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*some history of*  
**St. Landry Parish**  
*from the 1690s*

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Published as a special supplement of the DAILY WORLD Thursday, Nov. 3, 1955.

Oak Allee at Grand Coteau, photographed about 1930 by Jules Bagarry.

50¢



# The Authors

We are indebted for this edition in large measure to Mrs. Ruth Robertson Fontenot (Mrs. L. Austin Fontenot, Jr.), who wrote virtually the entire contents. Our staff compiled a few articles, such as the old police jury ordinances, the Opelousas ordinances, and the like.

Mrs. Sue Lyles Eakin of Bunkie, herself a descendent of an early Central Louisiana family, wrote the history of the northern part of St. Landry Parish -- Melville, Palmetto, LeBeau, Rosa, etc., and we believe you will agree that she did it well.

Another Fontenot, Mary Alice (Mrs. Sidney), wrote the Eunice history. She at first demurred on the basis that Eunice is a "new" city, which it is, of course, there being a few people still living who can remember the time when there was nothing there but prairie. But there's a history to everything, and once Mary Alice got to digging into Eunice history she found it as fascinating as everybody finds history, and the results of her efforts are apparent herein.

We are grateful to those who made loans of their treasured pictures, and especially because they were willing to wait so long to get them back.

Ruth Fontenot was remarkably well equipped in background and inclination for the task. She is the daughter of the late beloved W. A. (Mr. Alex) Robertson, attorney and studious gentleman who was keenly interested in the history of this section, and would drop his regular pursuits at any time to delve into some historic data. In fact, some of the pictures herein were his, and some of the translations from French were done by him.

Mrs. Fontenot's mother is the former Miss Lelle Dupre. Thus, the author is a descendent of one of the outstanding pioneer families of the region, for the Dupres have been leaders in this area through its development --- lawyers, judges, bankers and plantation operators. In fact, her history is of her ancestors. Mrs. Fontenot is descended, for instance, from Fuselier de la Claire, one of the first commanders of the Poste de Attakapas. So are many others here.

In addition to her writing abilities, with which you will become familiar, Mrs. Fontenot is an artist of considerable talent. Her oils, water colors and sketches grace many a home here. You will find some of her work herein.

A tireless worker, Mrs. Fontenot waded through the voluminous records at St. Landry's Catholic Church, the old court house records, and many private family records.

(She cautioned us when the church graciously allowed us to reproduce a page from an early baptism record book to choose the page carefully. In the early days it was not at all unusual that people had baptised their illegitimate children. One man, one day in the early 1800s brought in four children at one time for baptising, two legitimate and two not. Somebody might well have been embarrassed, you see).

It is unfortunate that the earliest settlers kept few records, and that there was no church in St. Landry parish until 1777. We do not know, for instance, exactly when Opelousas was first settled. There is evidence that white people were living here prior to 1700.

Both Mrs. Fontenot and the editors know that there are gaps in this effort, which we regret. We should have ---



RUTH ROBERTSON FONTENOT  
... she wrote it.

but somehow couldn't find the time --- spent hours in Cabildo in New Orleans going through early records. So many family histories we'd have liked to include weren't available. And much historic information simply can't be found anyplace.

For that we are sorry.

But we believe that you will agree with us that both Mrs. Fontenot and also Mrs. Eakin have done excellent work, and we thank them for their conscientious hours of research and writing.

---THE EDITORS.

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# Lastrapes Home, Oak

Among the earliest settlers in St. Landry Parish were Jean Henri Lastrapes, native of Languedoc, France, and his wife, Celeste Genevieve Boisdore. He was born in France Oct. 18, 1753, and came to America in 1789. The following year, 1790 he was married in New Orleans. His wife was born in New Orleans, July 7, 1770. The exact date when they built their home in St. Landry parish is not known, but an addition made on it and the date recorded by a carving on the bricks; on one brick is written 1801; on another brick, Lastrapes. These inscribed bricks are part of a pattern now worked with vari-colored bricks in a geometric design.



WHAT WAS LEFT in 1940 as one of the oldest structures standing in St. Landry parish—the home of Jean Henri Lastrapes, built in the 1700s—was photographed as above by the late William Alex Robertson of Opelousas. Front view is at left, in shade. An addition on the left side had been torn down and the house abandoned and in a bad state of dilapidation. View of the rear of the house is in center, and of the south side at right. Exact date of construction is not known, but the house was built prior to 1800, and there was an addition made to it in 1801, from dates inscribed on bricks.



