \$5.00 ppd; *Subject Index IV - Vol. 27 (2003) through Vol. 31 (2007)* \$5.00 ppd. Order from SWLGS, P. O. Box 5652, Lake Charles, LA 70606-5652.

**IMPORTANT!!! PLEASE ADVISE US OF A CHANGE OF ADDRESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** *Kinfolks* is mailed in bulk in March, May, September and November. The post office will not forward your copy if you have moved and charges 75 cents for an address correction. Re-mailing *Kinfolks* cost the price of a second copy, plus \$2.00. Therefore, it is necessary that you advise us of a change of address as soon as possible to help save unnecessary expenses.

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**SOCIETY NEWS**  
**Mark Your Calendar for Meetings -**  
**2018 - Jan. 20, March 17, May 19, Sept. 15, Nov. 17**

**SEPTEMBER MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society will be held on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. in the Carnegie Meeting Room. Guests are welcome. Program will be "Save Your Photos" presented by RENEE GRANTHAM. Canned goods and monetary contributions will be given to Abraham's Tent.

**NOVEMBER MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society will be held on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. in the Carnegie Meeting Room. Guests are welcome. Program will be "History of Moss Bluff" presented by HARVEY DOWNS. Canned goods and monetary contributions will be given to Abraham's Tent.

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**NEW MEMBERS**

1642. HIRAM CLEMENT, 2912 Dow Cir., Deer Park, TX 77536-4951  
1643. BRUCE WYMAN, 106 Grove St., Lake Charles, LA 70601-5941  
1644. PATRICIA LaFLEUR, 2106 Walker Dr. Apt. 119, Westlake, LA 0669-2430

Membership - 186

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**SOCIETY WEBSITE**

The Society's website was set up using RootsWeb.com as our hosted site.

The website has been down for a couple of years and suffered a major outage in October 2017 when a system crash destroyed many of the pages on the website.

Ancestry.com, the parent company of RootsWeb.com, is slowly bringing RootsWeb hosted sites back on line. We have sent in a request to have our hosted website restored.

The Society's Surname Index can be found at  
<[files.usgwarchives.net/la/Calcasieu/misc/library/sindexaf.txt](http://files.usgwarchives.net/la/Calcasieu/misc/library/sindexaf.txt)>

If you find a surname that interests you, we can check the member's ancestor chart and provide you with information from that chart.

Contact Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library at  
[gen@calcasieu.lib.la.us](mailto:gen@calcasieu.lib.la.us) or [phuffaker@bellsouth.net](mailto:phuffaker@bellsouth.net). Be sure to give us the membership number.

**SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL LIBRARY**  
**411 Pujo Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601**

**SEPTEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Program - AMEDEE ARDOIN, The father of Creole, Cajun and Zydeco Music.**  
**Speaker – JOYCE AMBROSE, library staff**

**SEPTEMBER 15<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Genealogy Book Sale**

**OCTOBER 16<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.**

**Beginning Genealogy – Hands-On Computer Workshop**

**ARMAJEAN DECLOUET will assist registered patrons in exploring digital  
genealogical research.**

**Registration is required for this program. Call or stop by the library to sign up.**

**Online registration is available at [www.calcasieulibrary.org](http://www.calcasieulibrary.org). Click on calendar.**

**2018 REMINISCENT WRITING CONTEST deadline is December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

**“What’s in a Name” is the topic. Write about an ancestor or family member with a  
unique, unusual, or special name and the story behind the person’s name.**

**Stories submitted must be typed, double-spaced and have no more than 1000 words  
or four pages. Please use a cover sheet with your name, address, phone number, email  
address and the title of your story. Do not include your name on the pages of your story.**

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**MAY PROGRAM**

The May Program “Colonial History” was presented by LEE ROBINSON of Jennings, La.

**COLONIAL HISTORY**  
**1750-1776**

Two hundred and fifty years from now people will probably look back at life in 2018 in much  
the same way we look at life in 1750.

We can’t imagine how life will be in 2268 just as our ancestors could not imagine our life today.

In 1750 there were some people living we all know: THOMAS JEFFERSON was 7 years old,  
JOHN ADAMS was 15, DANIEL BOONE was 16, GEORGE WASHINGTON 18, LUDWIG  
VON BEETHOVEN 20. BEN FRANKLIN was already 44.

It was an exciting time to be living.

In 1752 an individual by the name of ISAAC FORD would be born in Massachusetts Colony to  
JESSE and MARY COOKER FORD.



JESSE's great grandfather WILLIAM died on board the *Fortune* during the 2 month voyage from England to Plymouth.

His widow, MARTHA, arrived on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of Nov. 1621 with three children. Her 4th child was born that eve or the following morning.

ISAAC would marry MARTHA EARL and move his family from Massachusetts Colony to New York Colony.

ISAAC would become Great Grandfather to JOHN FORD born in 1847 in New York

JOHN FORD would marry ABIGAIL HADDEN and would move his family to Jennings, Louisiana, and would become the Great Grandfather to LEE ROBINSON.

And that establishes my claim to this time in history.

You all had relatives living somewhere during this time period making it your history as well.

So, what was life like in the Colonies during this time period?

Just as today, life differed depending on your circumstance, your location, your reason for being there.

My relatives were in the upper colonies because they were Congregationalist Separatist meaning they came to the colonies to flee the Church of England and its corruption. They were followers of JOHN CALVIN's teachings. Plymouth was founded by such a group.

Pennsylvania by the Dutch known as Quakers.

Maryland by the Reformist Catholics.

Town people probably had it easier than country folk, but were more dependent on others for the necessities of life such as food and etc.

Children would definitely say life was harder then because chores were a way of life and allowances were not heard of.

By 1750 all 13 Colonies had been formed...it was a 126 year process.

Jamestown, Virginia in 1607.

Georgia in 1733.

It was formed by bankers in England who emptied the debtors prisons and shipped them there to work off their debts. The bankers got rich and the debtors either saw it as a harsher punishment, or an opportunity for a fresh start.

By 1750 the total population of the 13 Colonies was about 1 million.

England and Wales combined was 6 million.

The Colonies accounted for 20-25% of England's revenue.

This was the same time of the French and Indian War and England looked to the colonies to replenish the depleted coffers (1754-1763).

It is interesting to note that the residents of 13 Colonies did not see themselves as the 13 Colonies. They were distinctly separate until very close to the start of the Revolutionary War.

Clothing then was made differently than today. Materials used were wool, cotton, silk, leather, corduroy (a blend of cotton and wool) and denim (a blend of cotton, wool and silk).

Pockets had not yet been invented and men carried their valuables in their purse, haversack or possible pouch.

Women had no valuables so they carried none of these.

When pockets were invented, the women started using their husband's purse.

Men's hats started off round with wide brims to afford protection from the sun, but with the introduction of the wig the hats were removed inside to show off the wig and the tri-corn became stylish because of its ease in carrying.

The tri-corn and most hats of the day were made of felt. Felt is manufactured from the under-hair of the beaver. This caused the importance of the fur trade.

The fur trade was big money and up until 1760 the French dominated it, but from 1760 to 1816 the English dominated the fur trade.

Cooking was either accomplished in the fireplace or outside on an open pit fire or on a brazier.

A very convenient item was the corn boiler. It was a drinking cup, a pot to cook in and a container to eat out of.

Pots and pans were copper, flat iron or pewter.

Candles were an everyday item and were mostly made of beeswax, but some were of berry wax or tallow. Candles were either dipped or made from molds.

Matches had not been discovered yet so everyone possessed flint and steel and were proficient in the use of them. In addition to the flint and steel, chard cloth was needed to start a fire.

Chard cloth is made by placing cloth in a metal container and placing in a fire. A small hole in the container allows the gasses to escape as the material chars.

Striking flint with steel causes metal shavings to fly off in the form of a spark. The chard cloth catches the spark and smolders until sufficient oxygen is presented to cause fire igniting the tender, which provides the heat to ignite the kindling and the larger fuel.

Wind is an enemy to the match, but is a Godsend to the flint and steel user.

Weapons used varied from knives, hawks bows, and black power firearms.

The flint lock firing mechanism was in use during this time period.

Most common long guns were the Brown Bess introduced by the British and the Charleville musket by the French (supplied to Colonies to fight the British). Both were .69 cal.

Brown Bess had no sights with a 3 – 4 round per minute rate of fire.

The French musket came out with fixed sights but had a 2 – 3 round per minute rate of fire because extra time was taken to acquire the target in the sights.

Bathing during summer months for most folks was weekly or every other week. Winter was monthly or every other month for some and come spring for others. Air baths were common.

Story goes BEN FRANKLIN was partial to air baths and would go to his upstairs bedroom, open the window, strip his garments and sit with his feet spread apart on the windowsill. Two problems, BEN lived in town and his bedroom faced the main street. People soon learned, when passing BEN's house you looked down and walked fast.

Like us, they had to adapt and overcome.

They did what was demanded of them by the environment, their circumstances, the supplies on hand to live and care for their loved ones.

Additional information:

Fringe was on the clothes because it made the leather dry faster (acted as a wick).

The colonial people ate salted, dried and smoked foods.

Hard tack was made with flour and water, and it was hard. It was soaked in tea or soup to make it easier to eat.

Indians did not have tomahawks until they traded with the European colonials.

Mr. ROBINSON had clothing, guns, cooking utensils, etc. on display.

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**GENEALOGISTS DO IT GENERATION AFTER GENERATION.**



## ROAD TRIP FOR ROAD BLOCKS

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*Your Genealogy Today*, Volume 3, Number 3 - July/August 2017

Here are 10 tips for onsite research when it's time to make that genealogy road trip.

1. Start with everything you do know about the person causing the road block - full name, birth and death date, names of their spouse, names of their children, any locations they lived, etc. This information should help you determine the physical location of where to start looking. However, if you've hit a road block with this person, know that the information you have assembled may contain a number of errors so hold on to it loosely.
2. Go to the courthouse in the county of the physical location where you have decided to start looking. This trip might involve significant travel, so plan to allow a few days if possible. Try staying in a bed and breakfast or country inn if one is available. Your hosts will most likely know much more about the area than the desk clerk of the chain motel. Tell them your story and why you are visiting their town or county. Purchase a few small gift cards such as from the local coffee shop to share with those who go out of their way to help you in the next couple of days.
3. At the courthouse, search for wills of the individual, their spouse, parents or children. Wills will often provide you with death date information and the names of additional family members. Be kind to the staff and they will likely be some of the greatest treasures you unearth on your trip. Remember, they know these records better than you ever will.
4. While at the courthouse, check out the Recorder and Auditor's offices. If your ancestor was a landowner, you might find documents for the purchase or sale of land, which will help place them in that geographic location. If you have time, drive to these locations and take photos after asking permission of the current residents. You might find a house, a barn, or an old well on the property that dates to the time of your ancestor.
5. Make your next stop the library and remember to be kind to the staff. Many will have a room or set of records devoted to local history or genealogy. Among other treasures, the library might contain an index of obituaries where you find your ancestor or one of their family members. Obituaries can help with birth dates, death dates, and names of parents and names of children. Don't forget to ask if their records can be accessed online for when you return home.
6. Go to the cemetery where your road block ancestor is buried. When you locate the stone, check closely that the birth and death dates correspond to your records and adjust accordingly. Confirm spelling. Look nearby for graves of their parents or young children, which might also help you place the family in a specific location at a certain time or indicate an epidemic when a number of family members may have died. Take photographs of the stones in between your happy dances.
7. Ask if the town has a historical museum and go there. You might find information about the area such as economic boom times that may have instigated your family's migration. Weather-related history, such as tornadoes or draughts, might have caused them to move away. Ask if

there are any historical sketches or family histories within their collection. If you take the time to share your struggles with the staff, they will often have ideas you might not have previously considered. Distribute coffee cards and appreciation; many times, you will be working with volunteers.

8. If you have unearthed new names, spellings, dates or locations with any of the above steps, go back to the local courthouse and library armed with this information and repeat steps 3, 4, and 5 for these people. Keep adding to your now growing file of basic information.

9. Check with the courthouse, the library, and the museum for newspaper archives. Once you have a number of family names and dates, start by making copies of the obituaries, but keep your eyes open regarding health and weather related stories. You might find an article regarding a house fire or the closing of a business that employed your ancestor. Here's a newspaper snippet headlined "Mills Corners" that caused me to shout "Eureka!" about an hour before library closing time in Jay County, Indiana.

"Martin Lee died at his home near this place, Wednesday of last week, of typhoid fever. Just one week previous to Mr. Lee's death, their 14-year-old daughter died with the same disease. There is yet four of the family down with the fever, but are thought to be improving."

Know that many early editions of newspapers did not necessarily have titles and sections like today's papers. Therefore, you might have to scan lots of text where obituaries are scattered and sandwiched between square dance notices and advertisements for horse feed.

10. Once you return home, assemble all your new information and get back to work on the Internet. Look at census records, marriage certificates and military files. Now that you are past your road-block, chase after the new name and family lines your hard work has uncovered.

Remember to take the time to document all your information on this person and their family, so you can send it back to the library, museum or genealogy association you visited. Enclose thank you notes with your information. Hopefully it can be placed on file and give a long lost cousin the opportunity to shout "Eureka!" one day. Attach your contact information because that cousin might just have something you don't - family photos. Receiving treasures like that will make the road trip and all your efforts worth the time you invested.

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – *The Swamp Angels, Kinfolks*, Vol. 42 #2, submitted by  
CLAVE E. GILL, Member No. 1631**

"Post-war research by C. J. CHRIST of Houma involving WWII German submarine activity in the Gulf helped determine that the *Robert E. Lee* was sunk off of Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River by German U-Boat 166; and that U-166 was not sunk by a Coast Guard aircraft, but by Navy Patrol Craft PC-566 commanded by LCDR HERBERT G. CLAUDIUS, USN."

**AMERICAN LEGION, W. B. WILLIAMSON POST No. 1**  
Submitted by SANDRA FISHER TAVENEY, Member No. 334

Continued from Vol. 42 No. 2

**LIST OF STATE'S SOLDIERS DEAD BEING COMPILED**  
*Lake Charles American Press, April 10, 1931, page 2*

Memorial Tablet to Be Erected in Honor of World War Heroes.

The State of Louisiana is compiling an accurate list of all white men and women who lost their lives while in service during the World War.

This list is being prepared in order that bronze tablets bearing the name of each man and the date of his death may be placed in the War Memorial building on the campus of Louisiana State University.

Money has been appropriated by the state legislature and is now in the hands of a committee appointed by the governor at the request of the American Legion to proceed with the compiling of the list and the purchase of the tablets.

The list below was compiled by W. B. Williamson Post No. 1 of the legion. It must be completed within 15 days. It contains the names of Calcasieu Parish service men who lost their lives. The public is asked to cooperate with the legion post and report to Commander JOHN W. FLANDERS any name that may have been left off the list, or any correction pertaining to the list.

This list to date is as follows, giving name, address and date of death of each soldier:

LOUIS R. ANDRUS, Sulphur Dec. 7, 1918  
JAMES AUGUSTINE, Iowa, Sept. 20, 1918  
HENRY BAKER, Westlake, Oct. 14, 1918  
LAWRENCE J. BAKER, Lake Charles, Nov. 10, 1918  
ALCIDE BENOIT, Lake Charles, Nov. 2, 1918  
TRACY SYLVESTER BILBO, Vinton, Nov. 3, 1918  
JOHN C. BOWDEN, Lake Charles, Nov. 5, 1918  
MOSE BREAUX, Edgerly, Sept. 30, 1918  
JOHN C. BROUSSARD, Sulphur, Oct. 6, 1918  
ARISTIDE BULLER, Iowa, Dec. 1917  
EDWARD J. BURLEIGH, Lake Charles, Jan. 6, 1919  
JOSEPH R. BUSINICK, Lake Charles, July 23, 1918  
ROSS D. BUSINICK, Lake Charles, July 24, 1918  
JAMES CASSIE, Lake Charles, July 25, 1918  
ELSA DEROUEN, Hayes, Oct. 3, 1918  
CLARENCE DEIREN, Sulphur, Oct. 20, 1918  
CECIL W. EDDLEMAN, Lake Charles, July 10, 1919



HENRY FRANZ, Edgerly, Oct. 8, 1918  
 Miss RUBY HAWKINS, Red Cross Nurse, Lake Charles, no date  
 MATTIE GIRLINGHOUSE, Sulphur, Sept. 30, 1919  
 EARL R. GROTEVANT, Lake Charles, Oct. 18, 1918  
 LOUIS LA FASSE, Ged, Sept. 19, 1918  
 RAYMOND LeBLEU, Lake Charles, Oct. 16, 1918  
 FRANCES J. McCANN, Lake Charles, Jan. 15, 1918  
 JAMES M. MORRIS, Lake Charles, Sept. 24, 1918  
 ERNIE OQUIN, Lake Charles, March 8, 1919  
 JOHN PARISH, JR., Vinton, July 29, 1918  
 JESSE JAMES RAINWATER, DeQuincy, Oct. 7, 1918  
 CLARENCE EARL ROTHKAMM, Lake Charles, Oct. 4, 1918  
 WILLIAM L. RYAN, Hecker, Oct. 11, 1918  
 ANTONIO TIMPA, Lake Charles, Oct. 9, 1918  
 Officer JAMES OLIPHANT HALL, Lake Charles, Oct. 2, 1918  
 Officer CARTER ELLIOT HINES, Lake Charles, April 28, 1919  
 Officer ALLEN FLOYD HOUSE, Lake Charles, Sept. 13, \_\_\_\_  
 ROY ALLEN WYNN, Lake Charles, Oct. 5, 1919  
 ALBERT FERDINAND DOBBERTON, Jr., Lake Charles, March 14, 1918  
 AMBROISE PUJOL, Lake Charles, Feb. 23, 1919  
 WADE HAMILTON WHITE, Lake Charles, August 16, 1918

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**WOMEN WHO SERVED IN WORLD WAR I FROM CALCASIEU PARISH**  
**By SANDRA FISHER TAVENEY, Member No. 334**

The *Lake Charles American Press* compiled a list of men and women whose lives were lost while in service during the World War of 1917-1918 from Calcasieu Parish, on April 10, 1933. A memorial was to be built on the Louisiana State University Campus by the W. B. Williamson American Legion Post 1 of Lake Charles, in honor of these soldiers.

One woman's name is found on this list of 37 men, Miss RUBY HAWKINS, Red Cross Nurse, Lake Charles, Louisiana, with no note of the date of her death or cause. Because this sounded interesting, I decided to investigate RUBY HAWKINS, this is her story.

RUBY THERESA HAWKINS was born in Waxia, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, on July 1, 1891, and died at Army Camp Beauregard near Alexandria, Louisiana, on October 10, 1918, at the age of 27 years from the illness Spanish influenza. A Tribute to her service was posted in the *Lake Charles Weekly American Press* on October 18, 1918.

"It is not necessary to wait until the termination of this world's war nor do we have to look across the seas to see grand and noble patriotic sacrifices among the women of our great nation. The untiring work of millions of them will go down in history as an indestructible monument to woman kind but, "No greater love hath a man than to lay down his life for his

friends," and the "supreme sacrifice" is being offered daily by many of our women at home and abroad.

"RUBY T. HAWKINS was the first woman of the city of Lake Charles to lay down her life for her country and the carrying of her casket, draped in the flag she loved so dearly, to her grave marks an epoch in the history of this city worthy of recordation.

"When quite a young girl she selected nursing as her life's work and after completing her course at St. Mary's Infirmary in Galveston, Texas, she remained in that city where she soon became recognized as one of the most competent, and efficient nurses in the state. Early in August 1918, she returned to Lake Charles in order that she might be with her family before joining the regular Red Cross field nursing department, as her paramount desire was to go to the western front where she would be able to lend her skill where it was most needed.

"Before her plan could be realized the dreadful Spanish influenza epidemic spread to Camp Beauregard, near Alexandria, La., and the American Red Cross was compelled to issue a call for volunteer nurses. RUBY HAWKINS was among the first to respond, leaving for the camp September 29, 1918.

"After completing her first day of nursing there she wrote to her family that her greatest desire had been fulfilled for she was giving every minute of her time to the nursing of fifty-one stricken American soldiers who were under her immediate charge. In this letter she assured her family that she loved her work and that she would not think of denying the service of her country until peace was declared. It is part of the official record at Camp Beauregard base hospital that RUBY HAWKINS, feeling that great need for nurses there at that time, refused to notice her own illness after contracting the disease but continued at her post of duty for three days, two days of the time having a very high fever.

"In the short time she was at the camp she became a great favorite and her untimely death was a shock to her family, friends and the hospital authorities. The gold star and the service flag of her family will forever signify the part woman kind played in the great struggle for justice and humanity."

RUBY THERESA HAWKINS is buried in Orange Grove Cemetery, Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, alongside other members of the HAWKINS family, some just as famous in their own way, contributors to society and the community.

Her father, GRIFFIN THEOBALD HAWKINS, Sr., born in Waxia, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, on June 7, 1850, a civil engineer, graduating from the Louisiana State University in 1872. In 1875 he married ROSE TESSIER of Point Coupee Parish and moved with his new family in 1909 to Lake Charles. G. T. HAWKINS taught school in Calcasieu and St. Landry Parishes for many years. ROSE TESSIER was born on August 27, 1854, at Springhill, East Feliciana Parish, the daughter of CHARLES ROBERT TESSIER and VIRGINIA GAULDEN TESSIER, pioneer planters. GRIFFIN THEOBALD HAWKINS, Sr. died on January 28, 1923, and his wife, ROSE died March 12, 1947.