The house is at present in a dilapidated condition, parts of it having been removed or torn away. It is one of the few remaining examples in this section of the earliest known constructions of the Opelousas settlers. Only a few of this type remain in the entire State of Louisiana. It is of the "postea dobe" type, hand hewn cypress posts cross-braced, with space filled in by mud daubed and dried, the mud being mixed with moss for binding. The mud was painted white with a plaster. The exterior of the house showed nice cornices and trim of wood probably added later. The doors and windows have very old hinges and hooks. The house is raised several feet above the ground. Wings and sections added later show slight differences in construction, walls of brick. The ceilings have open beams; the roof of hand hewn cypress shingles most gone.

Still owned by the Lastrapes family, it presently belongs to the heirs of Leon Lastrapes, a direct descendant of the first Lastrapes. Thus the house has remained in the same family for six generations.



As much of interest as the house is the massive oak that stands on the grounds in front. It has seven distinct trunks, several of which have fallen to the ground. There is a story that goes with the tree.

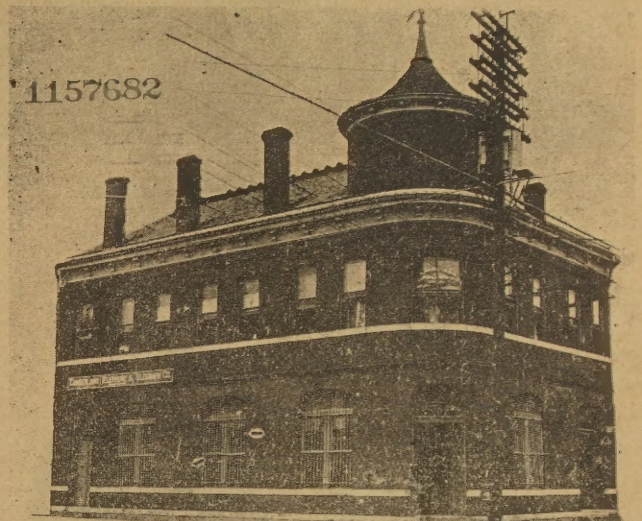
At the time of the union of Jean Henri Lastrapes and his wife there were ten children, seven of them boys. One day Lastrapes sent his slave into the woods and ordered them to bring him ten live oaks from the nearby woods, one for each son. These were brought in late in the evening and he had them set in a single hole in the yard, intending to transplant them on the morrow.

What interfered with his plan no one knows, but the trees grew up together into a giant oak. Each of his sons lived and grew to manhood, all of them married but one. The story of each one is another story, each of them marrying daughters of other early settlers, some remained here, others moved away. One son married a daughter of Comandant Gabriel Fuselier; one wed a daughter of General Garrigues de Flaugéac; one wed his granddaughter; one wed a daughter of Judge Henry Adams Bullard; another wed Feloisé Poiré. One son, Andre, never married.



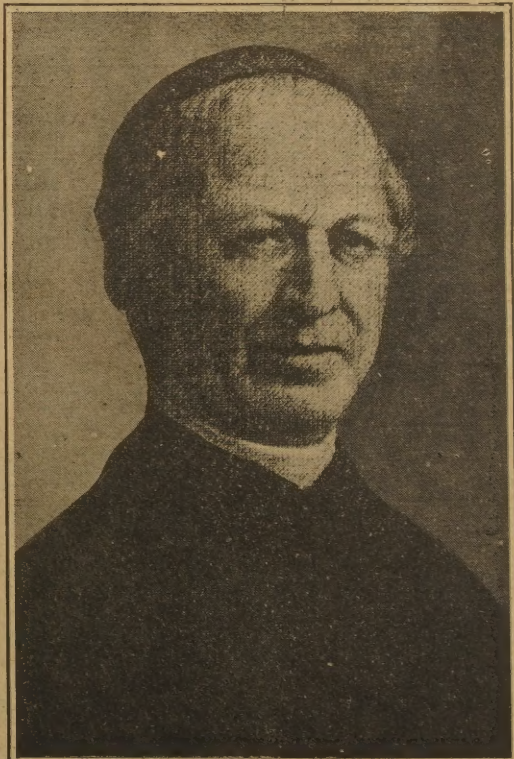
JEAN HENRI LASTRAPES and his wife, Celeste Genevieve Boisdore, from original engraving, now considerably faded.

Family portraits of the first Lastrapes show them in dress of the period—she wears a high-cut Empire gown, while he is in a high-buttoned waistcoat with ruffling at the collar. Among the souvenirs that have come down in the family from these early days is a very large copper kettle, beaten out by hand from a single sheet of the heavy metal. As reminders of early days stands the ancient oak and still more ancient house. . . and the ruins.



ST. LANDRY STATE BANK in 1909 was housed in this building, still standing although now remodelled, at Main and Landry sts. This photo was in an advertisement in a booklet published here in 1909. Bank capital was \$50,000, and surplus and undivided profits were \$240,000. The building, now owned by the J. P. Barnett family, presently houses the Winsberg's store in its lower floor. At the time this was taken, and for 40 years, all told, the upstairs floor housed the local telephone central office.

*Charles Brock Stone - No. 0*



FATHER GILBERT RAYMOND

FATHER GILBERT RAYMOND was an energetic pastor of St. Landry's Church here about a century ago, during the middle 1800s. He enlarged the then church, built in 1828, and he had the first parochial school here, and organized the first Negro Catholic school. It was during his stay here, and with his encouragement, that the Maristines of the Holy Cross came to Opelousas and founded the school for girls that exists today as the Academy of the Immaculate Conception.



# St. Landry Students 'Secede'

When the War Between the States broke out there was a group of red-blooded Louisiana students attending the University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill. Four of them were from St. Landry Parish. These were:

Alcee Dupre, Albert G. Moore, Alex Dejean and Adolphe Lastrapes.

The Louisiana group held a formal meeting and adopted a fiery resolution to "take up the sword".

We are indebted to Mr. Henry Garland of Opelousas for this document. Beloved and venerable Mr. Garland was visited in 1954 by James W. Patton, director of the Southern Historical Collection at Chapel Hill, and Mr. Patton, who came to see Mr. Garland's fabulous book collection, sent the document here upon his return to North Carolina.

Here is the resolution adopted by Louisiana students at the University of North Carolina, unfortunately undated:

"At a meeting of all the students from Louisiana, at the University of North Carolina, A. G. Thomson of Franklin being called to the chair and T. B. Davidson of DeSoto being appointed secretary of the meeting, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"WHEREAS, fanatics at the north after years of toilsome and untiring labor, to wrest from the South her most cherished liberties, have at last gained an influence of power, which, if not promptly resisted, must soon subvert her rights, as FREE, and reduce her to the mean condition of a dependency upon the North.

"Louisiana, feeling this, has found the necessity of resuming again her sovereign powers, and dares to act in an independent sovereign capacity, and protect the rights of her citizens; feeling conscious in the justice of her cause, the Power that shapes events and guides the destinies of nations will not forsake her in the hour of trouble, but guide her safely through the storms of political agitation; Therefore:

"RESOLVED, That We, Students, from the State of Louisiana, at the University of North Carolina, heartily approve the prompt, and decided action of His Excellency Gov. Moore, in seizing and occupying with State Troops the Forts and other Federal property within the limits of our State, which, being erected for our protection, might by delay, or a wavering policy on the part of the Governor, have become Strongholds for our enemies, to wage a bloody warfare on these, they were designed to protect.

"RESOLVED, That being deeply impressed with sentiments of patriotism for the honor of our beloved state; we are ready to forsake the peaceful duties of a college life, and take up the sword, in defence of that sacred Liberty we have been taught to cherish from our earliest Childhood; and in defence of that Institution, at once our pride and the source of all our health and prosperity.

"RESOLVED, That we tender our services to the State, through His Excellency Gov. Moore, who, when she needs them, may inform us by Telegraph, in order that we may immediately set out for the scene of action.

"RESOLVED, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the Governor of Louisiana; and copies also sent to the New Orleans Daily "Delta" and "Crescent" for Signers were (addresses by parishes): A. G. Thompson of Franklin, president, Frank Garrett, Ouachita; Jesse G. Ross, DeSoto; Simon H. Taylor, Avoyelles; T. B. Davidson, DeSoto, members of the committee, and Wm. C. Michie, Morehouse; Ovide Dupre, St. Martin; Alcee Dupre, Albert G. Moore, Alex Dejean and Adolphe Lastrapes, St. Landry; H. H. Price and H. H. Bryan Jr., New Orleans, and H. A. Kennedy and W. L. Quarles, Claiborne.