The children of GRIFFIN and MARIE were JAMES M. HAWKINS (1875-1955), a grocer in Lafayette Parish; MAUDE G. HAWKINS (1880-1965), married JAMES EDDIE QUINN; MIGNEONETTE HAWKINS (1886-1981), married ALVA CARL ROBBINS; LORA MAY HAWKINS (1888-1983); RUBY T. HAWKINS (1891-1918); GRIFFIN T. HAWKINS, II (1896-1958) married MARIE LOUISE DeJEAN; CHARLES T. HAWKINS (1898-1969) and VIRGINIA HAWKINS (1901-1949) married COLON BREEN VANDERBURG.

One sibling of RUBY's was LORA MAE HAWKINS, born September 15, 1888, also in Waxia, Louisiana, the first ticket agent for Southern Pacific Railroad, retiring in 1950 after 40 years of service. She operated a travel agency in the Charleston Hotel after her retirement during 1951 to 1957. Miss LORA never married and died in a Sulphur Rest Home on June 4, 1983.

The most known or famous as we might say of the siblings of RUBY HAWKINS was her younger brother, GRIFFIN T. HAWKINS, Jr., lawyer and former District Attorney for Calcasieu Parish for 19 years. His obituary speaks for itself.

### **HAWKINS RITES SET FOR TODAY**

Funeral services were scheduled this afternoon for GRIFFIN T. HAWKINS, one of Louisiana's most prominent criminal lawyers and former district attorney here for 19 years.

The 62-year-old attorney died at St. Patrick's Hospital at 1:45 p.m. yesterday after several weeks' illness. The body was at the Burke Funeral Home where services were set for 4 p.m. followed by rites at the Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception at 4:15 p.m. Burial was to be in Graceland Cemetery.

Named as pallbearers were District Judge PRESTON L. SAVOY, District Attorney EDWARD L. SHAHEEN, R. W. FARRAR, Jr., WILLIAM G. CALDWELL and CULLEN R. LISKOW, all of Lake Charles, and EDDIE DeJEAN of Opelousas.

Mr. HAWKINS is survived by his wife, the former MARIE DeJEAN; three sons, GRIFFIN T. HAWKINS, III of the U. S. Air Force and stationed in Japan, RICHARD M. HAWKINS, a Luna Park, Cal., attorney, and ANDRE DeJEAN HAWKINS of Lake Charles; three sisters, Miss LORA HAWKINS and Mrs. MAUD H. QUINN, both of Lake Charles, and Mrs. A. C. ROBBINS of Pensacola, Fla.; a brother C. T. HAWKINS of Lake Charles, and four grandchildren.

The attorney retired from office little less than two year ago, in September 1956, after more than 21 years of public service – all but about two as district attorney. During those two years – 1954 to retirement – he served as first assistant to SHAHEEN, who had been HAWKINS' own first assistant before election to the district attorney's post after HAWKINS decision not to run for re-election in 1954. Since retirement Mr. HAWKINS has engaged in private practice, particularly criminal work, tort actions and workmen's compensation cases.

During his career as district attorney he prosecuted all major cases including 11 capital crimes in which ten men and one woman were convicted and executed. The woman was TONI



JO HENRY who was executed in 1942, the first woman to die in the electric chair in Louisiana. She was the wife of COWBOY HENRY a "public enemy" of the day and her trials for the cold-blooded murder of a Houston, Texas, salesman in a rice field near Lake Charles were given space in newspapers throughout the country.

Mr. HAWKINS was a native of St. Landry Parish. He was born GRIFFIN T. HAWKINS, II at Waxia plantation there on February 24, 1896, the son of a planter and the former ROSE TESSIER. The family moved to Lake Charles in 1909 when the boll weevil struck and cotton plantations were ruined throughout the state.

A graduate of Lake Charles High School in 1914, Mr. HAWKINS received his bachelor's degree in law at Louisiana State University in 1917 and was class valedictorian. The young lawyer entered the district attorney's office here the next year. The late SHELDON TOOMER, then district attorney, named HAWKINS assistant for the 14<sup>th</sup> District which then - and until a few years ago - covered five parishes, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, Allen and Beauregard.

Mr. HAWKINS was elected district attorney for the first time in 1920. In 1941 he was elected to fill the unexpired term of the late C. V. PATTERSON; in 1943 he was reelected for a full six-year term, and in 1948 to another six-year term. Between 1920 and 1941 he became engaged in politics on a national level and in 1924 represented the Seventh Congressional district at the Democratic National Convention at Madison Square Garden in New York City. In 1940 he was again elected a delegate to the Democrats' National Convention in Chicago.

In 1956 he was elected a member of the Louisiana State Democratic State Central committee and was again a member of the Louisiana delegation to the national convention. Mr. HAWKINS was a member of the American, Louisiana and Southwest Louisiana Bar Associations.

In 1946-48 he served as chairman of the criminal section of the state association and assisted in the compilation and revision of the criminal laws of the state. It was this interest of Mr. HAWKINS in the state laws that developed into a pet project of recent years, particularly since his retirement from public office - that of compiling a criminal law form book, which he had recently completed for publication. Among his other activities Mr. HAWKINS was a life member of the LSU Alumni Federation, a member of the Pioneer Club, Kappa Sigma and Tau Kappa Alpha fraternities, the Elks and Moose lodges, Woodmen of the World, The Southwest Louisiana Horse Show Association, the Association of Commerce, Lake Charles Kennel Club and the Petro-Chem Club.

District Attorney SHAHEEN said today: "Throughout his career in public office Mr. HAWKINS subordinated austerity and imperiousness to humility and humaneness. He tempered justice with mercy and treated all - irrespective of station of life - equally, justly and impartially."

GRIFFIN T. HAWKINS, II was first married to NANCY M. MOORE, of Mississippi, daughter of ALICE H. MOORE, about 1919 and they divorced about 1930, having two sons,

GRIFFIN T. HAWKINS, III, born March 17, 1920, and dying at Redstone Army Hospital in Huntsville, Alabama, at 47 years old in 1968; and RICHARD M. HAWKINS, born on August 12, 1923, and dying January 11, 2011, in Lake Elsinore, California. His second marriage was to a woman named ELAINE D., (last name unknown). They were married a short time, possibly from 1935-1945.

He next married MARIE LOUISE DeJEAN sometimes before 1957-58, a native of Opelousas, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana. She was the daughter of GEORGE PETER DeJEAN (1880-1964) and MARIE LILIA SALAUN (1884-1984) and the grand-daughter of ERNEST JOSEPH DeJEAN (1852-1919) and MARIE CLARA DeJEAN (1853- ). MARIE LOUISE DeJEAN HAWKINS was born on October 1, 1923, and died in Lake Charles, Louisiana, on June 28, 1987, serving as deputy clerk for the Third Circuit Court of Appeal from January 1, 1966, until her death. She was a member of the Southwest Louisiana Bar Auxiliary, Louisiana Clerk of Court Association, St. Patrick Auxiliary and attended Immaculate Conception Catholic Church where she served as lector. One child was born to GRIFFIN and MARIE LOUISE, a son, ANDRE DeJEAN HAWKINS (1958- ).

Pallbearers for Mrs. HAWKINS were JENNINGS B. JONES, GUY SOCKRIDER, LANE PLAUCHE, LOUIS BUFKIN, Judge PRESTON L. SAVOY, Judge HENRY YELVERTON, Dr. KENT CUTRER and KENNETH DEBLANC. Honorary pallbearers were judges of the Third Circuit, WILLIAM G. CALDWELL, RICHARD M. HAWKINS and RICHARD SAVOY.

The grandparents of GRIFFIN T. HAWKINS, Jr. and RUBY THERESA HAWKINS were AUSTIN ROSS HAWKINS (1825-1874) and HELOISE DeJEAN (1827-1899) of Opelousas, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana and CHARLES ROBERT TESSIER (1819-1910) and SARAH VIRGINIA GAULDEN (1832-1917) of Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana.

#### SOURCES:

Find a Grave

Ancestry.com

WWI and WWII Draft Cards, 1917-1918 and 1940-1947

Texas Death Certificates, 1903-1982

United States Federal Census, 1850-1940

Alabama Deaths and Burials Index, 1881-1974

*Lake Charles Weekly American Press*, 1918-1923

*Lake Charles American Press*, 1947-1987

Lake Charles City Directories, 1917-1958

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#### FRENCH WEBSITES

American-French Genealogical Society    [www.afgs.org](http://www.afgs.org)

Cyndi's List: France    [cyndislist.com/france.htm](http://cyndislist.com/france.htm)

France GenWeb    [www.francegenweb.org](http://www.francegenweb.org)

FrancoGene    [www.francogene.com](http://www.francogene.com)

Family Search: French Letter-Writing Guide    [www.familysearch.org/eng/search/rg/guide/lgfench.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/search/rg/guide/lgfench.asp)

# Ancestor Chart

Name of Compiler Sandra F. Taveney  
 Address P. O. Box 5941  
 City, State Lake Charles, LA  
 Date 6-26-2018

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

4 HAWKINS, Austin Ross  
 (Father of No. 2)  
 b. Jan. 10, 1825  
 p.b. Lexington, Kentucky  
 m. Sep. 11, 1849  
 d. July 9, 1874  
 p.d. Opelousas, La.

2 HAWKINS, Griffin Theobald  
 (Father of No. 1)  
 b. June 7, 1850  
 p.b. Opelousas, La.  
 m. -- 1875  
 d. Jan. 28 1923  
 p.d. Wahia, La.

5 DeJEAN, Heloise  
 (Mother of No. 2)  
 b. July 8 1827  
 p.b. Opelousas, La.  
 d. May 11 1899  
 p.d. Opelousas, La.

1 HAWKINS, Ruby T.  
 b. July 1 1891  
 p.b. Waxia, La.  
 m.  
 d. Oct. 10 1918  
 p.d. Rapides, La.

6 TESSIER, Charles Robert  
 (Father of No. 3)  
 b. Oct. 21 1819  
 p.b. Louisiana  
 m. Sep. 9 1853  
 d. Aug. 5 1910  
 p.d. Moreauville, La.

3 TESSIER, Rose  
 (Mother of No. 1)  
 b. Aug. 27 1854  
 p.b. Springfield, La.  
 d. Mar. 12 1947  
 p.d. Lake Charles, La.

7 GAULDEN, Sarah Virginia  
 (Mother of No. 3)  
 b. Aug. 9 1832  
 p.b. Wilkinson, Ms.  
 d. Dec. 7 1917  
 p.d. Moreauville, La.

(Spouse of No. 1)

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

8 HAWKINS, Littleberry Bailey  
 (Father of No. 4)  
 b. Oct. 12 1805  
 p.b. Buncombe, N. C.  
 m. -- 1826 - S. C.  
 d. Nov. -- 1866  
 p.d. Stilesboro, Ga.

9 SEABORN, Campa Sophia  
 (Mother of No. 4)  
 b. Oct. 9 1804  
 p.b. S. C.  
 d. May -- 1865  
 p.d. Stilesboro, Ga.

10 DeJEAN, Felix  
 (Father of No. 5)  
 b. Sep. 5 1805  
 p.b. Opelousas, La.  
 m. Sep. 12 1826  
 d. Dec. 30 1890  
 p.d. St. Landry Parish, La.

11 MOORE, Honorine Pamela  
 (Mother of No. 5)  
 b. Feb. 28 1812  
 p.b. Opelousas, La.  
 d. Feb. 20 1841  
 p.d. Opelousas, La.

12 TESSIER, Judge Charles  
 (Father of No. 6)  
 b. Oct. 3 1775  
 p.b. Cape Francis, Haiti  
 m. Dec. 19 1819  
 d. Sep. 1 1852  
 p.d. Baton Rouge, La.

13 CLTEN, Lydia  
 (Mother of No. 6)  
 b. --  
 p.b. Virginia  
 d. Oct. 11 1822  
 p.d. Baton Rouge, La.

14 GAULDEN, Matthew G.  
 (Father of No. 7)  
 b. -- 1800  
 p.b. S. C.  
 m. Jan. 19 1826  
 d. -- 1860  
 p.d. New Orleans, La.

15 JELKS, Leanora  
 (Mother of No. 7)  
 b. -- 1804  
 p.b. S. C.  
 d. -- 1860  
 p.d.

16 HAWKINS, Benjamin Franklin  
 b. -- 1762 - Va.  
 m. -- 1789 - N.C.  
 d. Feb. 21 1827 - N.C.

17 CHAMBERS, Sarah Hannah  
 b. -- 1769  
 d. 15 Oct. 1827

18 SEABORN, James  
 b. -- 1769  
 m. --  
 d. -- 1821

19 BRAZIER, Mary  
 b. -- 1769  
 d. -- 1869

20 DeJEAN, Bartholemew  
 b. -- 1752  
 m. --  
 d. June 19 1814 - La.

21 BOISDORE, Felicite Madeleine  
 b. -- 1775  
 d. -- 1873 - La.

22 MOORE, William Henshaw  
 b. -- - Va.  
 m. --  
 d. --

23 VERRET, Delphine Louise  
 b. -- 1790  
 d. --

24 TESSIER, Pierre Andre  
 b. -- 1745  
 m. Feb. 7 1793  
 d. --

25 MONSANTO, Adelaine Eleanor  
 b. -- 1745 - Netherlands  
 d. Apr. 8 1796 - La.

26 CLTEN, John  
 b. --  
 m. --  
 d. --

27 McINTIRE, Elizabeth  
 b. --  
 d. --

28 GAULDEN, William Greer  
 b. -- 1764 - Va.  
 m. -- 1792  
 d. -- 1839 - La.

29 MALONE, Elizabeth  
 b. -- 1772 - Va.  
 d. July - 1849 - Ms.

30 JELKS, Rukins  
 b. -- 1770 - N.C.  
 m. -- 1791  
 d. Sep. 4 1820 - Ms.

31 ARTICK, Catharine  
 b. -- 1773 - S.C.  
 d. -- 1854 - Ms.

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**MY MOST INTERESTING ANCESTOR**  
**MIGUEL JUAN III / ROSTEET**

Submitted by FREDERICK ROSTEET, Member No. 1599

Many people researching ancestors find various spellings of their surnames. Some of us, however are shocked to discover that we have a newly created, made-up, "JUAN in a million" surname.

MIGUEL JUAN III added the surname ROSTEET, thus beginning a pioneer lineage found only in Southwest Louisiana and nowhere else in the world. The mystery of why, he took to his grave.

He was born 11 Nov. 1837, at Bayou Valenzuela, La.<sup>1</sup> His father, MIGUEL, Jr., a native of the island of Majorca, had died three months before MIGUEL III was born.<sup>2</sup> MIGUEL, Sr. was married to ANNA PALOVER.

More is known of MIGUEL III's mother, MARGUERITE VIRGIE HERNANDEZ, born 7 Oct. 1808. She was the daughter of the former MARIA LOPEZ MACHADO and LAZARO HERNANDEZ. Her parents were Islenos, settlers from the Canary Islands, a hardy and resourceful people. Her parents and grandparents arrived in New Orleans, La. on 14 Jan. 1778, aboard the schooner *La Victoria*.

Having received land grants from the Spanish government, they engaged in farming, fishing in Bayou Lafourche, and raising large, Catholic families.

MIGUEL III was the second child, the firstborn being RAPHAEL RUFINO, who lived only three months.<sup>3</sup> The widow MARGUERITE married MIGUEL III's godfather, FRANCOIS BEDRINANA. They moved to New Orleans and had a son, also named RAPHAEL, nicknamed "MACE". There, MIGUEL received his only formal education, which consisted of four years.

GEORGE WELCH brought the family to Charles Town, present day Lake Charles, in time to be recorded on the 1850 U. S. Census. FRANCOIS joined with JACOB RYAN in creating the RYAN and BEDRINANA Hotel, the first in the little town. It was located across the square from the parish courthouse.

"MACE" died after losing a leg to an alligator while playing by the lake. His father, FRANCOIS, died in 1855.<sup>4</sup>

Between the years 1850 and 1855, MIGUEL JUAN III became MIGUEL JUAN ROSTEET. He acquired sixty acres of downtown Lake Charles and opened a general mercantile store on the northeast corner of Ryan and Pujo Streets.

On 13 Nov. 1860, he married MARY JANE CHURCH. Mysterious also, she had been left as a young age by her father with the childless couple, JOSEPH CHARLES SALLIER and his wife SIDALISE FRUGE.<sup>5</sup> Mr. CHURCH was traveling to Texas, after the death of his wife. He never returned.

MARY JANE and MIGUEL had four sons: JOSEPH WILFRED "BABE" (1861), ARTHUR (1863), JAMES ALBERT (1865), and WILLIAM SEYMOUR "WILLIE" (1868). MARY JANE died in 1872 on BABE's birthday, which he never celebrated again.<sup>6</sup>

MIGUEL then married the spinster, MARY THERESA McCORMICK in January of 1875. Another son, JOHN HENRY, was born the following December.

The widow MARGUERITE died in 1876, before the birth of her only granddaughter, MARGARET THERESA, in 1877.

In 1882, "WILLIE", age 14, was killed when a shed fell on him. JAMES ALBERT was accidentally shot and killed two days prior to his twenty-first birthday.

Son ARTHUR married, and his first born died at two months of age. ARTHUR died of pneumonia in 1889, five months before the birth of his second son. Tragically, this child lived only eleven months.

JOHN HENRY married BERTHA CORA RICHARD in April of 1889. She delivered a premature son, and never recovered from the difficulty, died only thirteen months after her marriage, at age twenty-one. Her son, born sickly, died two months later.

MIGUEL's only daughter, MARGARET THERESA, died in 1900, aged twenty-four. Her mother, MARY THERESA, died four months later.

MIGUEL had been raised in a small, wood-frame house located to the east of his store, and after marrying MARY JANE and starting his large family, added two more buildings to it. In the spring of 1884 he had a carpenter build a spacious two-storied ell-shaped home at 838 Bilbo Street. In 1903 he sold this property to the Majestic Hotel Corporation, and his home was moved a block east, to be used as a boarding house. MIGUEL had a country home east of the city, and moved there with his son, JOHN, and his daughter-in-law, ANNA REEVES. This home was near to the home of his only surviving son, "BABE", and his wife, GRACE LeBLEU. She was a daughter of JOSEPH CAMERSAC LeBLEU and LAONISE HEBERT.

"BABE" and GRACE had two daughters and four sons, one of which was my grandfather, CHARLES MURPHY ROSTEET.

On 23 April 1906, MIGUEL died in New Orleans at the home of a maternal cousin. He was in the city to attend the forty-first reunion of the Confederate Veterans, having been a member of Ragsdale's Battalion of Texas Cavalry. To add another twist of mystery to his life, his tombstone reflects a birth date earlier by fourteen months.

Successful, well-known, he was the first town collector of taxes, and the first trustee of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Fluent in Spanish, French, English and Italian, he was able to converse with anybody and soon acquired property as far north as Sabine Parish.

For awhile, it was feared that the unique name, ROSTEET, would die out soon after its birth. However, it is safe for a couple more generations, as my parents, ROGER JOHN ROSTEET, Sr. and LILLIAN EVE AUTHEMENT, have seven sons.

SOURCE;

1. Assumption Catholic Church, Plattenville, Louisiana.
2. Southwest La. Biographical and Historical, Perrin, 1891.
3. Ascension Catholic Church, Donaldsonville, Louisiana.
4. Succession #103, Francois Bedrinana, Calcasieu Par., La.
5. Succession #613, Sidalise Fruge, Calcasieu Par., La.
6. Miguel Juan Rosteet's Bibles, 1859 and 1882. Privately held.

IN MEMORY OF CONWAY JAMES ROSTEET  
b. 19 Nov. 1943 d. 8 June 1998

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CLEARANCE SALE

We are having a clearance sale of Society publications.

We began publishing *Kinfolks* in 1977 with Volume I and our current issue is Volume 42. We have back issues of most of these *Kinfolks*.

Would you like to complete some of your volumes or purchase some of those issues distributed before you became a member. We are selling issues at \$1.00 an issue plus postage - \$2.66 for a volume [4 issues]. Original cost of each issue \$4.00.

Also on sale are the *Ancestor Charts & Tables* volumes. Volumes available are: Vol. III (1991), Vol. IV (1994), Vol. V (1997), Vol. VI (2000), Vol. VII (2003) and Vol. VIII (2009). Price is \$10.00 plus postage - \$3.17 for one volume. Original cost of each volume \$20.00 to \$25.00.

*Subject Index II* - Vol. 19 (1995) through Vol. 22 (1998) and *Subject Index IV* - Vol. 27 (2003) through Vol. 31 (2007). Price is \$3.00 plus postage - \$2.26 for one index. Original cost is \$5.00 each.

Please send check made out to Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society, Inc. with list of items you would like to purchase plus postage to Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society, Inc., Att: Pat Huffaker, P. O. Box 5652, Lake Charles, LA 70606-5652. To save postage, you can make an appointment to pick up your order in Lake Charles. Provide phone number or e-mail address.

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

**CHURCHES IN LAKE CHARLES**  
**ORGANIZED FROM 1869 THROUGH 1950**  
Submitted by DOT AKINS, Member No. 1451

In the January 8, 1896 edition of *The American*, Mrs. ROBERT HALL wrote, "It has been said that the hope of a city is in its churches. We know that all great institutions (great because they are good) have risen in churches. Great schools, universities, libraries, hospitals, benevolent societies and associations are the result of churches. We cannot have too many. As we know of nine in Lake Charles now, with the prospect of others to be built, we entertain a well-grounded hope, I think, for this prospering city by the lake." Another article in *The American* on March 18, 1896, read "Lake Charles is not near so wicked as some people would have you believe. We have a large number of good churches, all with large congregations who attend regularly. This winter the Christians have built a new building, the Episcopalians will soon commence on the erection of theirs, and now comes the Broad Street M. E. Church. They have the architect at work on plans for a new building, in which they will use the old structure as part. Architect KAUFMAN has the plans almost completed, and when completed, if accepted, will make a structure that will be a decided ornament to our city."

Following is information about the early churches of Lake Charles.