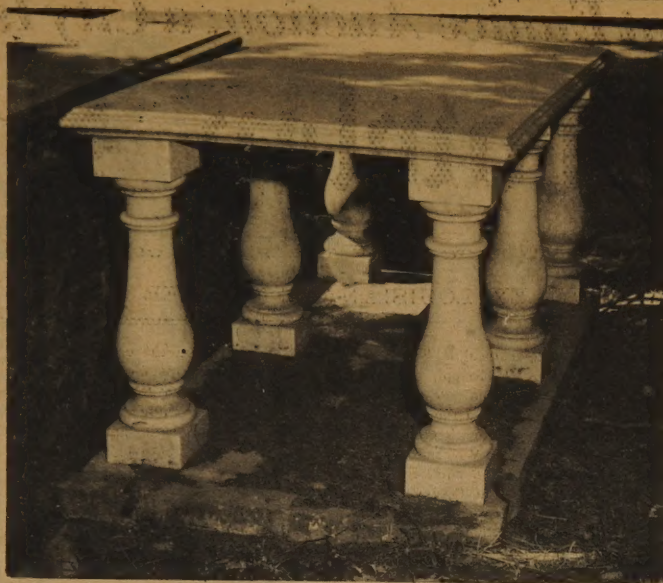
### STEAMBOAT CAPTAIN

Gustave Lousillier of Opelousas took command of the "fine steamboat RED RIVER" in December 1853. The Opelousas Courtier reported, and was awaiting the first rise of water to enter the Courtauleau for his first voyage to Washington.

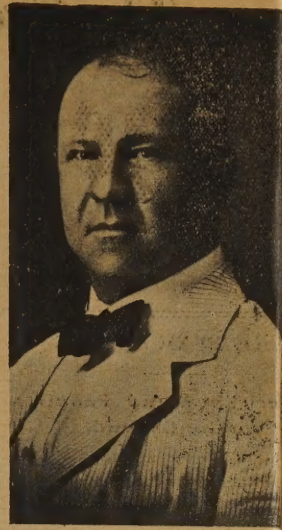
LUCIUS J. DUPRE was district judge and AUGUSTE DEJEAN was deputy clerk of court of St. Landry parish in 1852.

### SCHOOL CHILDREN, 1854

There were 2,632 school children in St. Landry parish in March 1854, according to an account rendered by the parish school treasurer, Robert Baugheral. There were 19 "free public school districts" in the parish at that time. The state funds apportioned to the parish for 1853 totaled slightly more than \$10,000.



GRAVE of Napoleon's General Garrigues de Flaujeac is in the historic cemetery of St. Landry's Catholic Church in Opelousas. His name is carved on top of the marble "table". (Daily World Photo by Deville).



DR. J. P. SAIZAN was a prominent Louisiana physician and banker, member of prominent French family of the parish first practiced in Port Barre, then Opelousas. He was president of the Bank & Trust Co. in the early decades of this century, and was a noted fancier of horses. This picture is reproduced from a booklet issued commemorating the erection of the present St. Landry Catholic Church building, completed in 1909.



FIREMAN'S UNIFORM of the 1870s, as worn by Opelousas firemen, is shown in this illustration from a catalogue on file at Hope Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1. The year of the catalog was 1876. It's a book from Wanamaker & Brown of Philadelphia. Early fire companies took great pride in their uniforms and equipment, and there was continuous rivalry between companies when there was more than one volunteer company here.

### Sheriff's Sale.

STATE OF LOUISIANA.

Jool M. Bell tutor &c. } District Court. St. Landry, No. 4261. Thomas A. Cook. }

BY virtue of a writ of plu. fi. fa., issued in the above entitled suit, by the District Court, in and for the Parish of St. Landry, and to me directed, will be exposed to Public Sale, for Cash, at the Court House of this Parish, on Saturday, the first day of January 1853, commencing at the hour of 11 o'clock A. M. and from day to day if necessary, all the right, title, interest and demand of Thomas A. Cook, in and to the following property, seized to satisfy said writ, to wit:

A square in the town of Opelousas, containing four lots, bounded on the East by West or Front street, and on the North by Vine street, on the South by South street, and on the West by Bayou Texon.