**Catholic**

**Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception**

The story of the Immaculate Conception as written on the Diocese of Lake Charles web page (<http://www.lcdiocese.org>). It reads "Early Catholics of southwest Louisiana were served, at first, in various homes by visiting priests from the Diocese of Galveston. Later priests began to come west from Opelousas and the area was a mission of St. Landry Catholic Church. By 1858, property was purchased on Ryan Street across from the courthouse and a small church building was dedicated to St. Frances de Sales. After the Civil War, the church became a mission of St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church in Abbeville. In 1869 with the Catholic population having grown to such a number, The Most Reverend JEAN MARIE ODIN, Archbishop of New Orleans, established the canonical parish of St. Francis de Sales, which covered what had become known as the civil jurisdiction of Imperial Calcasieu Parish. Following the devastation and death from a Yellow Fever epidemic, a new church building was constructed, which was dedicated to the Immaculate Conception on October 2, 1881. ...On April 23, 1910, the city of Lake Charles was devastated by a fire that destroyed 109 buildings including Immaculate Conception Church, its rectory, the boys' and girls' Catholic schools, and the convent of the Sister Marianites of Holy Cross. ...After the shock of the horrific losses waned, parish leaders chartered construction for a new building that was dedicated on December 18, 1913. The church was designed by the architectural firm of Favrot & Livaudais of New Orleans and is of a Lombardy Romanesque architectural style."

**Methodist**

**First United Methodist Church**

In November of 1871, thirteen charter members gathered for worship with their pastor, THOMAS MULLET. It was not until three years later in 1874 that the members constructed a designated place of worship. It was called Methodist Episcopal Church South and it was the first

Protestant church in Lake Charles. The original building was located on the corner of Broad and Bilbo Streets and the small wooden structure was 30 by 50 feet. A Sunday school class was organized shortly after in 1876. Growth continued, and in 1900, a new church building was constructed in the same location. This new building was adorned with a Blymyer Bell, which was a gift from the Sunday School. During 1925 the church became known as the First United Methodist Church. Property was purchased from A. P. PUJO on the southwest corner of Broad and Kirkman Streets for \$14,000. A new church was constructed, and first services were held in the building on August 11, 1928.

### **St. Luke Simpson Methodist Church**

According to their history on the Internet, the church that was later to become St. Luke Simpson was organized on March 2, 1890. Their history reads, "The nineteen persons in attendance were led by Rev. C. A. KING. Services were held in the old Masonic Hall for the first eight years. Property was acquired on the corner of Pujo and Moss Streets in 1898 and a church built. It was known as the First Methodist Episcopal Church. When the branches of Methodism merged in 1939, the name was changed. Another church in town, from the southern branch of Methodism, was called First Church and pre dated them. So the congregation changed their name to the Simpson Methodist Church, to honor a Methodist bishop. Since they were smaller than the other First Church, they decided to move to a better location. Property was acquired on Highway 14 and the church moved to the new location on November 14, 1954. When the old church property was sold for \$52,000 in 1956, the funds were used to construct another building. A third building was completed in 1959 and dedicated in May of 1962. In 1956, the National Board of Missions for the Methodist Church bought property on Jefferson St. to start a church for people moving into the university area of town. Rev. TAYLOR WALL was appointed as pastor of the new church, named St. Luke. At first the congregation met at the Wesley Foundation at McNeese. The church was organized on January 15, 1957, and held its first services on Jefferson Street on February 3, 1957. The St. Luke and Simpson congregations merged in 1983. Dr. CHARLES B. SIMMONS pastored the merged congregation, which first met together on Jefferson Street on April 24, 1983. The church purchased 17 acres of land on Country Club Road. Under the leadership of Dr. TOMMY DUNBAR, construction began on a new church in the summer of 1988."

### **Second Methodist Church (Jackson Street Church)**

In the early part of 1892, the Second Methodist Church was organized and built on Jackson Street by the first Methodist Church in keeping with their ideals of expanding Methodist work in Lake Charles. On June 4, 1892, the name of the church was changed to Broad Street Methodist Episcopal Church South. The first pastor was JOHN B. KENT. In 1894, the name was again changed to First Methodist Episcopal Church South, but was commonly known as Jackson Street Church.

### **Reeves CME Temple**

The Rev. GEORGE REEVES, a white man, served as first pastor of Reeves Chapel, a Negro church which traces its history back to 1866 and, therefore, is the oldest Protestant Negro church in Lake Charles. Although not officially chartered until June 16, 1908, Reeves Central Methodist Episcopal church celebrated its Centennial in August, 1966. The church is still located on the same ground upon which the original church was built 100 years ago at

Winterhalter and South Lyons Streets. Land for the church, parsonage, tabernacle and cemetery were donated by FREEMAN HAMILTON. The building was erected by GEORGE RYAN. A new building was constructed in 1909, and stood until the hurricane of August 6, 1918, tore it down. Material was salvaged, and in 1919 a tabernacle was built from it. A new building was constructed in 1919, and that one was used until 1938. Rev. WASHINGTON became pastor during that year, and eight months after arriving began work on the present building.

### **University United Methodist Church**

The webpage of the University United Methodist Church states, "Decades before I-210 was built as Lake Charles was expanding to the south and new subdivisions were being built to provide homes for expanding industries, the Lake Charles District of the Methodist Church commissioned a new church. With a lot of help from First Methodist Church of Lake Charles, the new church became a reality. On September 28, 1947, in an unfinished building on the edge of a prairie in what was then South Lake Charles, the first worship service was held. The name University Methodist was chosen because of its proximity to McNeese Junior College, which later became McNeese State University." The first pastor was Rev. WILLIAM O. BYRD.

## **Baptist**

### **Evergreen Baptist Church**

Reverend McDONALD, an evangelist of Atlanta, Georgia, came to Lake Charles in 1874 to preach to the people of the community. Services were held in the various homes. Later, property located at Kirkman and Cleveland Streets was given to the people by Judge W. H. HASKELL to be used as church property. A small building was erected on this property. The first baptismal service was held on the second Sunday in January, 1875. Rev. GILES NORTH was called to pastor the church in 1887. Under the pastorage of Rev. NORTH, the membership increased, and a new building was erected. It was of frame structure and was located on the Kirkman Street property. In 1912, the majority of the members voted to move the church to its present location at 646 S. Franklin Street. In 1918, the church was destroyed by a storm, and it was rebuilt in 1919.

### **First Baptist Church**

On the webpage of the First Baptist Church is a history of the church. It reads "As early as 1878, Bible Studies were held in homes of some Baptists, and Sunday School in the old two-story frame Court House. The First Baptist Church was formally organized on January 25, 1880. There were eighteen charter members. Before the end of 1880, the contract was let for a house of worship on Ryan Street at the corner of Iris Street. Six new members joined the first year, five by letter and one by baptism. By 1897 the membership was 154 and the Sunday School enrollment was ninety-five. First Baptist Church was one of the six charter churches when Carey Baptist Association was organized in November 1892. A historic moment for First Baptist Church was on February 12, 1908, when the cornerstone for the "new" church building located on the corner of Hodges and Pujo Streets was laid. This building was of brick in a modified Gothic style with a seating capacity of 700. There were beautiful stained glass windows and a stained glass skylight. The building was dedicated April 24, 1910. This was the day after the historic fire on Ryan Street that destroyed the Court House and would undoubtedly have destroyed the new church building if it had been built at the site of the original building. The old auditorium was demolished in August 1955 and the congregation held services in the fellowship

hall until the new sanctuary was constructed. Groundbreaking ceremonies for this building were held December 4, 1955. Formal dedication of the new building was held October 16-20, 1957.

### **Zion Tabernacle Baptist Church**

Rich in history, Zion Tabernacle Baptist Church started out as Camp Zion. In 1907, the first worship services were held under a bush arbor on the campus of First Ward Elementary School, which was located on the corner of Cessford and Blake Streets. Rev. RENTLY was the first pastor. Under the leadership of Rev. JOHN R. JACKSON, the first wooden building was erected at 315 No. Goos Blvd. However, in 1918 it was destroyed by a devastating storm. Still under the leadership of Rev. JACKSON construction began on a new brick facility on Shattuck Street in 1927.

### **Starlight Baptist Church**

In 1914 Rev. H. H. WILLIAMS with a small band of Christian believers came together for their first worship service in the Starlight Baptist church. This service was held in an old skating rink on Haskell Street. A Sunday School and Missionary society was organized. After having worship services in the old skating rink for a time, the Pastor and congregation decided it was time for a permanent place of worship. A building was purchased and moved to the present location of Starlight Baptist Church, at 311 South First Avenue. In 1938 the old frame building was torn down and a brick structure was erected on the site.

### **Trinity Baptist Church**

Trinity Baptist Church was born on August 19, 1926, with twelve members and was named New Missionary Baptist Church. This small group met in a vacant house on Kirkman Street, but the group soon grew to over a hundred and bought property to build on the corner of Ryan and East Streets in September 1926. In August 1996, Rev. STEVE JAMES was called as the Senior Pastor. On October 3, 1999, Trinity moved to its new campus on the corner of Country Club and Nelson Roads.

### **Mt. Calvary Baptist Church**

According to their webpage, "Calvary Baptist Church began in 1930 on North Blake Street with a membership of 46. Rev. D. J. JONES was the first pastor. Rev. JONES gave a vision for this church to grow and become a church for the community. He orchestrated much of the building of the church by developing the first Building Fund Committee. Through prayer and guidance, the church began to grow and prosper. By 1958, the membership had increased to approximately 1100 members. Rev. JONES pastored this church for 29 years until his death in August 1959.

### **St. Mary Baptist Church**

In the year of 1939, Dr. R. B. HOUSE built a church in the home of Sister DUHON. Greater Saint Mary was organized with the help of two ministers, Dr. N. P. JONES and Dr. W. C. CLARK. On March 8th, the Pastor and nine members leased land and built a small 12 x 14 building at 102 Adams Street. In 1940 the church moved to Simmons Street to a lot purchased by Dr. R. B. HOUSE. In 1947, the church moved from Simmons Street to a location on a lot purchased from Lumberman Supply Company. The church remained there for eleven months. During that time, the Pastor and members purchased two more lots from the Pauley Agency



where the church was built at 1917 Harless Street. However, a fire destroyed the church in 1959 and services were held for three months in the Pastor's home at 2009 Medora Street; after which times services were held for the next year and three months in a tent. The church was rebuilt at the 1917 Harless Street location in 1960.

### **Temple Sinai**

According to their webpage, the history of Temple Sinai began sometime during the year 1879 when the present city of Lake Charles was a small village of five hundred people. Two Jews migrated from Washington, La., to that village and became the first Jewish residents of this city. Those two were LEOPOLD KAUFMAN and DAVID BLOCK. The congregation of Temple Sinai originated in September, 1894. The members met for worship both at the Masonic Temple next door and Enterprise Hall at 300 Broad Street. A temple was erected in 1904 at 713 Hodges Street. The synagogue was incorporated as Temple Sinai and its First Board of Trustees was elected in 1905, LEOPOLD KAUFMAN being elected president. Dr. I. WARSHAW served as the first rabbi of Temple Sinai. Onion domes on the original structure were blown off during the storm of 1918.

### **Episcopal**

#### **Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd**

According to their webpage, "The congregation of the Episcopal Church took root as a mission in 1884 with a diocesan missionary appointed by the bishop. After his tenure, four more priests served the mission that became Good Shepherd. Initially, members met at the skating rink, the Parish Courthouse, the Knights of Pythias Hall, and the Masonic Hall before occupying their own frame building on Hodges Street. Plans were soon underway to build a more substantial building, and in 1894, the Ladies Guild purchased the land on Kirkman Street where the church now stands. An article appeared in the Nov. 4, 1896 issue of *The American* about the laying of the corner stone of the Episcopal Church in Lake Charles. It read "The corner stone of the new Episcopal Church of this city was sealed and put in place with impressive ceremonies last Sunday afternoon. A large audience of perhaps one thousand people was in attendance. A platform contained the choir and the church officials." The disastrous West Indies hurricane of 1918 destroyed much of that building. Services continued temporarily at Temple Sinai while the church was rebuilt. A side wing was added to the south side of the church in 1920, and a parish hall, now Hardtner Hall, was attached to that in 1926. The tower (part of the original plans) was finally built on the northwest corner of the church in 1953, and a 1,000 pound bronze bell made by Petit-pritzen Bellmakers of Holland was installed the following year."

### **Lutheran**

#### **St. John Lutheran Church**

Early German settlers held Lutheran services in a lodge hall two blocks east of Ryan Street until they moved to a location on Ford Street between Mill and Pine Streets in 1888. An article in the Sept. 18, 1889 issue of *The American* read, "Through the courtesy of Mr. FRED BEYER, we had the pleasure last week of looking through the German Lutheran Church. It is beautifully finished on the inside. The ceiling overhead is oval, and the walls are papered. In the front is a gallery sufficiently large for the organ and choir. Mr. S. HOENICKE, their pastor, is a young man, who was sent here by the New Orleans synod a year ago and took charge of the work. Then the German Church could hardly be considered organized and had no house of

worship.. The New Orleans synod sustained him and aided him by appropriating about four hundred dollars towards the building of the house, the rest of the money being raised among the membership here. Mr. H. is also conducting a school, which is as well patronized by the membership of his church.”

## **Presbyterian**

### **First Presbyterian Church**

The first mention of the Presbyterians in *The American* was in May 1889. It was reported that the Presbyterians were taking steps towards erecting a church. At that time, they worshiped in the Masonic Lodge. In 1890 a small frame church was built on the NE corner of Hodges and Mill. In the January 8, 1896 issue of *The American*, Mrs. ROBERT HALL wrote an article that read, “One Sunday morning recently, I was much impressed also by the good work being done in the Presbyterian Church, at the corner of Mill and Hodges Streets. I was rather early for service and had an opportunity of seeing the working of the Sunday School. In glancing around I saw many children of different ages – several well grown boys and girls, while others were medium and some quite small. They were all bright and clean, as if the children of well-to-do parents, and numbered over one hundred. All seemed interested in the lesson, while Rev. LYMAN, Dr. MILLS, Mr. KINNEY and others were so painstaking in explaining the leading points that they would be dull indeed who did not learn... The classes passed out to their respective homes, their places being rapidly filled by the in-coming congregation. Soon the pretty edifice was filled with well looking, prosperous people. Beautiful roses smiled at us from their places on the pulpit and filled the air with their fragrance. The shaft of the eastern sun broke through the tinted glass of the windows, shredding a soft, roseate hue on all beneath, making a reposeful and fitting place for the assembling of God’s people. The swelling notes of the organ pealed forth and the congregation arose to sing... It is but a few short years since my husband and myself met with a handful of people (14 in all) for the purpose of organizing a Presbyterian Church in Lake Charles. It was late in the 1880s and there were but few people here. The prospect was not encouraging. We organized, however, under the name of the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Charles. We met for worship in the Masonic Hall, the Rev. LEWIS of Opelousas coming once a month to preach for us for which we felt very grateful at that time. And how changed it is all now; how much more cause for gratitude and thanksgiving have we. A pretty and comfortable church; an earnest, devoted young minister; our youth being instructed in the paths of righteousness; a goodly congregation of God-fearing people, and all things working together for good, because they are striving to serve Him right.” In 1900 the small frame church was moved to the corner of Broad and Ford Streets where the church bought property. Construction on a new “brick” church began in 1917.

The Lake Charles, Hurricane of 1918 destroyed the original frame church and all that was left was the church bell. In 1918 the new 37,000 brick Presbyterian Church opened for services.

In 1950 First Presbyterian Church broke ground for a new church at 1801 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. The church was completed in 1951.

## **Christian Science**

The Historical Marker in front of the Christian Science building on Kirby Street reads, “By 1890, a group of students began to practice Christian Science in Lake Charles with Sunday services held in local homes. In 1906 this group began holding Wednesday evening testimony meetings. They also sponsored their first public lecture on Christian Science. In August 1918,

the group's meeting place at 388 Bilbo Street was badly damaged in a gulf hurricane. Undaunted, they soon located this building at Gerstner Flying Field which was near Holmwood. This building originally included the officers club during World War I. In 1919 it was purchased and moved to its present location at the corner of Ford and Kirby Streets. In June of 1921 the Society officially became First Christian of Christ Scientist and opened a Christian Science Reading Room." The webpage of the Christian Science Society adds the following information, "Later renovations included rotating the structure to face Kirby Street, adding the steeple and crafting the brick veneer. The simple but impressive meeting hall is graced with individual seats from an early remodeling of the Arcade Theater. An example of good stewardship of resources, the church building is an early rare example of adaptive reuse: a military structure originally built for war converted into a place of worship!"

## **Christian**

### **First Christian Church**

The First Local Disciples of Christ Congregation formed in 1894. This information was taken from an article in the *American Press* issue of March 27, 1965. "In June of 1894, Elder A. J. BUSH of Texas came to Lake Charles and discovered a small congregation of the Disciples of Christ. This congregation, about 151 in number, met successively in the old court house, the Pelican Hall, the Odd Fellows Hall, and the old Masonic Hall in the early days of its history. In December of 1895, the congregation acquired its first full-time minister, and in the following year the first Christian Church filed a charter at the Calcasieu Parish Courthouse... The Great Fire of 1910 destroyed the church building, which was located at the corner of Iris and Hodges Streets. Following the fire, the First Christian congregation met in Temple Sinai, the Jewish synagogue, until a new structure could be erected, according to a church historical sketch. In 1919, EARL GRAY of Lake Charles, a former printer for the *Lake Charles American Press*, was called to serve as temporary pastor until a regular minister would be called... In 1951, a 270 by 208 foot tract of land was purchased and the present church building was erected the following year. The church building is a handsome brick structure which contains 29 rooms." Another article in the April 24, 1994 issue of the *American Press* continues the story. "In 1950, the congregation decided once again to move the church. As Lake Charles grew to the south and to the east members of the church felt First Christian should move as well. After several months and several different sites, a lot on Second Avenue between 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Streets was chosen."

### **The Christian Church**

An article in *The American* on May 20, 1896, stated "The beautiful little Church of the Christians was dedicated with impressive ceremonies. At the beginning of the year 1896, the Christian Church of Lake Charles numbered a membership of 86 persons... On February 17, the cornerstone of their house of worship was laid, and last Sunday an immense congregation assembled in the completed edifice to participate in its solemn dedication to the worship of God. The history of the denomination in Lake Charles is brief, but that it has been a history of zealous and faithful work the beautiful building dedicated Sunday attests... All faces were turned to the front when Mr. GEO. H. WOOLMAN, chairman of the building committee, arose and in a pleasant address, tendered the building to the congregation. In a few appropriate words, he recounted the experience and work of the committee, returned grateful thanks to the people of Lake Charles for their aid and encouragement, and delivered the keys to the pastor, Rev.

CLAUDE JONES as the representative of the church.” This is probably the same church as the above.

### **Church of Christ**

#### **Woodbury Congregational United Church of Christ**

The Woodbury Congregational United Church of Christ was organized 1899 at 225 S. Enterprise Boulevard with pastor Rev. Mr. WOODS. Later the church, under the Rev. L. L. LONG, was on the corner of Belden and Enterprise Blvd. In 1959, the church building and grounds were sold to the Louisiana Department of Highways. A new church was built at 417 N. Prater Street in 1960.

### **Church of Christ**

The French Protestants of the city were the primary reason for organization of the First Church of Christ at Hodges and Eighteenth Streets in 1936. The first meeting was held under a bush arbor, with Mr. HOLLIS DUHON as pastor. Mr. DUHON had been schooled to work with the French people. He was bilingual and began conducting service in English and French. A frame building was constructed during 1936. A second Church of Christ was organized at First Street and Second Avenue in 1941, and it later moved to 2801 Enterprise Boulevard.

### **Seventh-day Adventist**

An article in the February 23, 1975 issue of *The American* told of the beginning of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lake Charles. It said that in December 1905 a conference of Seventh-day Adventists meeting in New Orleans acknowledged that a small company of Seventh-day Adventists were meeting in Lake Charles. In 1909 Elder E. H. REES, a Mr. HANSON, and O. T. FRANK, held a tent effort, and this small company organized into a church and a building was erected. There is no record of the names of the members, or of what happened to the early church building. In the 1920s the church members were meeting in a home in North Lake Charles. In this group were Mr. and Mrs. C. A. LANTZ, Mrs. EMMA MARTIN, Mrs. J. T. SPEARING, the TOM STEGALL family, the TURNER family, a Mrs. DAISY CARTER and her two daughters. Under the leadership of Elder COOPER they obtained the property at the corner of 7th and Kirkman Streets. A church building was purchased and moved from near DeRidder in 1925 or 1926 to the property on Kirkman Street. Two other early members were Mrs. H. H. SUDDUTH and Mrs. REGGIE RAY. In November 1974, the church members voted to sell the old church building and strike out in faith to build a new edifice for God's glory. Because of the denomination's regulation that no building be dedicated until free of debt, services could not be held until the mortgage was paid in full in December 1977. The new church was located at 1537 Country Club Road.

### **FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

The First Church of the Nazarene was chartered on October 12, 1914, after organization the spring of that year. According to an article in the *Lake Charles Daily Times* of August 16, 1913, “A handsome new brick edifice is now in course of construction on Oakland Street, being erected by the Pentecostal Church of Nazarene. The edifice is to cost \$85,000 and will be modern in every particular. A peculiar feature about the new church is that most of the work is being done by members of the congregation, and without cost to the members... It is hoped to have the church ready for occupancy about November 13, when it will be used for the sessions of

the district assembly. On this occasion from thirty to forty ministers are expected to attend. The pastor of the Lake Charles Church of the Nazarene is Rev. C. E. WOODSON."

### **Jehovah's Witnesses**

Items from *The American Press's* "Where to Worship" columns give the following information about services of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses. "1931 – Lake Charles Company of Jehovah's Witnesses meet with Mrs. O. W. PEYTON at 1207 Boulevard Street every Sunday at 7:30 p.m. 1942 – Services held in the Kaufman Building at 809½ Ryan Street. 1949 – Services held in the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses at 1409 Hodges Street.

### **Assembly of God**

#### **First Assembly of God**

An article in the January 2, 1965 issue of *The American Press* stated, "The First Assembly of God Church of Lake Charles had its beginning in the living room of the home of Mrs. VITO PECORINO. The only other truly regular members besides Mrs. PECORINO were her seven children. There was no pastor to serve the gatherings in the house on Beaumont Avenue in the early 1930s... These informal gatherings continued until 1933 when a revival, headed by Rev. WORKS, was held in Goosport for the purpose of acquiring the necessary 25 members to qualify for admittance into the General Council of Assemblies of God. The revival was a success. Greeted by a large attendance, it succeeded in its purpose of fostering interest in the new church. Property at the corner of Ryan and Church Streets was bought for \$1,200 and a crude little church building was built during the Great Depression in 1934... The Rev. W. S. RAMBY took the pastorate for the first of three times in 1938 and served until 1944... A turning point in the church's history came in 1948 when the property at Ryan and Church was sold and the church moved to its present location at Kirkman and Cleveland Streets."

#### **Glad Tidings Assembly of God**

Glad Tidings Assembly of God Church was founded in 1943 by the Rev. LEE DUHON. Evangelist STEWART DOUGLAS of Tulsa, Okla., conducted the first evangelistic campaign in a tent on the corner of Alamo and Kirkman Streets. Shortly afterward the property on which the revival was laid was purchased for a building site. Construction began immediately and within a few months the congregation was worshipping in its new buff colored brick and tile sanctuary at 720 Alamo Street. Rev. Mr. DUHON continued as pastor until March 1949, when the Rev. L. C. ASHBROOK was called. Rev. Mr. ASHBROOK completed a Sunday School Annex on the back of the sanctuary and built a parsonage next to the church. In 1952 Rev. Mr. ASHBROOK resigned from the church to assume a post as district superintendent of the state of Louisiana. In that year Rev. Mr. McKINNEY was called to the church. Under the leadership of Rev. Mr. McKINNEY the membership and Sunday School grew. In 1958 an educational building was constructed next to the original building. It included three junior auditoriums and 17 classrooms to accommodate the expanding Sunday School. In 1972 a new church was built at 3400 Texas St.

### **Church of Latter Day Saints**

On November 10, 1940, Elder DANIEL BASS established a branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon) which first met in the homes of members. In 1961 their church was at 715 15<sup>th</sup> Street and in 1965, they met in a church on the corner of Bank and 18<sup>th</sup> Streets. Their church is now located at 4700 Sale Lane.

{Editor's Note: In the article of the early churches, references were made to the Hurricane of 1918 which destroyed many churches. The following article tells about the Hurricane of 1918.}

### **THE HURRICANE OF 1918**

**Written by BETTY ROSTEET, Member No. 78**

**Reprinted from *Kinfolks*, Vol. 30 No. 3 – September 2006**

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 thorough fare 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 (a sawmill community located at the western entrance to the Interstate 210 bridge south of Lake Charles) 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 McGEHEE, 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; Pvt. LESTER WILLIAMS, Gerstner Field; and Col. WM. E. MAURER, Gerstner Field.

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; Mrs. ARLINE POWELL, and mother; Miss LATINA BOUDREAU, 1736 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. REAGAN; Mrs. RAPHAEL BARBIE; Miss ANNIE BARBIE; Miss JOSEPHINE BARBIE; two children of LOUIS JOHN; Mrs. J R. MILES and son; Mr. HOOVER, South St. Road; TOM ROLLO; Mrs. H. [HACKBURY] HEINZE's daughter; Dr. CAROLINE CHANCE; Mrs. A. G. RENFROE,



A. HARMON; CORA BLANCHARD; Mrs. SOPHIE MASTERSON, Sulphur; Mr. and Mrs. MIKE WHITAKER, Sulphur; Mr. and Mrs. HETHERWICK, 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; HERBERT SAVOIE, Creole; and Mrs. CREIGHTON, Big Lake.

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 they might be safe. Just in that short distance, their clothes were blown into tatters. Even 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 house 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 house 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!

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**A WORD TO THE WISE.** We all see mistakes in grammar and spelling in original records, printed information and other people's work. Never correct these errors, but call attention to them by inserting "sic" after the error, using parentheses. "Sic" stands for "spelling incorrect" and indicates that the error was on the original source and was not one created by the researcher.

## **THE 1918 STORM IN LAKE CHARLES**

**Contributed by MARJORIE NELSON MYERS, Member No. 949**

**(As told by EDWARD EARNEST NELSON)**

**Reprinted from *Kinfolks*, Vol. 21 No. 3 – 1997)**

It was a cloudy day, with rain off and on. We had been over to POLEY and NORA LeBLEU's house for afternoon coffee. PAPA was working in town and now we were getting ready for supper...MAMA, JIM, BILL, LOUIS and I. I was eight years old.

The wind and rain increased, and the LeBLEU's came over and we all went next door to the BERTRAND's. The wind got stronger, and it was decided that we should go to the nearby ROSTEET School. We had to go into the front bedroom, close the door and open the window in order to escape. Mr. LeBLEU went out the window first and MAMA was in the process of handing the boys to him when the whole window, including the frame, fell into the room. LOUIS and I were still inside. My knee was seriously cut on the window glass. Finally, we got out leaving Mrs. BERTRAND and her children at the house. The wind was so fierce that we could not stand upright. The adults crawled along the ground with one or two of the children. Mrs. LeBLEU was with me because I was hurt. When we finally arrived at the school, Mrs. LeBLEU's clothes had blown off in the strong wind. In her modesty she hid under the stile and refused to go in. Finally, Mr. AL RIBBECK, came out and, after assuring her that he would not look, gave her a coat to cover with. Mrs. ABATE was standing in the door, slicing the air with a large knife to make the storm go away. When we got in the school, there were men, women, children, goats, pigs and chickens...all sharing the same space.

In the meantime PAPA was trying to get to his family. After finding us, he had to leave to get help for the cut on my knee. Then he had to go to check on his sister, BERTHA, who had been injured in the storm. BERTHA later died as a result of her injuries. She was only 22 years old, just married, and lived with her husband in a newly furnished house in the Hi-Mount subdivision.

Grandma SMITH was on her way by train from Morgan City to visit. Because of the storm the train stopped in Jennings. After it was safe, the train continued on to Lake Charles.

When we returned home, we found that the house had been blown off its seven-foot pilings. We had nowhere to live! The whole family moved in with Grandma NELSON in Goosport until PAPA managed to line up two tents so we could move home again. We lived in those tents until our house could be rebuilt. Mama cooked in one and we slept in the other. After PAPA fixed the barn, MAMA cooked in there. There were no stitches in my knee and it worried MAMA to death! I would trip over the strings of the tents and she would come running to see if I was badly hurt.

Our neighbors, the BERTRANDs, the LeBLEUs and the MITCHELLs all suffered minor damage to their homes. The NELSON house was located at the corner of Sixth St. and Sixth Ave. The BERTRANDs lived next door, on Sixth St. The LeBLEUs lived across the street, toward the north on Sixth Ave.

Stories abound on the destructive force of the wind. One of them tells that chickens were blown into fences and all of their feathers were gone.

Identification of people mentioned in story:

MAMA ELIZABETH CHRISTINE "BESSIE" SCHMIDT/SMITH,  
daughter of CHRISTIAN SCHMIDT/SMITH and ARABELLA GANT  
PAPA WILLIAM DOCILIA "WILLIE" NELSON,  
son of WILLIAM EMILE LAST NELSON and DORISEE "DORA" HEBERT  
Brothers Jim, JAMES GANT NELSON; Bill, WILLIAM WALTER NELSON;  
Louis, LOUIS WOODROW NELSON  
POLEY LeBLEU...POLIGNAC LeBLEU, son of JOSEPH CAMESAC LeBLEU and  
LEONAISE HEBERT  
BERTHA BERTHA VIOLA NELSON, daughter of WILLIAM EMILE LAST NELSON  
and DORISEE "DORA" HEBERT, wife of CECIL THERELL  
GRANDMA SMITH... ARABELLA GANT SCHMIDT/SMITH  
GRANDMA NELSON...DORISEE "DORA" HEBERT NELSON  
GRANDPA NELSON... WILLIAM EMILE LAST NELSON

\*\*\*\*\*

***THE DAILY AMERICAN (2 August 1897)***

Information Gathered by MICK HENDRIX, Member No. 1296

**LITTLE LOCALS. Items Briefly Mentioned for the Benefit of Busy Readers.**

The peanut social that had to be postponed on account of the rain last week will be given tonight on the lawn near J. M. MASON's residence on Hodges street. The ladies are making preparations to have a big time, and they extend an invitation to all to attend. Come.

Mr. FRANCIS CHAVANNE and family spent Sunday at Grand Lake, and report having a fine time.

Miss MARIE BEYER leaves today for Lockport, where she will visit friends.

J. T. MARTIN is not able to attend to his business today on account of sickness.

Mr. EDMUNDSON's family and others spent Saturday picnicking at Shell Bank.

**PUNGENT PERSONAL PICK-UPS. Pleasantly Put by Reporters While Pre-ambulating the Streets.**

Mr. WM. STERLING is in Westlake today.

J. J. DAVIDSON is spending a few days with his family.

Attorney JOS. MOORE is transacting business at Oberlin today.

A. E. MAGEE is building an addition to his home on Peaks street.

Capt. COURTSON who has been in Mexico for some time has returned home.

Mr. J. S. DAVIDSON left last night over the Pee Gee for Texarkana.

Mr. and Mrs. MACIVER left for Philadelphia this morning for an extended visit.

Mr. PEAK and family have moved to New Orleans to make their future home.

STEVE DELMOULEY who has been sick for some weeks was able to take a buggy ride yesterday.

L. F. NEWHOUSE who has been visiting his brother returned to his home in Fenton today.

SIDNEY LOEB, representing LEVY & LOEB, of New Orleans is visiting with his sisters, Mesdames BLOCH and CRAGER.

T. FARRELL, foreman of the extra gang on the S. P. spent Sunday in the city with his family.

LOUIE PRAGER left this morning for New York to spend awhile taking in the sights of that large city.

P. J. CONNOLLY who has been spending a day or two with his family left for his work at Orange today.

F. ROMERO who has been visiting Mrs. J. M. HUTCHINS for the past few days returned to his home in Welsh this morning.

Messrs. POLEY LeBLEU, COLUMBUS PITRE and Judge THOS. G. KLIENPETER went over to Westlake this morning.

#### **LOCAL MATTERS. Gathered Here and There by Reporters for Perusal of Our Readers.**

**CHANGED HANDS.** W. A. KIRKWOOD has purchased the blacksmith shop of J. K.

McDONALD and will continue the business at the same place. He says he will run it on a strictly cash basis, and will guarantee every job before it leaves the shop.

#### **MARINE MOVEMENTS**

Schooner *Emma Clara* came up last night with a load of alligator hides, which will be shipped to New Orleans.

Schooner *Cassador* came up last night and will load with lumber for Corpus Christi.

Schooner *Agnes*, from JOHNSON's store, came up yesterday.

Schooner *Mabel Dees* is up with a load of watermelons.

Tug *Alamo* went down the river this morning.

#### **A LIVELY LAW-SUIT. Trouble over the Ownership of the Lake Front.**

The lake front from the southwest corner of the jail yard to Pithon Coulee is in a fair way to become the subject of a big lawsuit.

Mr. C. BUNKER of this city representing the KIRBY heirs, started this morning to have a fence built along the lake bank within the bounds above stated. The KIRBY heirs formerly owned the property on the lake bank from the court house square to the coulee and extending as far back as the Catholic graveyard. They sold the property but claim they did not sell that portion of the land lying near the waters edge.

Deputy Sheriff MORGAN ANDRUS owns the property extending from the continuation of Kirby street 172 feet south along the lake bank. He has owned this property for some time and says that it has been out of the possession of the KIRBY heirs for ten years. The fence being built by Mr. BUNKER enclosed part of the property claimed by Mr. ANDRUS. So this morning when Mr. ANDRUS learned that the fence was being built through his attorney, E. D. MILLER, he served notice on Mr. BUNKER to stop the building of the fence. Work on the fence on the property claimed by Mr. ANDRUS was stopped; but the work continues on the fence everywhere except at this place.

Attorney E D. MILLER, representing Mr. ANDRUS, says they have a cinch, for Mr. ANDRUS has a deed to the property. Mr. BUNKER stopped work until he could see his lawyer and a lively suit may result. The opinion was expressed that the fence was being built by the KIRBY heirs to force those now living on the property to buy it or else to bring on a law suit.

# SURNAME INDEX (A Surname may appear more than once on a page.)

Abate 104	Davidson 105	Hoover 102	Mills 97	Schmidt 105
Adams 76	Declouet 76	House 83,95	Mitchell 104	Seaborn 88
Akins 87	Deblanc 87	Huffaker 91	Monsanto 88	Shaheen 85,86
Akins 92	Deiren 82	Hutchins 106	Moore 86,88, 102,105	Simmons 93
Ambrose 76	DeJean 85,87, 88	Jackson 95	Morris 83	Sloober 103
Andrus 82,106	Delmouley 105	James 95,102	Moss 102,103	Smith 104,105
Ardoine 76	Derouen 82	Jefferson 76	Mullet 92	Sockrider 87
Arick 88	Dobberton 83	Jelks 88	Myers 104	Spearing 99
Ashbrook 100	Douglas 100	Jessen 102		Stegall 99
Augustine 82	Downs 75	John 102	Nelson 102,104	Sterling 105
Authement 91	Duhon 95,99, 100,102	Johnson 106	Newhouse 106	Sudduth 99
Baker 82	Dunbar 93	Jones 87,95, 99,102	North 94	Sweeney 102
Barbie 102	Duval 103'		Odin 92	Taveney 82,83
Bass 100		Kaufman 92,96	Oquin 83	Tessier 84,86-88
Bedrinana 89	Earl 77	Kent 93		Therell 105
Beethoven 76	Eddleman 82	Kimball 103	Palover 89	Therrell 102
Benoit 82	Edmundson 105	Kinder 103	Parish 83	Timpa 83
Bertrand 104	Elliott 80	King 93,102	Patterson 86	Toomer 86
Beyer 96,105		Kingham 102	Peak 105	Trahan 103
Bilbo 82	Falszt 103	Kinney 97	Pecorino 100	Trotti 101
Blanchard 103	Farquhar 103	Kirby 106	Peyton 100	Turner 99
Bloch 106	Farrar 85	Kirkwood 106	Pitre 106	Tyler 103
Block 96	Farrell 106	Kleinpeter 106	Plauche 87	Vanderburg 85
Boisdore 88	Fisher 82,83		Poiwell 102	Verret 88
Boone 76	Ford 76,77	LaFasse 83	Prager 106	
Boiudreau 102	Frank 99	LaFleur 75	Pujo 93	Waddell 102
Bowden 82	Franklin 76,79	LeBauve 102, 103	Pujol 83	Wall 93
Brazier 88	Franz 83	LeBleu 83,90, 101,103-106	Quinn 85	Warshaw 96
Breaux 82	Frugue 89	Lantz 99		Washington 76,94
Broussard 82,103	Fullington 103	Lemoine 102	Radeca 102	Welch 89
Buflin 87		Leveque 102	Rainwater 83	Whitaker 103
Buller 82	Gant 105	Levy 106	Ramby 100	White 83
Bunker 106	Gaulden 84,87, 88	Lewis 97	Ray 99	Whitt 102
Burleigh 82	Gill 81	Liskow 85	Reagan 102	Williams 95,102
Bush 98	Girlinghouse 83	Loeb 106	Rees 99	Winbush 102
Businick 82	Gorham 102	Long 99	Reeves 90,93	Woods 99
Byrd 94	Grantham 75	Lyman 97	Reid 103	Woodson 100
	Gray 98		Reiser 102	Woolman 98
Caldwell 85,87	Grotevant 83	McCann 83	Renfroe 102	Works 100
Calvin 77		McCormick 90	Rently 95	Wyman 75
Canmon 102	Hadden 77	McDonald 94, 106	Ribbeck 104	Wynn 83
Carter 99	Hall 83,92,97	McGehee 102	Richard 90	
Cassie 82	Halten 102,103	McIntire 88	Robbins 85	Yelverton 87
Chambers 88	Hamilton 94	McKinney 100	Robinson 76,77, 79	
Chance 102	Hanson 99	Machado 89	Rollo 102	
Chavanne 105	Harding 103	Maciver 105	Romero 106	
Christ 81	Harmon 103	Madison 102	Rosteet 89,90, 91,101,103	
Church 89	Haskell 94	Magee 105	Rothkamm 83	
Clark 95	Hawkins 83-88	Malone 88	Ryan 83,89, 94,102	
Claudius 81	Hebert 90,105	Martin 99,105		
Clement 75	Heinze 102	Mason 105	Salaun 87	
Clien 88	Hendrix 105	Masterson 103	Sallier 89	
Connolly 106	Henry 86	Maurer 102	Savoie 103	
Cooker 76	Hernandez 89	Miles 102	Savoy 85,87	
Cooper 99	Hetherwick 103	Miller 103,106		
Courtson 105	Hines 83			
Crager 106	Hoenicke 96			
Creighton 103				
Cutrer 87				



SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
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# KINFOLKS

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY, INC.

ISSN 0742-7654

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

111 - Society News  
112 - SW LA Genealogical/Historical Library  
113 - September Program - Save Your Photos  
114 - Pearl Harbor  
117 - One of the Last  
118 - All Aboard the *Xantho*!  
119 - *American Press* Information (7-30-1945)

123 - Huguenot Connection with SW Louisiana  
128 - Early Lake Charles Fraternal, Civic Org., etc.  
137 - *The Daily American* - 3 August 1897  
139 - Niblett's Bluff  
142 - Query  
143 - Index  
144 - 2018 Officers & Patron Members

Volume 42 No. 4 - November 2018



**SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** 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 - individual, \$17 - families (husband and wife), and \$22 - patron (individuals 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 end of March, May, September and November. Notify the SWLGS of a change of address as soon as possible to assure delivery. Queries are free to members, \$2 for non-members. Each issue has a surname index. Single issues are \$4.00. Back issues are available from 1977. *Kinfolks* is indexed in the Periodical Source Index (PERSI), Fort Wayne, IN.

**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.

**SOCIETY ITEMS FOR SALE** - *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; and *Ancestor Charts & Tables, Vol. VIII (2009)* \$20.00 ppd. *Kinfolks - Subject Index II - Vol. 19 (1995) through Vol. 22 (1998)* \$5.00 ppd; *Subject Index IV - Vol. 27 (2003) through Vol. 31 (2007)* \$5.00 ppd. Order from SWLGS, P. O. Box 5652, Lake Charles, LA 70606-5652.

**IMPORTANT!!! PLEASE ADVISE US OF A CHANGE OF ADDRESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** *Kinfolks* is mailed in bulk in March, May, September and November. The post office will not forward your copy if you have moved and charges 75 cents for an address correction. Re-mailing *Kinfolks* cost the price of a second copy, plus \$2.00. Therefore, it is necessary that you advise us of a change of address as soon as possible to help save unnecessary expenses.

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**SOCIETY NEWS**  
**Mark Your Calendar for Meetings -**  
**2018 - Jan. 20, March 17, May 19, Sept. 15, Nov. 17**

**NOVEMBER MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society will be held on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. in the Carnegie Meeting Room. Guests are welcome. Program will be "History of Moss Bluff" presented by HARVEY DOWNS. Canned goods and monetary contributions will be given to Abraham's Tent.

**JANUARY MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society will be held on Saturday, January 19, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. in the Carnegie Meeting Room. Guests are welcome. Program will be "Show and Tell" presented by SWLGS members. Canned goods and monetary contributions will be given to Abraham's Tent.

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**NEW MEMBER**

1645. ELAINE HACKER, 5855 Gray Market Dr. Apt. 221, Lake Charles, LA 70605

Membership – 187

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TREASURER is accepting 2019 dues. Patron - \$22, Family - \$17, Individual - \$12. Dues cover the calendar year – Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. Mail to SW LA Genealogical Society, PO Box 5652, Lake Charles, LA 70606-5652.

If you move during the year, please notify us – so we can correct our records – and you will not miss any issues of *Kinfolks* which are distributed in March, May, September and November. The post office does not forward quarterlies.

EASTMAN'S ONLINE GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER July 6, 2017 - (<https://blog.eogn.com>)  
Would you like to electronically search through 129,577 genealogy books. The Internet Archive now has a dedicated section just for genealogy, family history, and local history books at: <https://archive.org/details/genealogy>. Not only can you search these books, but you can do so electronically. A search for a name might require a few seconds, not hours or days in the manner of a manual search through printed books in a library. The Internet Archive (also known as The Internet WayBack Machine Archive) is a San Francisco-based nonprofit digital library with the stated mission of "universal access to all knowledge." It provides free public access to collections of digitized materials, including websites, software applications/games, music, movies/video, moving image, and nearly three million public-domain books.

**SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL LIBRARY**  
**411 Pujo Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601**

**RECENT BOOK SALE**

Several Family Genealogy Books are available for purchase from the Friends of the Library, Calcasieu. If interested contact Friends of the Library at [friendscalinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:friendscalinfo@yahoo.com). Books can be picked up at the SWLA Genealogy and Historical Library at 411 Pujo Street in Lake Charles for \$2.00 each or mailed to you for \$5.00 each (postage included). One book is entitled *Selected Acadian and Louisiana Church Records, Vol. 1*, by Rt. Rev. Msgr. George A. Bodin.