HARRISON ROGERS, Sheriff. Sheriff's office St. Landry, Louisiana 27th 1852.

The name now spelled here as "Hargroder", a well known St. Landry Parish family name, was spelled "Hergroeder" in the St. Landry Catholic church records of 1797.

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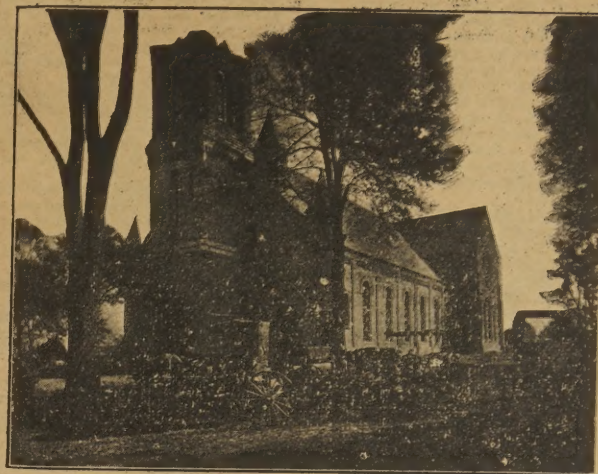
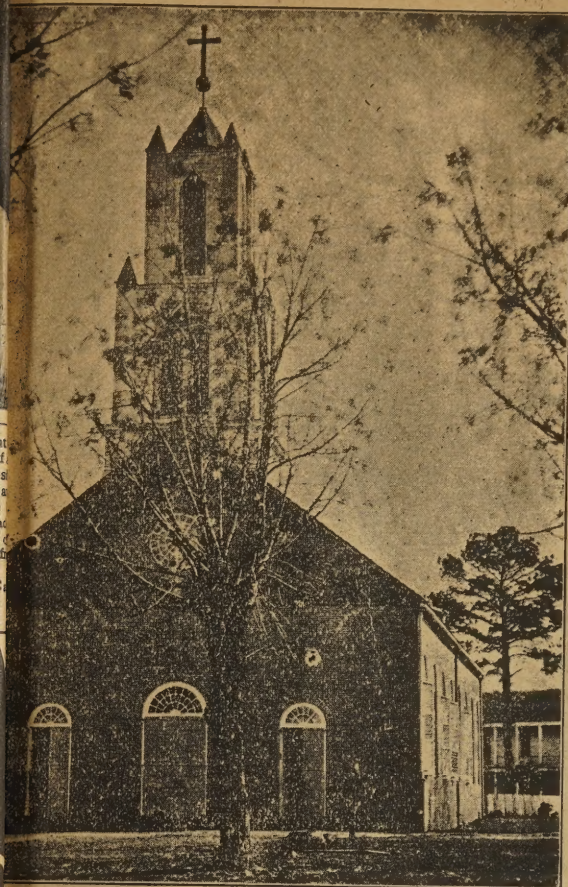
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THE HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN OPELOUSAS



SAINT LANDRY CATHOLIC CHURCH Erected in 1908-1909 by Very Rev. J. Engberink.

When the congregation of St. Landry's Catholic Church outgrew the edifice which had been erected in 1828 by Father Rossi, and enlarged by Rev. Father Gilbert Raymond, there was a unanimous request from the parishioners that the new church occupy the site of the old building, and that the material in the old building be used in the construction of the new edifice. The desire of the members of the congregation was respected and the foundation of the present building was made from the bricks of the old church.



St. Landry Catholic Church erected in 1828 by Rev. Father Rossi. Demolished in order that new church might occupy same spot.

SECOND AND FOURTH (present) St. Landry Catholic church buildings are shown here, reproduced from a booklet published at the time the present church was dedicated. The

first church was built in Washington in 1777. The second was built here, on the site of the present church, in 1798.