The Family books include the following names:

Abshire, Simon, Lapoint, Richard, Hanks, Schexnayder, Castro, Roussel, Colomb, Rouxel,  
McNulty, Crawford, Babin

Allen

Baldwin, Cunningham, Farrar, Greer, Hammock, Hancock, Harris, Hawkins, Henderson, Huff,  
Isham, McDade, Marshall, O'Bannon, Peake, Randolph, Rudd, Sanders, Scott, Smith,  
Thurman, Twitty, Whitaker, Wright, Moore

Barlow Family and Cemetery

Barr, Lambert, Goodwin, Pool, Sheets, Walker, Whitehall, Skeen, Hicks, Baldwin, Farrar,  
Hawkins, Henderson, McDade, Marshall, Moore, Sanders, Thurman, Twitty, Whitaker,  
Wright

Benoit

Businick

Caulfield, Rourk, and White

Champagne

Deloach, Turnball

Fox

Goodman and Peden

Henderson

Higginson

Descendants of Garrett Koen

McDade

Navarre, Foreman, Roscoe, Barnett, Brown

Saltenberger, Logan, Commack

Samuel, Gayle, Merry, Bryan, Boone, Williamson, Allen, Drury

Revolutionary War Ancestors of Elizabeth Sanders, Drewry Allen, Hardy Brian, Sarah

Williamson Brian, Willian Brian, Matthias Burnett, Josiah Gayle, James McDade,

Samuel Merry, Soloman Morgan, James "Joel" Richbourg, Sr., Sarah Frances Henderson,

John Ray Sander

Swilley, Seaman, Dillon, McKinney, Dyson, Williams, Stokes, Little, Hays, Oats

Teusuch

Thurman

Twitty

A Line of Whites by J. D. White Sr.

Yankees Rebels and Ministers: Families included: Allen, Barrett, Beaufort, Boleyn, Burnett,

Cady, Cantey, Caulfield, Chatfield, Croshaw, Fletcher, Fox, Halsey, Harrell, Higginson, Jagger, Maples, Merry, Morgan, Oldys, Parsons, Phillipe de la Richbourg, Rourke, Sanders, Stansboroug, Sutton, Taledge, Tilden, West, Wheeler, White, Williamson

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## **SEPTEMBER PROGRAM**

The September Program "Save Your Photos" was presented by RENÉE GRANTHAM of Lake Charles. RENÉE is a photo organizer and owner of "My Picture Lady." She tells your family story through organizing, digitizing, archiving, and designing. Contact RENÉE at [rtgrantham@msn.com](mailto:rtgrantham@msn.com) or [www.rtgmypicturelady.com](http://www.rtgmypicturelady.com)

September is Save Your Photos Month.

### **Simple Steps for Sorting Printed Photos**

#### **The ABCs of Photo Organization**

Deciding what to keep can be overwhelming. Following a few simple guidelines can make this process easier and I rely on the ABCs of photo organizing to stay on track.

#### **A stands for Album**

These photos are the most important and belong in an album. It's important to understand that not all photos need to go in an album. The ones you choose are often the most personal, and cherished. Less is more!

#### **B stands for Box**

Photos that are important enough to keep should be stored in archive quality boxes for long term storage, or backed up thoroughly if digitized.

#### **C stands for Can**

These photos can go in the 'trash can' or your delete file. Toss duplicates, blurry or unflattering photos, excess scenery photos, etc.

#### **S stands for Story**

This is the most important part. Does the photo tell a Story! Keep any photos that clearly tell a story. As an old blurry photo may have your Dad's first car in the background! Be careful you aren't tossing history.

#### **Sorting Photos**

Our natural tendency is to sort chronologically, but with today's high volume of photos it can be overwhelming. Whether you are organizing printed or digital photos, the process is always the same. Choose to organize in themes that represent your life. Wedding, Vacations, Sports, Heritage, By Child, Pets, School, Christmas, Holidays, Birthdays. These are just a few examples, and themes will vary from one family to the next. Themes can also be sorted in chronological order for easy access.

### **Safeguarding your photos**

With today's rapidly changing technology, protecting our photos continues to be a challenge. The experts recommend that you back up photos in 3 ways.

### **2 Computer sources**

Besides the computer drive that your images are stored on, you should have an external hard drive where your photos are backed up regularly. Two computer locations will ensure your photos are safe in the event of a computer crash, and can be easily restored.

### **CD/Picture Keeper Backup**

Schedule a monthly backup reminder and store images on Archival CDs. These types of disc are high quality and designed for long term, stable storage. The likelihood that disc's will be readable 10 years from now are high. Even today, we are transferring obsolete media into current readable forms easily. Picture Keeper is a space saving device that has built in software that intuitively seeks out your digital images from your PC or MAC. This USB flash drive is small enough to store in a safety deposit box outside of your home.

### **Online Storage**

APPO recommends storing your 'A photos' with an offsite service, known as cloud storage. I can recommend a cloud based storage system that offers the security you need plus the added advantage of unlimited photo storage and accessibility from many devices for easy, private sharing.

### **Print your photos**

This is by far the safest and most reliable form of back up. Getting your printed photos into albums, or printed photo book is the best way to ensure that your photos will survive technology changes and cloud storage. Everyone will still have 'eyes' 50 years from now, but technology will be vastly different.

**If photo organizing feels overwhelming to you, or you simply don't have the time, I can provide this service for you. I can recommend products for you to use and have several time packages available that may suit your needs and budget.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **PEARL HARBOR**

**Submitted by WILLIAM THIBODEAUX**

Ever wonder how America was caught flatfooted on the morning of December 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor? All those American warships docked one alongside the other unprepared for war. Didn't they know what was coming? The Japanese attack lasted nearly two hours: from 7:55 until 9:45 a.m. Congress concluded that America suffered 3,435 casualties. America lost 188 aircraft (out of 402) and 18 warships. Most of our planes were neatly lined upon the ground wing tip to wing tip and nose to tail. It was "the greatest military and naval disaster in our nation's history."

RUSSELL J. DURIO of Sunset, in St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, was one of the brave young men who perished with his shipmates on that historic day of December 7, 1941. DURIO was a marine assigned to the *U.S.S. Arizona*. He and his brother, HOWARD, had joined the military long before Japan's cowardly attack on Pearl Harbor. HOWARD was assigned to submarine service. A younger brother, ARISTIDE or "AD" as he preferred, joined the military some time later after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. I recently spoke with AD about his military service and about his brothers' time in the military. Like most Americans back then, AD was troubled by how the American military was caught so unprepared for battle when we were attacked by the Japanese. I'm confident that it has been the topic of many discussions concerning the war.

Numerous investigations took place afterwards to learn the facts about Pearl Harbor as to identify what went wrong and more importantly - to make certain it never happens again. Within days and weeks of the attack on Pearl Harbor, one admiral and one lieutenant general was relieved of their command, respectively. In 1991, after fifty years of silence about that cowardly attack on Pearl Harbor, one investigation that was the most comprehensive and factual is now declassified and can be told. This investigation was conducted by the late HENRY C. CLAUSEN, the special investigator appointed by Secretary of War HENRY STIMSON. STIMSON didn't buy the earlier stories that some of the most high-ranking members of the military stated during the numerous investigations that followed in the wake of the Pearl Harbor attack. STIMSON believed some had falsely testified to the various entities investigating the incident at Pearl Harbor.

Secretary of War HENRY L. STIMSON harshly criticized the admiral in charge of military operations in Hawaii "for failing to employ reconnaissance to defend Pearl Harbor and for failing to communicate with each other in the days leading up to the Japanese attack." In 1944 Secretary of War HENRY L. STIMSON selected HENRY C. CLAUSEN to open another investigation to find the root causes of Pearl Harbor after it had been determined that the reports of the Army Pearl Harbor Board were inaccurate and based on tainted testimony. Why HENRY CLAUSEN? At the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor, CLAUSEN had been a successful attorney with his own law practice in San Francisco and he was an Assistant U. S. Attorney. He wasn't a lifer or a career army officer, nor was he a West Point graduate aspiring to become another PATTON or EISENHOWER. CLAUSEN was impartial, he didn't care about a future in the army, his only desire was to return home to his loving wife and family and to his law practice after the war. STIMSON knew this and apparently that's why he chose HENRY CLAUSEN. CLAUSEN was virtually an unknown army major. The investigation took place seven months in 1944 and 1945.

CLAUSEN traveled more than 55,000 miles by air, interviewed 92 Army, Navy, and civilians (some British) at twenty locations in the United States, the Far East, and the European theaters of war. From these individuals, he took 43 affidavits of sworn testimony. Thirty of the individuals had never been questioned in any of the previous investigations. And, to ensure that everyone CLAUSEN interviewed was telling the truth, he carried a special letter from the Secretary of War that ordered everyone to not only fully cooperate with him, but to even volunteer information. In order to prove the importance to certain people who had taken the special cryptological oath, which was above Top Secret, CLAUSEN knew all about the U. S. breaking

Japanese codes before the attack on Pearl Harbor. He also strapped to his chest some forty Top Secret cryptological documents in a bomb pouch that was guaranteed to destroy the papers (and himself) if it looked as though he might fall into enemy hands in the course of his extensive travels around the world conducting his investigation.

After completing his investigation, CLAUSEN reported to Secretary STIMSON, which led to the ruling by the Judge Advocate General, that the earlier findings of the Army Pearl Harbor Board should be reversed. Until CLAUSEN's investigation, the Navy was successful in keeping the Pearl Harbor failure a secret. HENRY CLAUSEN's report was classified Top Secret and became Volume 35, an 800-page report of the Pearl Harbor hearings and for reasons of national security, it had no conclusion. However, on at least 11 occasions, CLAUSEN points to the facts that leave no doubt as to who was asleep at the wheel during the days and hours that led to the surprise and cowardly attack on Pearl Harbor. For whatever reason, there was vital intelligence information that wasn't passed on properly to authorities at Pearl Harbor and Washington. If it had been, it might have caused the officers in charge at Pearl Harbor to be fully engaged and ready for the attack. CLAUSEN also named 14 men that he believed to be the most culpable. The final report of the congressional Pearl Harbor hearings accepted the CLAUSEN affidavits as being true. Over the years numerous historians have written about the attack on Pearl Harbor based on earlier investigations, which was perjured and incomplete testimony. None of these historians had access to the files that HENRY CLAUSEN had.

On October 1990, the U. S. Naval Academy Alumni Association at Annapolis unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the Navy to restore the admiral posthumously to the four-star rank he held before the debacle at Pearl Harbor. In December 1990, the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association adopted a resolution restoring the full war time rank to both the admiral and lieutenant general. In October 1991, 36 retired "flag rank officers" (all but a few of them four-star admirals) wrote to President BUSH urging him to take remedial action on his own authority. (It should be noted that this remedial action was asked only for the admiral). The *Post* also wrote about the admiral saying that no day could be more favorable for restoring (admiral) to the formal and public respect of his country than December 7, 1991. In October 1995, supporters of the two people most responsible for the Pearl Harbor debacle asked that they be "rehabilitated and advanced" on the retirement list of their highest temporary grades (Admiral and Lieutenant General, respectively). The defense department rightly denied their requests. In 1998 the NSA (National Security Agency) confirmed the CLAUSEN's findings in his report. And finally, the friends and supporters of the two people (admiral and lieutenant general) most responsible for the Pearl Harbor debacle, were at it again. This time on May 25, 2000, by a vote of 52 to 47, declaring that both men performed their duties at Pearl Harbor "completely and professionally." The Senate resolution urging President CLINTON posthumously to reverse their demotion in rank and the measure was included in the omnibus defense spending bill. As of mid-January 2001, President CLINTON had not taken the separate action necessary in his role as commander-in-chief to begin the process of restoring the two men to their pre-war ranks. Information for this article is from the extensive work of HENRY C CLAUSEN and BRUCE LEE: *Pearl Harbor: Final Judgment*.

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**MAY A THANKFUL HEART BE YOURS TODAY AND ALWAYS.  
HAPPY THANKSGIVING**



**ONE OF THE LAST**  
By JIM BRADSHAW  
*The Welsh Citizen*, April 1, 2014

When “Old Cousin BEN” FONTENOT died in the St. Landry Parish community of Grand Prairie in December 1903, he was mourned as a Confederate hero who was “in that glorious band that fought on every bloody battle field” in Virginia during the Civil War.

As a foot soldier, his obituary in the *St. Landry Clarion* said, BENJAMIN FONTENOT was one of the men who helped give Gen. THOMAS J. JACKSON the nickname “Stonewall.”

According to old Confederate records, FONTENOT was a private in the 6<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry Regiment, which was organized in May 1861.

The regiment was sent to Virginia where it was assigned to JACKSON’s brigade during the First Battle of Bull Run and though outnumbered fiercely held a precarious position long enough for reinforcements to arrive and bring about a Confederate victory.

This was the battle in which JACKSON’s men “stood like a stone wall” to give the general his famous nickname.

“It was the ... charge of gallant troops in offensive battles, or the ... courageous stand in defensive conflict which so greatly contributed to ... the glory ... and the fame of their great generals,” in the newspaper’s view.

Soldiers in the 6<sup>th</sup> Louisiana fought throughout Virginia and Maryland and what was left of the regiment was with Gen. ROBERT E. LEE’s army during his final battle at Appomattox in April 1865.

Only a few of [FONTENOT’s] company came back,” according to the newspaper report, “and of that number there are [only] four or five still living [in 1903].” Those included E. J. GOINGS of Washington and AUSTIN LACOME of Opelousas.

In the newspaper’s estimation, the South may have lost the war, but FONTENOT and his fellow foot soldiers displayed “a wonderful exhibition of courage, constancy, and suffering which no disaster could diminish, no defeat darken.” They were “clothed ... with glorious immortality.”

Historians wrote about the leaders, the obituary said, their books did not “recount [the] courage on the field” of FONTENOT and other common soldiers.

“His battle picture, ever near the flashing of the guns, should be framed in the memory of all who admire heroism,” the newspaper said. “No monument can be built high enough to commemorate the memory of a typical private soldier. ... [During battle] he stood with the old, torn slouch hat, the bright eye, the cheek colored by exposure and painted by excitement, the face stained with powder, his blanket in shreds, printing in the dust of battle the tracks of his shoeless feet.”

Old cousin BEN apparently had no trouble telling his war stories. It was “always interesting” to hear him and “his memory never failed him in describing the battle grounds,” according to the *Clarion*.

But now the death that he eluded on the battle field had taken him to “the bivouac of eternal happiness,” and those memories and tales would begin to fade away.

The newspaper did not attribute the lines, but concluded BENJAMIN FONTENOT’s obituary with the opening stanza of a poem written by poet and military officer THEODORE O’HARA in memory of troops killed in the Mexican War in 1847:

“The muffled drum’s sad roll has beat  
The soldier’s last tattoo;  
No more on Life’s parade shall meet  
That brave and fallen few.”

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### **ALL ABOARD THE XANTHO!**

**Printed with permission of *The SWLA Backstory*, No. 2, March 2018**

**[www.swlabackstory.com](http://www.swlabackstory.com) (Kim Hebert)**

The town of Lake Charles had many steam boats (steamers) and each of them had a particular use. The steamer *Nettie* made regular stops and shuttled passengers between Lake Charles and West Lake Charles. The Ferry boat *Hazel* was a steam propelled Ferry built in 1893 and there were many more beautiful boats but NONE like the *XANTHO*! The *Xantho* was a steam yacht built in 1884 for Lake Charles pioneer and business-man J. B. WATKINS. The steam-launch *Xantho* was built by the Herreshoff Mfg. Co. from Bristol, Rhode Island. It was 45 ft. overall. She had a condensing engine with cylinders 4.5” and 7” in diameter and was made completely of wood. The Yacht had an awning with glass all around which made enjoying the views on our waters a real treat for passengers.

A companion dinghy was built for the *Xantho* the same year. This “albatross rowboat” was constructed of battened white pine. This pair was specifically fitted for passenger trade.

As the story goes, J. B. WATKINS (a Lake Charles businessman we discussed in great length in our first issue) lead a few memorable excursions on the *Xantho* steam pleasure yacht. One of these river cruises included several SWLA dignitaries and members of the early *Associated Press*. They all met in Lake Charles and boarded the *Xantho* with intentions of learning more about Southwest Louisiana and seeing our marshland. There were judges, landowners, newspaper writers, and people from as far away as New York that joined WATKINS for this marshy survey.

Once the *Xantho* left Lake Charles, it traveled south to Leesburg (present day Cameron Parish) where WATKINS and his crew treated his passengers like royalty. Fine food and drinks were on

the menu as the yacht cruised through the marsh. Passengers aboard the pleasure cruise reported their surprise at our "crystal clear" water and they were amazed at how fertile the land here was.

The main purpose of this excursion was to draw people from other parts of the country to settle in Southwest Louisiana while showcasing the beauty and potential our area had for development and what opportunities new settlers to our area would have. After a three day cruise, the *Xantho* returned to her Lake Charles dock where passengers cheered as they disembarked. It was always said that WATKINS treated people in a "princely" manner.

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***THE LAKE CHARLES AMERICAN PRESS (MONDAY, JULY 30, 1945, PAGE THREE)***  
**Information gathered by GLORIA J. MOREAU, Member No. 1590**

**OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN SERVICE**

GLENN R. YOUNG, motor machinist mate third class, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. YOUNG of Lake Charles, has been serving in the submarine division for two years and is now in the Pacific area. YOUNG visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. ARCHIE YOUNG of Port Arthur, Tx., and grandparents here in March when he was home on a 30-day leave.

A former resident of Lake Charles, YOUNG now makes his home in Port Arthur.

Sgt. ROBERT J. McLEAN of the Charleston Hotel, is a platoon guide in the 80<sup>th</sup> "Blue Ridge" infantry division's illustrious and heroic Second battalion of the 318<sup>th</sup> infantry regiment which recently received the coveted presidential unit citation.

The Second battalion relentlessly ground through the ring of Nazi steel around Bastogne to reach the encircled garrison within the city. The valiant role of the battalion in this epic drive which stemmed the tide of VON RUNSTEDT's winter offensive will go down in military annals as one of the finer chapters in the history of the United States army.

Cpl. ALFORD R. MILLER, 1317 East Ford Street, is a member of the finance office of the 106<sup>th</sup> infantry division in Bad Ems, Germany.

Men of the finance office pay more than 30,000 troops of the division in Allied occupation currency, and nearly a million German prisoners of war, controlled by the division, receive the equivalent of eight dollars in reichmarks as they are discharged at the rate of about 9,000 a day. Soldiers on pass and furlough receive French, Belgium or English money, and converting foreign currencies to occupation money or to dollars to send home takes up much of the time.

Oakdale – Pvt. MILBURN W. WEST was among recent arrivals at Brooke Convalescent Hospital, Fort Sam Houston, Tex.

WEST is the husband of Mrs. S. WEST, 35 New Street, and the son of Mrs. LOUIS C. WEST, Star Route, Beaver, La. He entered the army May 18, 1944, and took basic training at Camp Fannin, Tex., before going overseas. He served six months as rifleman with the 275<sup>th</sup> infantry regiment in the European theater of operations, and was taken a prisoner of war during action in Germany.

Upon his arrival in the United States May 7, 1945, he was sent to Harmon General Hospital, Longview, Tex., and then transferred to Brooke Hospital.

WEST left the hospital July 12 on a 30-day furlough and is now visiting his family in Oakdale.

He was a student at Pine Prairie high school before entering the service. His brother, L. C. WEST, seaman first class, is serving in the navy.

Sgt. ARVIE AIRHORT, Route 5, Lake Charles, was discharged July 25 from the army after completion of hospitalization at Mayo General Hospital, Galesburg, Ill.

AIRHORT served overseas for 12 months with the infantry in the European theater. He has been awarded the Bronze Star, and the European Theater Operations ribbon.

I. Z. GEORGE, seaman second class, 516 Belden Street, is serving aboard the *USS Shangri-La* in the Pacific.

Planes from the aircraft carrier helped defeat the Japs in the recent Okinawa campaign, raining bombs, rockets and bullets on enemy pillboxes, caves, airfields and communication centers in support of ground troops.

With the 84<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisions of the Seventh Army in Europe - JOHN R. CARL, technician fifth grade of Lake Charles, has been awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in connection with military operations.

A radio operator, Corporal CARL erected and maintained a battalion observation post, along with three others, between the town of Dovern and Baal, Germany, while under heavy enemy artillery fire. Throughout the night they kept communications between the battalion commander and the frontline troops although their aerial had been destroyed (sic..destroyed) by the proximity of enemy fire.

The following morning, Corporal CARL and the others took 21 prisoners within that vicinity and gave first aide to four American casualties.

The veteran has taken part in the "Railsplitters" smash against the Siegfried line in the Ceilenkirchen sector, the battle of the Ardennes, the Roer River crossing and the breakthrough to the Rhine, Weser River crossing and the drive to the Elbe River.

Two men from this area are undergoing training as crewmen on a B-29 Superfortress at MacDill Field, Tampa, Fla.

Second Lt. CLAIBORNE DUHON, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. CLAIBORNE DUHON, 309 Logan Street, Sulphur, is undergoing combat crew training as a navigator.

Sgt. MATHEW C. RACHAL, son of MATT RACHAL, Merryville, La., is training as a radio operator on a B-29.

### **DEATHS LAST NIGHT**

*By the American Press*

NEW YORK & (sic..-) JODHN (sic..JOHN) POLLOCK, 64: General manager for JOHN GOLDEN, theatrical producer, and a brother of CHANNING POLLOCK, playwright.

MOSCOW - SERGEI ALLILUEV, father of Premier Stalin's second wife, according to an obituary in Pravda.

DETROIT - SHERMAN E. WELCH, 56, former general manager for the Chrysler Corp, at Newcastle, Ind.

MIAMI - JACOB PFEIFER, 84, founder and president of the Miller Rubber Co., Akron, O.

LONDON - Sir RALPH BERTIE PETER CATOR, 74, former president of the international mixed court of appeal.

### DEATHS LAST SATURDAY

By the *Associated Press*

NEW YORK - CHARLES K. FOSTER, 77, a director of the First National Bank of Chicago. He was a native of Detroit.

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### KINDER

Special to *American Press*.

KINDER, La., July 30

Miss BILLIE PITTS is spending several weeks in Port Arthur, Texas, with Mr. and Mrs. O. D. AULD and son.

Mrs. TOM GILL spent Thursday in Oberlin with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. AVERY REEVES and family.

Mrs. BILL FOURNET and son DOUGLAS spent the week end here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. KENNY SOUCIER and Mr. and Mrs. W. J. FOURNET and family.

Mr. and Mrs. S. L. PORTER were visitors in Lake Charles Friday.

Miss JESSIE LEE SMITH of the Fenton Booster plant spent this week end here with her mother, Mrs. JOHN SMITH.

Miss SALLY PITTS who is employed in Baton Rouge and Miss LORRAINE BUCK from Lake Charles were week end guests of their parents, Dr. and Mrs. GURDON BUCK.

Misses BETTY ZANE EVERITT, JEANETTE DARBONNE and BETTY DUPLICHAN left Monday for Baton Rouge where they will attend the (sic. A) short course at LSU.

Miss DOROTHY BAKER who is employed with the Southern Pacific freight depot in Lake Charles and JUANITA CLAIBORNE, spent the week end here with their father, ALTON BAKER, and grandmother, Mrs. B. J. BAKER.

Members of the Congregational Church M.B.C. met at the church Friday night and went in a group to church services at the St. Elmo Indian Settlement Church.

Attending the services were: MARY LOUISE JOHNSON, BERTIE LOIS WALLACE, LUCILLE HEBERT, MARY LOUISE KUNTZ, WANDA KUNTZ, JAMES LAMBERT, NORMAN JOHNSON, Jr., EMILE ENGLUND, JOHN FRUGE and BETTY ZANE EVERITT.

Miss BETTY PITTS from Lake Charles spent the week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. LLOYD PITTS and family.

Mrs. WILL KINGREY and Mrs. AGNES TOWEL chaperoned a group of girls to an open house dance at the main Service Club Saturday night. Those attending the dance were: BETTY PITTS, MARILYN VAUGHN, ROSALIND BUCK, DOROTHY BAKER, ETHEL

SMITH, IDEL COOK, ASINE ASHY, and Private MARY ASHY, LURLINE MOREAU, LENORA LaFLEUR, BETTY DUPLICHAN, LULA ORTEGO, DELA ORTEGO, JEANETTE DARBONNE, BETTY MANUEL, IDELL BOOZ, BERTHA GUILLORY and ALICE ORTEGO.

Miss SALLY PITTS and ELIZABETH ANNE SMITH have returned from a week's visit in Lake Charles with Mr. and Mrs. JOHN SMITH and Miss BETTY PITTS.

Mrs. ALICE VAUGHN and daughter, MARILYN, spent the week end here.

Mr. and Mrs. DOVIC TATE and daughters from Fenton were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. FRED TATE.

JOHN McNABB, employed at Orange, Texas, spent the week end here with his family, other relatives and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. FLOYD CASE and daughter from Oakdale spent Thursday and Friday here with friends.

Mrs. PEARL SUDDUTH from Opelousas was the recent guest of her sister-in-law, Mrs. W. D. HORN.

Mr. and Mrs. ROBERT MANVILLE from Oberlin were visitors here Sunday.

LARRY, BENNIE and BAB CRONAN have returned from New Orleans where they spent several weeks visiting relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. LEO WOFFARD and son from Sulphur were recent guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. WOFFARD, other relatives and friends.

SAM SUDDUTH from Reeves spent Saturday here visiting relatives and friends.

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#### **INFORMATION GLEANED FROM OTHER PUBLICATIONS –**

##### **Terrebonne Genealogical Society, Vol. 36 #9, November/December 2017**

AMAZING WEBSITE OF INTEREST – The Virtual Wall – Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. Index of people who died in the Vietnam War. First click on state. When it opens, scroll down to the city and look at the names. Click on the name and it will give details of the person's death, a picture or at least their bio and medals. This really is an amazing website. Someone spent a lot of time and effort to create it. I hope that everyone who views this, appreciates what those who served in Vietnam sacrificed for our country. Pass the link on to others, as many knew wonderful people whose names are listed.  
<http://www.vitualwall.org/iStates.htm>

##### **Jefferson Genealogical Society, Vol. XXXII, Issue 4 – November 2017**

#### **SOURCES FOR THE STUDY OF GERMANS IN LOUISIANA AND NEW ORLEANS AT THE WILLIAMS RESEARCH CENTER**

<https://www.hnoc.org/research/sources-study-germans-louisiana-and-new-orleans-williams-research-center>

There are diverse materials available at the Williams Research Center of The Historic New Orleans Collection that concern the Germans in New Orleans. They are divided into seven sections: **SETTLERS:** The arrival of German-speaking people in Louisiana; **ORGANIZATIONS:** Immigration and benevolent groups, and churches; **GERMAN VIEWS:** Depictions of New Orleans by and for Germans; **MUSIC AND SOCIALIZING:** The German passion for song; **BUSINESSES:** Restaurants, music publishers, etc; **J. HANNO DEILER:** New Orleans's preeminent German scholar; and **RURAL GERMAN ENCLAVES:** Germantown and Robert's Cove, Louisiana.



**A HUGUENOT CONNECTION WITH SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA**  
**Submitted by [The Rev'd.] W. GEDGE GAYLE, Jr., Member No. 451**

Anyone who conducts a study of the origin of the many French names found in the State of Louisiana will be aware of the surprising multitude of sources. As a freshman at Tulane University in 1956, I became acquainted with three fellow students from St. Martinville, St. Martin Parish, LA, all of whom shared the same surname, BIENVENUE. Much to my surprise, none of the three shared any family connection of which they were aware. The one with whom I became most closely acquainted, CHARLES THOMAS BIENVENUE, spoke with what I regarded a pronounced "Cajun" accent. Later I was to learn that he was not of Acadian descent at all. In fact his ancestors had come to Louisiana directly from central France! Thus I learned at an early stage in my personal genealogical research to be careful not to jump to conclusions, especially when French names and origins are concerned.

It is clear from a careful reading of history that French-speaking people came to Louisiana from many sources for a variety of reasons over an extended period of time. As the city of New Orleans celebrates its 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we should recall that many of its residents came from France as soldiers, government officials, businessmen and their families, members of religious orders who came to teach and minister to the resident population, and for numerous other reasons. There were also people of other races and places of origin with French names because of connections with slavery or indentured servanthood.

The same principle holds true with respect to my own family history. My great-grandmother, CECILIA CAROLINE TESSIER was a descendant of a French family that came from France to the New Orleans/Baton Rouge areas by way of at least one generation spent as sugar planters in Saint-Dominique, the area that is today the nation of Haiti. Their arrival in Louisiana was a direct result of the slave rebellion there that began in 1791. Other families of French extraction came to the Americas as part of the large numbers of French Protestants, called Huguenots, forced to leave France in the period roughly 1681 – 1720.

I use these examples to introduce the Huguenot heritage found in Louisiana and today in every state in the union. Historically, the largest numbers would have been in New York, Virginia, and the Carolinas. The modern GAYLE family of southwest Louisiana represents a number of religious affiliations today, but we share a common Huguenot ancestor who was a significant and somewhat controversial figure. His name was CLAUDE PHILLIPPE deRICHEBOURG.

According to the account in the official publication of the National Huguenot Society (*The Cross of Languedoc*, March, 1995), the deRICHEBOURG family "was of the nobility, their seat being the village of Richebourg near Rouen in Normandy, France, where CLAUDE PHILLIPPE was born in the last half of the 1660s. For at least a century before his birth, his family possessed strong Christian convictions. JOHN CALVIN, the great theologian, was a family friend." It is beyond the scope of this article to give a full account of Huguenot history and origins, but as suggested above, the theology and church governance established by the French reformer JOHN CALVIN (1509-1564), formerly JEAN CHAUVIN or CAULVIN, was the path that attracted the vast majority of those who followed the Huguenot way. This

theological base made them easily connect after they left France with the Reformed Church tradition in the Netherlands and Switzerland and the Presbyterian tradition in England, Scotland and the American colonies, all religious traditions with Calvinistic roots.

My own research indicates CLAUDE P. deRICHEBOURG's date and place of birth to be in 1665 in Saintongue, St. Severe, Province of Berri, France. It is possible that the family became dislocated in the turmoil surrounding the increasing problems the French monarchy had with its significant Protestant population. On October 22, 1685, King Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes, ending nearly a century of tense coexistence between the dominant Roman Catholic faction and the sizeable Protestant minority. The result was a dramatic migration of the Protestant clergy, most of whom were expelled, and the laity who followed, to more friendly countries. The Netherlands and England were the destination of the largest number, with others going to Switzerland, Germany, Scotland, Ireland, South Africa, and the American colonies. The total number of refugees is not known, but estimates vary from 200,000 to 400,000, with an estimated 10,000 settling in the 13 American colonies. An added element in the migration was the fact that the French government demanded that all wealth and property be left behind. This caused some to recant and stay in France, where some converted to Catholicism and others continued a small Protestant presence that has endured to this day. But many who fled brought with them artistic talent, skills, and the reputation for industry and fine quality to the places where they found refuge. Artisans, cloth-makers, lace-makers, silk-weavers, glassmakers, printers and manufacturers were all represented. In time, the Huguenot community dominated watch making in Switzerland and fine weaving in England.

By 1700 a significant number of the displaced French Protestants looked to Virginia as a place of refuge. Four ships carrying an estimated 500 emigrants arrived and settled in several coastal sites, including 200 or more at an abandoned Native American village some 20 miles above Richmond on the south side of the James River. The village was known as Manakintown, named for the tribe that had once lived there.

The first ship to arrive was the *Mary and Anne*, and among its passengers was CLAUDE PHILLIPPE deRICHEBOURG. He and BENJAMIN deJOUX, who arrived on the second ship, the *Peter and Anthony*, were ministers who would share the responsibility of caring for the spiritual needs of the new community. This they did together until Mr. deJOUX's death in 1704.

An added factor in the establishment of the Huguenot congregations was the intention that these new settlements continue the use of the French language and culture in their life in the New World. This was an issue that would continue with mixed success until the modern period. There have been a number of such congregations, including German Lutherans and others that have tried to maintain worship and culture in their historic languages. While there are still Huguenot-related churches that have an occasional service of worship in French, the independent Huguenot church in Charleston, SC is the last of its kind.

From my reading on this subject, it appears that pressure was put upon the Huguenot/Calvinist clergy to accept Anglican/Church of England religious orders as a way of coping in their new environment. This would have given them many benefits in the colonies in

which the Church of England was still the established religious faith. There is evidence that deRICHEBOURG may have felt unwelcome pressure to conform to that trend, which also would have made it more difficult to maintain the French language and culture in his congregation. As an Episcopalian priest/presbyter for over 50 years myself, I can see clearly how an acceptance of the Anglican religious tradition would have been counter to his principles. The Anglican tradition looks to the Western/Catholic Church for its theology of the sacraments, creeds, polity [church governance], and the ministry of Bishops, Priests/Presbyters and Deacons, all of which would have been counter to the Calvinist tradition. To his credit, CLAUDE PHILLIPPE deRICHEBOURG refused to compromise his strong French and Calvinist principles. This pressure may have been one of the factors that caused him to leave Manakintown in 1711 and relocate to the Trent River area in NC for a brief time, then to Jamestown, Berkeley County, SC on the Santee River, where he died in 1718/19.

Life in the Manakintown settlement was very hard. This fact is well documented in a publication dating from 1886, recently re-published and entitled: *Documents Relating to the Huguenot Emigration to Virginia and to the Settlement at Manakin-Town*. [Clearfield Company, Inc. by Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, MD, 1995] Colonial officials expended great deal of time and energy trying to help the people of the small settlement survive. Funds were in short supply, as were provisions. The situation was made even more difficult by disputes among some members of the Huguenot community on such issues as the authority of the Vestry, an Anglican practice that may have been a source of congregational tension. I will end this article with an account of the dispute of the Reverend Mister deRICHEBOURG with one of his flock, ABRAHAM SALLE. It must be noted that this document gives only one side of the argument.

Before sharing the document described above, I would like to put into context the genealogical relationship by which we, the GAYLE family of southwest Louisiana, connect with the subject of my article.

According to my records, CLAUDE P. deRICHEBOURG married ANNE CHASTAIN (1685-1719). Their son, CLAUDIUS RICHBOURG [the family dropped an "e" from their surname about this time and used the spelling RICHBOROUGH in some documents] was born in Jamestown, Berkeley County, SC on 23 August 1715. He married UNITY RIDGELL FOX (1728-1788). Their son, JAMES RICHBOURG (1742-1803) married LOUISA LEVISEA MAPLES (1774-1817). They had a daughter, MARY RICHBOURG (1787-1856) who was wed to JOSIAH GAYLE III (1775-1828). Among their children was JAMES RICHBOURG GAYLE (1812-1873) who founded "Belvue," the GAYLE family plantation near Lettsworth, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA, on 900 acres of land given to him by the family of his wife, SARAH ELIZABETH ANDERSON (1816-1874) of Liberty, Amite County, MS. A possible connection with their Huguenot roots is the fact that although they resided in Louisiana, all of their children were baptized at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Liberty, MS, the ANDERSON family church. Both JAMES RICHBOURG GAYLE and SARAH ELIZABETH ANDERSON are buried in the churchyard of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church near Innis, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA.

Among the children of this union was JAMES FRANKLIN GAYLE, (1844-1924), who married CECILIA CAROLINE TESSIER (1851-1932) on 26 November 1874 at the TESSIER

family plantation, "Greenbrier," near Legonier, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA. Of their eight children, the following became residents of the Lake Charles Area: EDWIN FRANKLIN GAYLE, born 8 August 1875; CHARLES TESSIER GAYLE, born 18 August 1877; ARTHUR LEO GAYLE, born 22 February 1882; WILLIAM JOSEPH GAYLE, born 25 July 1886; and MARY AMELIA GAYLE, born 20 September 1888. She wed THOMAS FITZGERALD PORTER on 29 June 1910. ARTHUR LEO GAYLE (1882-1966) was my grandfather. JAMES FRANKLIN GAYLE and his wife, CECILIA CAROLINE TESSIER came to Lake Charles in their later years and died there. Both are buried in Orange Grove Cemetery.

## **A DOCUMENT FROM THE HUGUENOT EMIGRATION TO AMERICA**

Pages 69-70

[My copy below is faithful to the spelling and style of the original document,  
not an easy task in the age of spell-check!]

*To The Honorable Presid't and Council:*

*Sept. 2d, 1707*

The answer of Abraham Salleto the Petition of Mr. Philipe, humbly Sheweth,

That whereas, the s'd Philipe Complained that I affronted him on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of March last, while he was in the Pulpit, by calling him seditious, and the chief of ye seditious, I beg leave to represent to your honnors the whole fact as it happen'd, which I flatter myself will be a compleat justification. When Mr. Philipe had finished the service of the day, he continued in the Pulpit as his custom is where there is any Parish business to be done, the first thing he did, was to demand the Register of Christenings to be delivered up to him out of ye Clerk of the Vestry's hands, and in case he refused to do it, he would excommunicate him; he was pleased to say this with a rage very unbecoming the place, which made me intreat him to have a little patience till the dispute should be ended, whether the Register should be in the Vestry's custody or his; I assur'd him that the Vestry had no intention either to encroach upon his Rights or to give up their own, and therefor desir'd to inform themselves more fully of that matter, upon this. He flew out into a greater passion than before, and frankly told us that he acknowledg'd no Vestry there was, neither would he have the people acknowledge any. Immediately his nameing the People, sevarol of his party, and particularly Lacaze and Michel, stood up, and in the Church took the liberty to utter many injurious things against me; and the last prest thro' the whole congregation to get up to the place where I was, and catching me by the coat, he threatened me very hardly, and by his Example, several of the crowd were heard to say, we must assassinat that damn'd fellow with the black beard, and that Bougre de Chien ought to be hanged up out of the way, and several other violent Expressions, not very proper for the Church. The s'd Philipe in the meantime, was so far from endeavoring to appease their tumult, that t'was observed he did his best to inflame it, and was \_\_\_\_\_lowder and more outrageous than anybody. I thought it now my duty, as a Justice, to command the peace, putting the people in mind of the day and occasion, and the place where they were, but all to little purpose; the Queen's name had no effect upon them. When I found matters in that dangerous condition, I thought it prudent to withdraw, and when I came to the Church door, I told Mr. Philipe 'twas visible that he had fomented that sedition, and therefore he was a seditious person, and even the Chief of the Seditious. This is the

naked fact as it happened, which I am ready to prove to your honors by sufficient testimony, which, if I do, I have the confidence to hope I need no further Justification.

And then, as far as petitioning for an Order for Chooseing a new Vestry at Monocantown, I humbly beg leave to represent to your honors the unreasonableness of that Petition.

Not long after the erecting Monocantown into a Parish, the Parishioners were assembled to elect a Vestry, and the Plurality of voices fell upon the following persons:

Jacob Amonner  
Abra. Soblet  
Jacques Brousse  
Louis Outarte

Jean Guerin  
Jacque Lacaze  
Abra. Remy  
Andre Aubry

Pierre Chastain  
Jean Farcy  
Jean Foniuelle  
Abra. Salle

*Vestry of Monacantown Parish*

In that election the Law of this country was punctually Observ'd; the persons were 12 in number, and were chosen by The Major part of the Parish, called together by Mr. Philipe for that purpose; they were not chosen for one year, according to the electing Elders in France, w'ch Mr. Philipe would insinuate, but were chosen as a lawful Vestry, and for several years have been owned as such, even by Mr. Philipe himself, and he has always apply'd himself to them for his Salary; they have been called Antiens because the French have no other word in their language for a Vestryman, and it has never been questioned by any one whether this were a legal Vestry or not, till lately that the Sr. Philipe, upon a quarrel he's had with some particular member of it, would get this Vestry quashed, to introduce his onne Creature that will be ready to Sacrifice . . . of the parish to his extravagance and arbitrary humour, if . . .

**Note: The document ends here, which indicates that the rest of it and any judgment that may have resulted was lost. It would appear this matter was eventually resolved in view of the fact that Mr. deRICHEBOURG continued as minister of the parish until he left of his own accord in 1711.**

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## **OUR PAST – AMERICAN PRESS – APRIL 11, 2014**

**By MIKE JONES**

### **75 YEARS AGO - APRIL 11, 1939**

### **CONFEDERATE VET DIES**

NATHAN CLIFTON, 94-year old Confederate veteran, died today at the home of his daughter, Mrs. JOHN DOESCHER on Scott street, after a lengthy illness. It was said that he was the only surviving native Calcasieu parish Civil War veteran. Enlisted in Confederate army on April 15, 1862, and served throughout the War Between the States in Company D. Miles Legion.

Surviving him, besides his daughter; are three sons, NATHANIEL G. CLIFTON and HARDY CLIFTON, both of Lake Charles, and JAMES A. CLIFTON, Tacoma, Wash., seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

## FRATERNAL, CIVIC, LITERARY, AND HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS OF EARLY LAKE CHARLES

Submitted by DOT AKINS, Member No. 1451

**Community organizations** cover a series of activities at the community level aimed at bringing about desired improvement in the social well-being of individuals and groups. This article about organizations in early Lake Charles will cover some of the fraternal, civic, literary, and historical organizations started in Lake Charles from 1859 through 1946.

### FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

#### Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

According to an article in the May 20, 2010 issue of *Jambalaya*, a charter was granted to Lake Charles Lodge #165 of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in 1859. The first officers were JOEL SANDERS, Worshipful Master; DANIEL GOOS, Senior Warden; DAVID J. REID, Junior Warden; JACOB RYAN, Treasurer; and F. G. MOELING, Secretary.

In the *Lake Charles Centennial Celebration* DONALD MILLET writes, "The Masons, having been active since 1859, had erected their first temple in 1869 at its present site. The building had become a center for community activities and served as a meeting place for different groups during the week. Various religious denominations were allowed to use the building for Sunday services. The first Masonic Temple was used to house the first public school in Lake Charles. It was conducted by JOHN McNEESE. The first house of the lodge was a one-story frame building. Then, the lodge moved over GLASSPOOL's store on Ryan Street where the Rigmalden Hotel now stands. Next, it was taken to a room over J. W. BRYAN's store on the corner of Ryan and the Court House Square. In May 1869, a two-story wooden building was dedicated. Then an acre of ground was purchased on Hodges Street. One-half interest in the lot cost the lodge \$75. On March 20, 1884, the adjoining property having a two hundred-foot frontage on Broad Street was purchased for \$100. Their property in all amounting to one and two-thirds acres had cost them a total of \$375.

An entry in *Leaves from the Diary of Louise* on January 24, 1875 read, "The boys were out late again last night. MARIE and I sat up and waited for them until one o'clock. Another big Masonic meeting. They installed officers last night. I suppose the wives of all Masons had a lonely evening. MARIE said how nice it would be if we women who were left alone at home every Masonic meeting night would form a club of some kind and have a meeting of our own one of those nights. Maybe we can, sometime. MICHAEL told me who the officers were who were installed. They were LOUIS LEVEQUE, W.M.; J. F. HAWKINS, S.W.; JEREMIAH O'BRIEN, J.W.; JACOB RYAN, treasurer; and J. W. BRYAN, secretary.

#### Woodmen of the World

The Woodmen of the World are listed under Lodges and Associations in the *Lake Charles City Directory of 1885-1896*. The listing reads, "Louisiana Camp No. 1 of the Woodmen of the World meets in Pelican Babcock Hall first and third Thursdays of each month at 8:30 p.m. W. R. CLINE, Consul Commander; Dr. B. C. MILLS, Adviser Lieutenant; G. HOLLINS, Banker; N. C. YOUNG, Clerk; ALEX HYMES, Sentry.



An article in the *Lake Charles Daily American* of February 9, 1899 states, "The Louisiana Camp No. 1, Woodmen of the World, will initiate twelve men tonight and after the ceremonies the lodge will adjourn to the parlors of the Lake City, where Mr. SPENSE will provide an excellent spread and a feast of good things will flow. As can be readily seen this order is rapidly gaining a large membership."

An article in the *American Press* of October 29, 1910 reports, "At the regular meeting of the Woodmen of the World on Thursday evening plans for the erection of a building for the use of the order were discussed, and a way and means committee appointed. The committee will look into the matter of raising funds with which to purchase a site and build the hall. Managers HUSTON, WHITFIELD and BRITTON, together with Messrs. POOLE, BEARDSLEY, STILLMAN and BARNETT make up the committee. The order already has a site in view but will look further into the matter before making a purchase. The hall will be built on Ryan Street, officers of the order say and will be a two-story brick structure. The lower part will be devoted to a storeroom and the upper room will be used by the lodge as a meeting place. It is hoped that the building can be well under way by the time the state convention of the order is held here in the spring. The growth of the order has been unusually good within the past year and the membership has reached the point where it is found to be advantageous to the order to possess a hall of its own. At present there are nearly 250 members."

### **Independent Order of Odd Fellows**

An early article in *The American* of April 8, 1896 stated, "The members of the Independent Order Of Odd Fellows, of Westlake, Goosport and Lake Charles had the unity and power to secure the next session of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. This showed the harmony and enterprise prevailing. Now they should have lodge revivals during the year, and it to this end should celebrate the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the order on the 26<sup>th</sup>. It would be convenient to unite in the Lake Charles Opera House as the place. Let every member take his place in the parade preceding; and in this way let our citizens see who and what you are and lay a broad foundation for your entertainment of the Grand Lodge in 1897."

Another article in *The American* of August 5, 1896 read, "On last Monday night D. D. G. M. MARX installed the officers of Martha Rebekah Lodge, No. 11, I. O. O. F. This marks an era in Odd Fellowship in Lake Charles. For several years several of the brothers have made strenuous efforts to get a ladies' lodge running here, and on this occasion saw the foundation of their efforts, the elective officers for the present term being ladies. This degree is essentially a ladies' degree, brothers being admitted to membership only out of courtesy. All unmarried ladies over 18 years of age, and the wives of Odd Fellows in good standing are eligible to membership. The fee for membership is very reasonable, it being only \$1.10 for initiation and dues until December 31, 1896. The officers for this term are: Miss MAUDE HUSTON, N.G., Miss JUNIA D. STURDEVANT, V.G., Miss STELLA SUDDUTH, treasurer; Mrs. ANNA HUSTON, warden; Miss MAI CARLISLE, I.G.; H. C. SOLOMAN, O.G., J. H. HUSTON, R.S. to N.G.

### **Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks**

The Elks Club was formed on March 24, 1899, and it soon became one of the most important organizations in town. The club made a substantial addition to the building activity of the city when they purchased the property on the corner of Broad and Hodges Streets and began plans to erect one of the finest club houses in America. The Royal Orchestra, a local Negro

band, played for many dances held there. Older men gathered at the club to play cards and dominoes, while younger members took boxing instructions in the club's gymnasium.

## **CIVIC CLUBS**

### **Enterprise Club**

The Enterprise club grew out of a Woman's War Relief Association organized in the interest of the young men of the town who were then in service to their country during the Spanish American War. After the war they decided to turn their combined energies into civic work for the town's welfare. Early officers were Mrs. CHESTER BROWN, President; Mrs. W. H. HASKELL, First Vice President; Mrs. WILLIAM RAMSAY, Second Vice President; Mrs. W. L. KINNEY, Third Vice President; Mrs. H. B. KANE, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. LOUISE ALBERTSON, Recording Secretary; and Mrs. J. LaBESSE, Treasurer.

According to STEWART FERGUSON, the Enterprise Club was organized as the first civic women's club on November 2, 1898. Among the early projects of this club was the beautification of Orange Grove Cemetery (now Graceland) and the placement of a water trough for horses at the court house square. A number of civic improvements were made by the Enterprise Club. They established a drive along Shell Beach, one of the most beautiful drives in the United States without receiving a cent of aid from public funds. A new road from Foster Street to the city limits was constructed. The Enterprise Club continued its good work and housed its headquarters in the old *American* building on Hodges Street. The club concentrated its activities for 1904 in beautifying Drew Park and Shell Beach. In 1901 the Enterprise ladies were made custodians of seven and one-half acres on South Ryan Street for a park (now Drew Park). The Enterprise Club is the only club in the states that has the honor of having a street named for it.

The Enterprise Club found itself in financial difficulties in July 1906, because of their purchase of drinking fountains, and there was some talk of discontinuing the organization that fall. The club apparently reviving itself after several years of little activity, accomplished a great deal in 1910 in beautifying the city. Civic Leagues were organized among the children, and a total of nineteen hundred and eighty-three were enrolled. Both Orange Grove and the City Cemetery were taken over by the Club for beautification purposes. Drinking fountains were placed on Ryan by the Sanitation committee. In 1921 The Enterprise Club assumed the obligation of beautifying the high school grounds. Ten acres were planted to trees there during the year.

### **Rotary Club**

The Rotary Club is a civic group whose members work together to end suffering. It was organized in Lake Charles in 1916. It took an active part in securing the Government's Aviation Camp and in participating in the organization of the Council of Defense for the parish.

Two articles in the *American Press* gave information about its formation. One was on May 4, 1916 which read, "A brief time ago, H. B. BAYLISS, W. B. WILLIAMSON, Col. W. D. BETTIS and other kindred spirits decided that the psychological moment had arrived, and accordingly some fifteen men met last night at the Chamber of Commerce rooms, formed a permanent organization and applied to Rotarian International Headquarters. The following board of directors was selected: GEORGE T. LOCK, H. B. BAYLISS, FRANK R. YEATMAN, WALTER D. BETTIS, D. M. FOSTER, Jr., W. E. PATTERSON and R. M. HEREFORD. The

directors named FRANK R. YEATMAN for president, WALTER D. BETTIS vice president, LAWRENCE G. MENUET secretary, H. B. BAYLISS treasurer and D. M. FOSTER, Jr. sergeant-at-arms. As soon as the Lake Charles Rotary Club receives its charter, things will begin "to happen, chief among which will be a dinner with the governor of this district, Mr. RICHARDSON of Austin, Texas, as guest of honor. This meeting will be called by the president in due time. The territory in which the Rotary Club of Lake Charles will have full sway are the four parishes formed from old Calcasieu.

The other article was dated May 12, 1916 which read in part, "...were guests last night of the newly organized Lake Charles Rotary Club at a dinner given at the Majestic Hotel. Last night's dinner was the initial entertainment of the Rotary Club, and plans were completed for a series of Tuesday "noon-day" luncheons, the first of which will be held next week. W. B. WILLIAMSON delivered the address of welcome to the visitor and outlined the aims and purposes of the local association."

### **KIWANIS CLUB**

The Kiwanis Club was organized in Lake Charles in August 1919. An article in the *American Press* on Aug. 20, 1919 reports. "The Kiwanis Club is an organization of business and professional men who have banded together for mutual benefit and for exchanging ideas of business and fostering friendships, believing that through co-operative effort our individual interest can be served best, and realizing that the greatest asset of any man is his friends. The Kiwanis Club is primarily a business club, yet the exchange of business is not the main purpose and is not an obligation. Every man has the right to spend his money where it will buy the most and best. We believe that any organization that seeks to eliminate competition must fail. While the club is not devoted to city enterprises, it holds itself in readiness to support and assist, any and all movements which affect the public welfare and institutions."

Another article in the *American Press* of April 26, 1920 lists the following officers and directors as E. R. KAUFMAN, president; JAMES J. UTILZ, vice president; CHARLES DAVIDSON, secretary; GEORGE D. NEELY, treasurer; Directors R. L. HALE, L. E. HAXTHAUSON, W. E. PLAUCHE, T. G. TROTTI, A. VIZARD, Jr., and F. B. WISE. The Kiwanis met every Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. in the Elks Club. According to the article, "The Lake Charles Kiwanis has since its inception been a great factor in the forward civic movement of Lake Charles ever over ready individually and as a whole to live up to their great motto - "We Build."

### **LIONS CLUB**

Lions Club is a service club that works with crippled children, vision assistance, disaster relief, and community support. Its beginning was reported in the *American Press* issue of September 3, 1920 which stated, "The Lions club organization was completed last evening at the Elks Club, and officers elected. For president A. L. GAYLE was unanimously chosen. In fact, there was no opposition to any name proposed, a spirit of hearty good will being the dominant idea. For first and second vice presidents the club chose W. J. DUHIG and R. J. WILSON. E. CLAUDE HOUSE is the secretary-treasurer and the board of trustees consisting of GEO. M. KING, three years; CHARLES R. CLINE, two years; and W. R. KEEVER, manager of the Union (Sulphur Co.), one year. G. M. CUNNINGHAM, of Houston, representative of the International Lions club, made a most earnest address on the real aims and purposes of this latest edition to the strong teams of helps for improvement in city, parish, state, nation and, world

affairs. The name "Lions", stands for: L is for Loyalty to community and home, I is for individual integrity in thought, word, and deed. O is for One flag, one language, N is for New ideas, new hopes, new ambitions in business and profession, S is for Service that is founded on the Golden Rule."

### **JUNIOR WELFARE LEAGUE (Now Junior League)**

It all began in the depths of the Great Depression of the 1930s with a small group of women who wanted to assist the needy and better the community. Opening its doors in 1933, The Junior Welfare League of Lake Charles Inc. framed their purpose as an exclusively educational and charitable organization of women, committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteer. The legacy began with 11 young visionaries, who would surely be proud of the growth, impact, and continued success of this local chapter.

An article in the *American Press* on Dec. 7, 1933, states, "An enthusiastic meeting of the Junior Welfare League was held Wednesday morning at the Majestic Hotel with the president, Mrs. FRANK HARMON, presiding; and Miss MARGARET WINTERHALER serving as secretary. This was a special meeting to perfect details of the organization and outline work for the winter. The purpose of the league is to aid organized charities and many interesting and worthwhile activities were discussed at yesterday's meeting. One of the immediate plans of the organization is to collect toys from the different homes in the city to be taken to some central location and distributed among needy children at Christmas. Plans were discussed for a charity ball to be given during the holidays, definite date and arrangements to be announced later. The league will meet once a month at luncheon, the first regular luncheon to be held Saturday of this week at the Majestic Hotel at 2 o'clock."

According to another article in the November 7, 1993 issue of the *American Press*, the Christmas and Doll Fund was begun in 1934 and later became the Community Christmas Tree. Thousands of children benefited from this program. They established a medical clinic for children in the basement of City Hall where volunteer doctors gave free examinations. Those children who needed their tonsils removed were given free operations at St. Patrick Hospital. League members would go pick up the patients for the early morning operations and bring them home afterward. The youngsters would also be provided a generous amount of clear soup and ice cream for the recovery period. Another of the League's early programs was a soup kitchen set up in the old Elks Club building on Broad Street...

As the years passed, the organization discontinued old programs and added new ones in response to the needs of the time. In 1941, a "Bundles for Britain" group was formed in Lake Charles and Junior League members were among those donating money for the relief of war-torn England.

Other projects started over the years by the Junior League have enriched the community in every way. It started the Lake Charles Symphony, Imperial Calcasieu Historical Museum, Speech and Hearing Center, Family & Youth Counseling Agency, Calcasieu Arts & Humanities Council, Substance Abuse prevention, Volunteer Center of Southwest Louisiana, Children's Museum and the Literacy Council.

### **QUOTA CLUB**

The Quota Club of Lake Charles was chartered in 1941 and has been active in service to the community. Service projects have included service to Boys and Girls Villages, Calcasieu

Women's Shelter, Children's Advocacy Center, Deaf Action Center of Lake Charles, Hearing Dog Program, and Pelican Girls State. The Quota Club (Quota International, Inc. of Lake Charles) was dissolved in April 2003.

An article in the *American Press* of June 2, 1941 tells about the organization of the club, "Miss ADA SABATIER, dean of women of John McNeese Junior College was named first president of Lake Charles' newest women's organization, the Quota club, at its charter dinner Saturday night at the Majestic Hotel...Serving with Miss SABATIER are Mrs. ALTA K. LAIRD, vice president; Miss VERNA PARROTT, second vice president; Miss LOUISE GRIFFIN, secretary, and Miss AUDREY SMITH, treasurer...Meetings will be held twice a month by the new club, one for business and one for programs and social activities...Quota will specialize in girl's work and will endeavor to give them opportunities to develop and fit themselves for business and professional careers. Each club will undertake the type of service work most needed in its community and many girls will receive benefits each year from Quota service. The motto of the club is "We Share." The current program for all Quota clubs includes good citizenship, extending friendly relations, crime prevention, international relations and gaining recognition for the achievements of women.

### **The Downtown Optimist Club of Lake Charles**

The Optimist International is a men's service club organization whose primary objectives are aid to youth and promotion of realistic optimism as a philosophy of life. In the October 2, 1946 edition of the *American Press*, reference was made to the establishment of an Optimist club in Lake Charles in 1946. In another article DWIGHT MORRISON was listed as president and HAROLD SCAIFE as secretary. The group held weekly luncheons in the Majestic Hotel. Boys Village was founded in 1947 by members of the Lake Charles Optimist Club.

### **The League of Women Voters**

The League of Women Voters was started in Lake Charles in 1946. The LWV is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education in order that voters/residents can make an informed decision when entering the voting booth. The LWV is the only organization that offers the community non-partisan forums, unbiased studies of issues, neutral voter registration drives and legislative wrap-ups that focus on information instead of partisan politics.

The League had a free recycling program for four years. They did it two Saturdays a month. As a result, the community got into the recycling mindset. LWV has also sponsored public meetings to educate the public on controversial issues, such as changes in the public education system, hazardous waste management, changes in health care, tax propositions, career diplomas, property taxes.

## **LITERARY CLUBS**

### **Review Club**

Among the earliest women's clubs organized in Lake Charles and still in existence today is the Review Club. The Review Club formed as a study club on January 14, 1893. The first meeting was held in the home of Mrs. W. R. RAMSAY. The stated objective was the mutual improvement of its members. It was to be independent of sect, party or social cliques. The club

is a study club of literature. Members choose a topic each year and members are assigned to give a report on one of the books selected under that topic. The membership was restricted to thirty very carefully chosen ladies of the town.

In 1893, the club had three books. The librarian was Mrs. LITTLE. In 1894, 19 new books were added and the librarian was Mrs. ROBERTS. In 1940 the club gave its library to Carnegie Library where it might help more people.

A few of the early articles about the club include

- (1) *The American*, March 11, 1896, "The Review Club held their semi-monthly meeting at the residence of Mrs. CHESTER BROWN on last Saturday afternoon. Some very instructive and interesting papers were read on "Italian History," by different members.
- (2) *Lake Charles Daily American*, January 31, 1899, "An intellectual feast afforded the lovers of Shakespeare with a lecture by Dr. BEVERLY WARNER. The event was sponsored by the Review Club.
- (3) *Lake Charles Daily American*, Feb. 4, 1899, "The ladies of the Review Club met this afternoon at the directors' room of the First National Bank. The meeting was in charge of the ladies of division four and the papers read were concerning the lives and writings of FRANCIS BACON and BEN JOHNSON. The plan of study for them includes a sketching of the field of English literature."

### **Lake Charles Author's Club**

As early as 1922, references were made in the *Lake Charles American Press* to the Lake Charles Author's Club. The president of the club was R. F. CISCO. He was mentioned in an article about the Lake Charles Historical Society meeting in April 1922. It reads, "An enjoyable feature of the meeting was the reading by request of an original sketch by R. F. CISCO, president of the Lake Charles Author's Club." In an article in the *American Press* on January 1, 1925, it was stated that Mr. CISCO was elected president of the club for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

Another article in the August 13, 1927 issue of the *Lake Charles American Press* reported the minutes of the Lake Charles Author's Club. Excerpts from the article include, "The annual meeting for the election of officers of the Lake Charles Author's Club was held last night. President DAVID H. LEVINGSTON, presiding... Dr. Q. C. McKINNEY, author of a work on Auction Bridge was unanimously elected to membership. The membership committee also reported favorably on J. LEE HEREFORD, author of a brochure on Agriculture. The same action was taken with FRED JUNKIN recently elected poet laureate of the Lake Charles Sons of Rest. Miss GEORGIA WILLIAMS was another author elected to membership as was E. J. NOVAK, author of an interesting symposium on Greater Lake Charles. Another member elected was Mrs. LAURA SILING CLINE, author of the recently published poem, "Cotton." The author of a pamphlet on "Blue Rose Rico." J. ALTON FOSTER, received unanimous election to membership. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted in the reelection of DAVID H. LEVINGSTON, president; R. F. CISCO, vice-president; T. E. BARNES, secretary; Col. BRET W. EDDY, treasurer; W. H. PAYNE, sergeant at arms.

## **HISTORICAL CLUBS**

### **Lake Charles Historical Society**



An article in the April 26, 1919 *American Press* reads, "The recently organized Lake Charles Historical Society has as its prime object the retaining and preservation from the ruthless hands of commerce the ancient sites and building landmarks of which Lake Charles is teeming. Bronze tablets, appropriately engraved will be placed on the selected buildings, giving full data, as well as a concise and authentic historical sketch of the site or structure."

Two of the early buildings included a building at the corner of Moss and R. R. Avenue, and the American Press Building on Broad Street.

Col. WILLIAM CURLEY presided over the society for a decade or more. He was a recognized and undisputed authority on the ancient and way back days of Lake Charles. He thought that the society should begin a campaign for funds for the purpose of erecting statues and monuments to Lake Charles's great citizens of the past to be located on the lake front, the parks and other spots to be selected later.

In the August 12, 1925 issue of the *American Press* it was reported that at a meeting of the society a protest was made against using Walnut Grove as the place for the docks, etc. for the new port of Lake Charles in that it was doing away with another landmark and this shouldn't be tolerated nor permitted.

Another move to be fostered by the Lake Charles Historical Society was to petition the city commission to purchase two or three sight-seeing busses so that the visitors to the city could view the ancient landmarks.

An article in the February 3, 1930 of the *American Press* it was stated that the Lake Charles Historical Society, which had been dormant for quite a period, held a preliminary reorganization meeting. In stating the object of the call for the meeting to some of the members of the old organization, the chairman said, "The Lake Charles Historical Society at one time was an important factor in the club, civic and other activities of Lake Charles. There was many a mooted question as to events in the early history of Lake Charles which was settled just by looking up the records of the society, and the lack of an authority such as the archive of the Lake Charles Historical Society has been sorely missed.

Some of the objects of this meeting is the question long in dispute as to the home site of JEAN LAFITTE. Whether it was on the site which the Charleston Hotel occupies, or on lower Ryan Street, below Division Street, where once stood a shack occupied by a Chinese laundry. Then there is the argument when the horse or mule cars ran along Iris Street."

Another matter brought up in the meeting was to establish for all time to come the first house built in Lake Charles, the first brick building, the first bath tub, and the first horse and buggy.

### **Lake Charles Sons of Rest**

The Lake Charles Sons of Rest have been in existence since before 1918 according to an article in the August 26, 1918 issue of the *American Press* which reads, "It was a sad session, this week's session of the Lake Charles Sons of Rest last night and which turned out to be the final meeting during the duration of the war of this well-known order."

The Sons of Rest seemed to have been made up of retired male workers who could socialize, and pass time away. SYDNEY HARRIS was the founder and president. Articles in the *American Press* state that the Lake Charles Sons of Rest held their meeting at various times in the following places: (1) the southwest gallery of the Majestic Hotel, (2) the front door of the court house, (3) the corner of Pujo and Ryan Street, (4) under the awning of the old Lake City building on Ryan Street, and (5) the gallery of the Elks home on Broad Street.

In the March 24, 1919 issue of the *American Press* an article reads, "The Lake Charles Order of the Sons of Rest which disbanded during the duration of the war for patriotic and harsh orders handed out by the state council of defense met in a special called meeting. The attendance was large and enthusiastic and many applications of membership were received. Ryan Street and the other principal down-town streets of Lake Charles will soon have a pre-war appearance with representatives of the Sons of Rest at their usual posts. A resolution unanimously adopted was to petition the city commission to install benches at various convenient places, selected by the Sons of Rest, along Ryan, Broad, and Pujo Streets.

In the September 2, 1920 issue of the *American Press* it was stated, "At last night's meeting of the Lake Charles Sons of Rest, the committee who have been in charge of the Rip Van Winkle monument fund, reported fine progress in the collection of funds for the erection of a monument to Rip Van Winkle, the patron saint of the Sons of Rest, whose memory is strongly revered by every member of the organization whose record, of twenty years of slumber has never been equaled. The site chosen for the Rip Van Winkle Monument is the old stomping ground of the Sons of Rest on Ryan Street." This project was abandoned according to the March 20, 1923 issue of the *American Press* which stated that the committee in charge of raising funds for the monument reported that the sentiment of the people solicited for subscription looked with little favor on the project and further all the civic bodies refused point blank to subscribe one cent. So it was decided by a scant majority vote to abandon the erection of a monument, discharge the committee and return all money collected to the donators."

The Sons of Rest served as standbys, the ever-ready, volunteer inspectors, all unpaid advisers, on all new buildings erected in Lake Charles.

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## **WHO WILL HANDLE YOUR FACEBOOK PAGE AFTER YOU ARE GONE?**

**Reprinted with permission of Dick Eastman,  
Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, June 2, 2016**

**<https://blog.eogn.com>**

Who will be able to update your Facebook after you die or even if you become disabled? Who will notify your friends and acquaintances of your death or disability? Who will be able to reply to messages sent to you? Assuming you will not be able to?

The answer is "nobody" unless you take action in advance to designate a digital heir of your Facebook account, someone who can speak for you when you are no longer able to speak for yourself. Luckily, you can do that within a few seconds.

You can choose a family member or close friend to care for your account at [www.facebook.com/settings?tab=security](http://www.facebook.com/settings?tab=security) and sign in if you have to. Click on the link for "Legacy Contact - Choose a family member or close friend to care for your account if something happens to you."

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**FAMILY – Like branches on a tree, we grow in different directions  
yet our roots remain as one.**

**THE DAILY AMERICAN (3 August 1897)**

Information Gathered by MICK HENDRIX, Member No. 1296

**LITTLE LOCALS. Items Briefly Mentioned for the Benefit of Busy Readers.**

Miss JOSIE JOURDAN, who has been visiting in the city for some time, returned to her home in Welsh to-day.

CYRUS CHITWOOD, late of Keysport, Ill., has rented the COOK residence on Clarence Street, and is moving into it to-day.

Miss EMMA FULTON, a charming young lady of Welsh, is visiting with Miss CYRILLA BRADEN.

The Ladies' Missionary Society of the Presbyterian church meets Thursday afternoon with Mrs. R. P. WILLIAMS.

D. M. CLUTE treated the Checker Club and editors to some splendid ice-cold watermelons Saturday.

BEN BLACK, of Crowley, came over and visited relatives here Sunday.

Rev. R. P. HOWELL, of Lake Arthur, was in town last week, making arrangements for the camp meeting which will open there shortly.

Mrs. L. SHIPLEY, of Welsh, was over Friday on a visit to her sister, Mrs. MITCHELL.

A. M. ARTHUR is now devoting all his time to breeding race horses for Jennings race track.

**THE PEANUT SOCIAL.** The peanut social given by the C. E. Society of the Christian Church, was one of the most successful socials given this year. It was just a fine night for cream, and the demand was so great that the supply soon ran out and they were compelled to close shop.

The lawn was beautifully lighted with lanterns, and with plenty of good meals, was made a most delightful place to spend an evening.

**The Normal Musical Institute Opens With a very Fair Attendance.**

*Correspondence Daily American.*

Glenmora, Aug. 2 – The first session of the Glenmora Musical Institute opened this morning with an enrollment of thirty seven students from Rapides, Grant, Vernon, Calcasieu and St. Landry Parishes. Professors C. J. GILBERT and H. B. HALBERT opened the proceedings by calling the Institute to order, when Prof. JOHN EVANS was elected secretary, and Rev. SAMUEL MALLETT, chaplain. Then the following students were enrolled: AMELIA H. EVANS, EULAH M. PATRICK, ARLIE C. GILL, ANNIE C. GILL, PEARL V. STEPHENS., LILLIAN F. McRIGHT, ANNIE N. McRIGHT, MAGGIE E. CALHOON, RUFUS W. GILL, PINKIE J. BRITT, SERINTHA F. SWILLEY, ROSA ELLA MIZELL, EDITHA CALHOON, LIMA CALHOON, ELMER P. FERGUSON, H. CLAY PHILLIPS, GROVER C. BRITT, J. WILBUR PHILLIPS, CARRIE C. CALHOON, M. BELL PHILLIPS, M. ELLA NASH, all of Glenmora; OLIVER B. DEEN, C. CHARLSIE HOLAWAY, S. ESTELLE SMITH and B. M. BAILEY of Dyer; J. B. STROTHER, S. H. STROTHER and D. C. JOHNSON of Gum; IDA S. NASH, of Dossman; CARRIE SHAW, S. E. KEMP and W. E. BAGGETT, of Forest Hill; T. G. SINGLETARY, of Grant; ETTIE V. ELDRED and M. CORNELIA ELDRED, of Oak Glen; LYDIA PENNY and P. R. HINSON, of Beaver. Several more are expected today and tomorrow.

**GOOSPORT SOCIAL.** The Goosport Social Club spent a most enjoyable evening at the home of Mrs. THERING last evening. Dancing was the principal amusement.

**SAIL BOAT RACE.** GEORGE WASEY and GEORGE DAVIDSON are getting their respective sailboats in shape for a race today. In a light wind, a few days back, GEORGE WASEY's boat defeated the *Wild Duck*, but GEORGE DAVIDSON says there was not sufficient wind and his boat was improperly handled, and believes that in a good breeze his boat will retain the championship of the lake.

**The City Council Passed Another One Last Night. School Discussion – Tax Collector's Report – General Matters of Interest**

The city council met last night in the city hall with Mayor CROWLEY presiding. Alderman LYONS, McCAIN, KIRKWOOD, GEARY, CROSBY, RYAN and LEWIS were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mayor CROWLEY informed the council that Capt. D. B. GORHAM was present and wished to address them. Mr. LYONS moved that Mr. GORHAM be heard. Mr. GORHAM said that they (the school board) have felt very much puzzled to know what course they should follow in opening the city schools. He said that the city council had done everything consistent to be done and they wanted to arrive at some conclusion on the question of how soon after the first Monday in September the city schools could be started. Mr. GORHAM wanted to know if there was any probability of getting a sufficient amount to begin the schools the first Monday in September. He asked if the mayor and council could give any promise about opening the schools. "Should the city schools fail to open this fall," said Mr. GORHAM, "it would be the heaviest slap in the face of Lake Charles that she ever had." He said that the teachers' salaries would be greatly reduced and the schools run as economically as possible.

**Alderman LYONS Favors Schools.** Alderman LYONS, in answer to Mr. GORHAM, said that they could not expect to get the taxes in as quick as they were collected in former years. He said there were certainly a great many people outside of the old corporation who will not pay their taxes as long as the charter question is unsettled, and this will prevent the schools from getting the usual amount of taxes. Mr. LYONS said that if the school board would take the amounts collected last year during the fall and winter months and deduct one-third he believed they would have a correct estimate of what they might expect.

Alderman CROSBY said that he didn't want Mr. GORHAM and the school to have the impression that the council is antagonizing them. He wanted it understood that he is most heartily in favor of beginning the city schools the first Monday in October.

Alderman KIRKWOOD was also very much in favor of opening the schools as soon as possible. He believed there were enough patrons sufficiently appreciative of the advantages of the schools to rescue them if they became financially distressed. Mr. KIRKWOOD said: "I would rather see grass knee high on Ryan street than to see my children grow up in ignorance."

Mr. GORHAM thanked the council for their assurance of good will toward the schools, and said he had only come to have a conference with them and to see if they could rely upon the council at least for moral support in opening the schools as soon as possible. Supt. JNO. McNEESE was also present.

**Tax Collector's Report.** The tax collector's report was then read, and showed the total amount of the collections since the last report was \$439.59. The motion of Mr. GEARY, was referred to the finance committee. The city tax collector's report was read and referred to the finance committee. The mayor's report was then read, and there was found to be a difference of \$54 in the amount of taxes collected for the last month in the mayor's report and in the treasurer's report... in the mayor's court the fines collected amounted to \$207.

Secretary and treasurer, JNO. E. NIX, explained this, showing that sometimes policemen allowed offenders to go and stood responsible for the payment of their fines. He said the shortage of \$50.00 would be taken out of the officer's salaries. This action of the officers was severely criticized, but the city loses nothing by it. Mr. McCAIN was in favor of discharging the officers, who continued the practice. Mr. GEARY also severely criticized it and said the officers exceeded their authority in doing any such thing.

Mr. LYONS reported that the finance committee had been checking up the deductions sheets and were making fair headway and so far had found everything alright, and asked for time. The time was granted.

**OWING TO THE FACT THAT THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE CITY MAY NOT OPEN BEFORE JANUARY,** I shall organize a private school to continue until the opening of the schools, or as much longer as may be practicable. The aim will be to maintain the organization of the school on the present basis. Pupils will be received from the Fifth grade up, and I will be assisted by several members of the high school faculty.

I will be in the city after Aug. 10, when I will be glad to consult with all parties desiring to patronize the school. Respectfully, B. S. LANDIS

**WANTED!** A boy with a good pony to deliver papers. Apply at once to this office.

**LOST** – A Ten Dollar bill, on Ryan street, between the post-office and Crager Bros., or on Broad street, between Ryan street and the Methodist church. Finder will please return same to WALTER DURBRIDGE and get reward.

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### **NIBLETT'S BLUFF**

**Researched by KATHLEEN STAGG and BETTY ROSTEET**

**Reprinted from *Kinfolks*, Vol. 10 No. 1 – 1986**

One of the most historically significant places in Calcasieu Parish is the hamlet of Niblett's Bluff. Now a tiny tranquil community, in the 1800s Niblett's Bluff was a thriving trading town and river port. It is located on the east bank of the Sabine River, just north of Vinton on Louisiana Highway 109.

Legends abound in the area, and one of the most famous concerns the infamous pirate JEAN LAFITTE, who was known to have visited southwest Louisiana frequently. It is said that sometime between 1803 and 1815 LAFITTE, who was being chased by federal revenue cutters, sailed his sloop laden with treasure and golden coins up the Sabine to a place where Niblett's Bluff is now located. To avoid capture by the federal officials, LAFITTE deliberately sank his sloop to make his way overland through "No Man's Land", the neutral strip of land between the

Calcasieu and Sabine Rivers. Although many searched for the legendary treasure, in 1932 a party consisting of E. M. DUNN, D. O. DUGAS, VIENE GRANGER, JIM HUMBLE and LEON LOCKE, Mayor of Lake Charles, hoped to lift the sloop from its river grave and built a wooden coffer-dam. They had uncovered part of the sloop when the coffer-dam collapsed, and Mr. DUNN narrowly escaped death. OSCAR STANTON and D. H. LYONS, one-time sheriff of Calcasieu Parish, were also known to have searched for the sloop. Other attempts to find the sloop and its treasure have been made, but so far none have been successful.

Neblett's Bluff, as it was originally and properly called, was named for its founder Dr. ROBERT CALDWELL NEBLETT. Dr. NEBLETT was born in 1795 in Roanoke, Virginia. After serving in the War of 1812, he completed his medical education at Philadelphia and started a practice in Tennessee, where he met and married MARIA ANN POWE from South Carolina. The couple came to Louisiana about 1830 and ca. 1833 settled on a high ridge near Bottle Neck Bayou on the east bank of the Sabine River where the trail crossed between Louisiana and Texas. This was where the Sabine was easily fordable and was on the original Old Spanish Trail. The little settlement soon became a crossroads for both river and land traffic.

At that time southwest Louisiana was sparsely settled and only a few trappers were permanent residents of the area. Dr. NEBLETT was the only medical man for hundreds of miles, so his profession was necessarily augmented by farming. He also opened a trading post that served residents on both sides of the river.

Dr. NEBLETT stocked his store with merchandise bought in New Orleans and carried by boat up the Sabine, which at that time was navigable for light draft vessels. Business was good, for cattle drivers crossed the river at this point, as did travelers and wagon trains of settlers on their way west.

A ferry boat to facilitate river crossings was soon built by Dr. NEBLETT. The little community grew and became a shipping port for sugar cane, cotton, timber and other commodities.

Many men seeking adventure for fortune passed though Niblett's Bluff on their way west, and only a few of these returned. Many others came west to join the fight for Texas Independence and these had a direct result on the little settlement. After the war was over, many of these men returned home by way of Niblett's Bluff. For their service to Texas they were granted land certificates, which many wished to sell or trade for almost anything. Several of these certificates were bought by Dr. NEBLETT and he contracted to locate other land claims for a one-third interest in them.

About 1840 or 1841 the NEBLETT family left for Texas, where they settled at Grimes County. Children born at Neblett's Bluff were CAROLINE, HATTIE, SARAH, CORNELIA, STERLING and WILLIAM. In Texas a son ROBERT was born. Dr. NEBLETT died in 1871 in Grimes County, Texas. About 1873-1876 Mr. WILLIAM E. GILL bought the tract formerly owned by Dr. NEBLETT for unpaid taxes. It was described as 41 acres of land, Sec. 10-9-10.



By 1861 the settlement boasted about fifty residents, although it is said that no census-taker dared to venture into "No Man's Land" to take official count. A hotel was owned by JOSEPH GRIMALDI. A stagecoach line known as the PRICE Line was routed through Niblett's Bluff.

In 1863 the war had extended to Louisiana and Niblett's Bluff became a critical location for a defense post, as it was an ideal place for the Federal forces to invade Louisiana from the west. By summer, fortifications were begun and earthen breastworks were constructed to protect the Confederate soldiers from an expected attack from the river. Both sides of the river near the bluff were patrolled to protect commercial shipping, stage coach routes, livestock drives and troop movements.

Fighting had occurred in New Iberia and was expected in north Louisiana. It was decided that Niblett's Bluff would be the place to stop the Yankees if they got past Mansfield.

The Confederate steamboat *Florida* brought fifty soldiers under Captain GEORGE O'BRYANT and Fort Niblett was built. These men were assisted by soldiers from SIBLEY's Brigade, which had marched from the east.

Repairs and improvements were made to the trail north. This became known as the Old Confederate Military Road, which was a vital link to Alexandria and Shreveport for bringing troops and supplies to the Confederates. (See *Kinfolks*, Vol. 9 No. 4.)

Between 1863 and 1864 many references to the supply depot and fortifications at Niblett's Bluff can be found in the military dispatches between General RICHARD TAYLOR and General KIRBY SMITH. It was thought that General TAYLOR might have to retreat through Niblett's Bluff or take a stand there.

In the winter of 1863-1864 the Confederates huddled on the cold banks of the river in tents and inadequate shelters. Their rations were scanty and prepared under less than sanitary conditions. Although no battle was ever fought here, there were Confederate casualties at Fort Niblett's. An epidemic of measles struck the troops, and this "childhood" disease killed thirty grown men within a week. Medical care was provided by military doctors TURNER and WADE. The men were hastily buried and their graves were scattered in the woods around the encampment. Perhaps the graves were marked by make-shift wooden crosses at that time, but untreated wood does not last long in the climate of Louisiana. Reconstruction brought problems of all sorts to the South, so the graves remained unmarked and many of the residents of Niblett's Bluff moved away. With time the locations of the graves were forgotten. Later, efforts were made to locate and mark the graves of those who died so tragically in their winter quarters on the Sabine, but to no avail. In 1958 the Texas and Louisiana divisions of the United Daughters of the Confederacy placed a marker at the edge of the forest to honor these unknown Confederate soldiers. Each year the Robert E. Lee Chapter #305 places a wreath in memory of these men.

Among those who were living at Niblett's Bluff during the War Between the States were Mr. and Mrs. WILLIAM DUNN. In 1912 Mrs. DUNN wrote an article for the *Houston Post* describing life and death at the settlement during the War. She wrote, "At the time I settled in

this place which was September 15, 1860, all the territory lying along the Sabine in this parish was a vast forest over whose bosom roamed the bear and deer in countless numbers. In 1861 the population of this place scarcely exceeded 50 souls, but being the shipping point for sugar growers of New Iberia and a direct route on an old established road between New Orleans and points in south Texas, it was the scene of great trains of wagons going and coming from market.” Mrs. DUNN’s story goes on in flowery prose to pay tribute to the Confederates who died at Niblett’s Bluff.

After the War many Confederate veterans on their way west used the route through Niblett’s Bluff. The economic destruction that took place in the South also took its toll on the thriving river port, and little progress occurred until the late 1890s and early 1900s. As the country continued to expand, the need for lumber increased and the virgin forests of Louisiana were in demand. Great stands of hardwood forests drew lumbermen to southwest Louisiana, and the population and prosperity of the area increased.

Once again the Old Confederate Military Road was repaired and was used as a logging road to transport the timber to Niblett’s Bluff, from which it was shipped on boats, rafts and barges to the mills at the deep water port of Orange, Texas. New prosperity brought new families and new businesses to the area. Niblett’s Bluff sported new stores, a tannery, a school and a semi-professional baseball team.

After World War I the lumbering industry fell upon hard times. The Old Confederate Military Road was all but destroyed by the hurricane of 1918 and was not restored. People moved on and the thriving community became almost a ghost town.

All that is left of the once-prosperous and busy river port are a few houses, a small wooden country church and a cemetery under moss-draped oak trees with graves dating back to the 1860s.

Due to the efforts of EUSTAS DUNN, twenty acres of land has been set aside for a public park at Niblett’s Bluff. Part of the earthen breastworks are still intact, but there is no sign of the old fort.

Niblett’s Bluff is a place of historical facts and of fascinating legends. It is a lovely place to spend an hour or a day. Boating, camping, picnicking and fishing are favorite pursuits of those who visit the park. A visit to the old cemetery is like a visit into the past.

Sources: *Beaumont Enterprise*, April 19, 1964

*The Old Confederate Military Road, 1862-1865; The Military Road in Beauregard Parish* by Joseph Ray Hyatt

*Niblett’s Bluff on the Sabine River* by William H. Niblett, Jr.

*War of 1812 Veterans in Texas* by Mary Smith Fay

*Lake Charles American Press*, May 3, 1964; November 8, 1970; July 11, 1971; September 13, 1981

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**QUERY** – Family Cemetery: CARNES Cemetery, Calcasieu Parish near Hickory Flat. At least one grave: JOHN WALTER CARNES, died 186\_. (Civil War)

BARBARA JO BROTHERS, 3215 Albin Dr., San Antonio, TX 78209

# SURNAME INDEX (A Surname may appear more than once on a page.)

Airhort 120	Darbonne 122	Hereford 130,	Mizell 137	Strother 137
Akins 128	Davidson 131,	134	Moeling 128	Swilley 137
Albertson 130	138	Henson 137	Moreau 119,122	Sturdevant 129
Allilueu 121	Deen 137	Holaway 137	Morrison 133	Sudduth 122,129
Anderson 125	Deiler 122	Hollins 128		
Arthur 137	Doescher 127	Horn 122	Nash 137	Tate 122
Ashy 122	Downs 111	House 131	Neblett 140	Taylor 141
Auld 121	Dugas 140	Howell 137	Neely 131	Tessier 123,125,126
	Duhig 131	Humble 140	Nix 139	Thering 138
Baggett 137	Duhon 120	Huson 129	Novak 134	Thibodeaux 114
Bailey 137	Dunn 140-142	Hymes 128		Towel 121
Baker 121	Duplichan 121,		O'Brien 128	Trotti 131
Barnes 134	122	Johnson 121,	O'Bryant 141	Turner 141
Barnett 129	Durbridge 139	137	O'Hara 118	
Bayliss 130,131	Durio 115	Jourdan 137	Ortego 122	Utilz 131
Beardsley 129		Junkin 134		
Bettis 130,131	Eddy 134		Parrott 133	Vaughn 121,122
Bienvenu 123	Eldred 137	Kane 130	Patrick 137	Vizard 131
Black 137	Englund 121	Kaufman 131	Patterson 130	
Booz 122	Evans 137	Keever 131	Payne 134	Wade 141
Braden 137	Everitt 121	Kemp 137	Penny 137	Wallace 121
Bradshaw 117		King 131	Pfeifer 121	Warner 134
Britt 137	Ferguson 130,	Kingrey 121	Phillips 137	Wasey 138
Britton 129	137	Kinney 130	Plauche 131	Watkins 118,119
Bryan 128	Fontenot 117,	Kirkwood 138	Pitts 121,122	Welch 121
Brothers 142	118	Kuntz 121	Pollock 120	West 119,120
Brown 130,134	Foster 121,130,		Poole 129	Whitfield 129
Buck 121	131,134	LaBesse 130	Porter 121,126	Williams 134,137
	Fournet 121	LaFleur 122	Powe 140	Williamson 130,131
Calhoon 137	Fox 125	Lacome 117		Wilson 131
Calvin 123	Fruge 121	Lafitte 139	Ramsay 130,133	Winterhaler 132
Carl 120	Fulton 137	Laird 133	Reeves 121	Wise 131
Carlisle 129		Lambert 121	Reid 128	Woffard 122
Carnes 142	Gayle 123,125,	Landis 139	Richardson 131	
Case 122	126,131	Lee 116	Richborough 125	Yeatman 130
Cator 121	Geary 138,139	Levingston 134	Rachal 120	Young 119,128
Caulvin 123	George 120	Leveque 128	Richbourg 125	
Chastain 125	Gilbert 137	Lewis 138	Roberts 134	
Chauvin 123	Gill 121,137,140	Little 134	Rosteet 139	
Chitwood 137	Glasspool 128	Lock 130	Ryan 128,138	
Cisco 134	Goings 117	Locke 140		
Claiborne 121	Golden 120	Lyons 138-140	Sabatier 133	
Clausen 115,	Goos 128		Salle 125	
116	Gorham 138	McCain 138,139	Sanderss 128	
Clifton 127	Granger 140	McKinney 134	Scaife 133	
Cline 128,131,	Grantham 113	McLean 119	Shaw 137	
134	Griffin 133	McNeese 128,	Shipley 137	
Clinton 116	Grimaldi 141	138	Sibley 141	
Clute 137	Guillory 122	McNabb 122	Siling 134	
Cook 122,137		McRight 137	Singletary 137	
Cronan 122	Hacker 111	Mallett 137	Smith 121,122,	
Crosby 138	Halbert 137	Manuel 122	133,137,141	
Crowley 138	Hale 131	Manville 122	Soloman 129	
Cunningham 131	Harmon 132	Maples 125	Soucier 121	
Curley 135	Harris 135	Marx 129	Spense 129	
	Haskell 130	Menuet 131	Stagg 139	
deJoux 124	Hawkins 128	Miller 119	Stanton 140	
deRichebourg 123,	Haxthauson 131	Millet 128	Stephens 137	
124,125,127	Hebert 118,121	Mills 128	Stillman 129	
Darbonne 121,	Hendrix 137	Mitchell 137	Stimson 115,116	



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