THE HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN OPELOUSAS

to be awakened by the noises made by some one falling over the benches in the schoolroom or to tremble like aspen leaves at the attempt which these letters made at forcing the doors of the convent. School opened at last on the 15th of September, with a very slim attendance 15 day scholars and 3 boarders. Later on the number increased to 24 externs and 9 boarders. The old chivalric spirit of

Opelousas, however, came to the assistance of the struggling nuns. Gentlemen of influence and ladies of high standing came to the rescue. By dint of hard work the Sisters succeeded in placing the institution upon a solid footing. Thus the years rolled by. Although the pupils became more numerous, still, their number remained far below what could be expected from such a populous

parish. The academy received a hard blow through the tragic death of its founder and constant benefactor, the Rev. Dr. Gilbert Raymond. The chronicles sneak in high terms of this pious priest, and deeply deplore the untimely death of the friend and spiritual father of the institution. During the twelve years, since the re-opening of the institution, the academy



OPELOUSAS POSTOFFICE hasn't changed a bit since 1909, as this photo, taken and published in a booklet of the time, shows. Note what were probably two of the automobiles here.



THE ACADEMY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

THE ACADEMY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, as photographed early in the century and reproduced in a booklet --- this copy owned by Mrs. Alex F. Watkins, Jr. --- commemorating the dedication of the present St. Landry Catholic Church building. These buildings were abandoned two years ago with the completion of the present modern school structure, and are being torn down.







# Camp Hamilton

OLD LOG CABIN FORT WAS REMODELED AND USED AS PLANTATION HOME BY JUDGE SETH LEWIS

(Described by a granddaughter who visited in 1832)

Described by a granddaughter of Judge Lewis in a fascinating document that she wrote in her old age as a "Reminiscence - 1832 - On a Louisiana Plantation," the home of Judge Lewis near Opelousas was once a log cabin fort that had been used in wars with the Indians.

Quoting directly from the script of the document written by Mrs. Amelia Watts, who was born in 1826 and was 6 years old at the time of her visit in 1832, we give you an excerpt from her description of her grandfather's plantation home.

"When my grandfather bought his Louisiana plantation there was on it a large double log house which had been a fort during the war with the Indians, and it was called Camp Hamilton.

"He retained the name, and as the house was built of strong magnolia logs and was almost indestructible, he had the old building enclosed by a wood casing and added to it at the back; so that when I first saw it, it was a large old-fashioned double house, three rooms deep, and with a wide hall in the center and porches at the back and front.

"The upper floor was in two great rooms, with dormer windows on each side. There was some beautiful old Chippendale furniture with spindle legs, and there was a wine cooler in the dining room which was a beauty. It was of fine old mahogany, octagon in shape, with a heavy brass band around the middle, and a heavy brass ring in the center of the cover; it stood on claw feet. It was lined with zinc with a space between the zinc and the wood, as ice chests are made now."

An interesting description of the workings of the plantation is given:

"The negro men who were too old to work in the fields could work in the garden, or drive the mules in the gin house, or make split hickory baskets for picking cotton, or chairs for the cabins or the porches.

"The cotton gin was run by horse power, the gin house being two stories high, and the lower floor looked like a circus ring. There was a boxed-in screw in the center and a long strong beam extending to the outside of the ring, to which were harnessed the two mules;

and a man walked and drove these mules all day. The gin was on the second floor, and the cotton was fed into it by hand; and as the seeds were separated from the cotton they slid down a trough to the ground outside; while through a glass case as large as a cotton bale, the cotton fell like snow; and when enough had fallen to make a bale it was compressed by a screw, also run by horse power; then tied by ropes and sewed into a cover of bagging."

She then describes the buildings around the place and their uses:

"In the great yard there were houses for different purposes. In one of these women sat and carded the cotton into long rolls, and other women spun these rolls into thread. Then there was a loom house where a woman sat and wove the cloth for the clothing of all the Negroes on the plantation. Some of the threads were dyed blue or brown, and when woven into checks or stripes, it looked like heavy gingham.

"There was a large storehouse where rows of ham and shoulders hung from beams overhead, and there were rows of tubs holding pickled pork and corned beef, and long rows of nine-pound loaves of white sugar sent by the commission merchant from New Orleans; with sundry boxes and cases, barrels of flour, cases of olive oil and wines, brandy and other things without number, so that there seemed provisions to feed an army.

"Then there was a house where women cut out and sewed all that was needed for the Negroes, so many suits for winter and so many for summer, for every man, woman and child; all this was under the supervision of the mistress of the plantation.

"On this particular morning we went first to the storehouse, where women waited with large wooden trays for the different supplies of the day. The cook for the white family, the cook for the field hands, the cook for the nurses and children who were in their care while the mothers were in the fields; and the cook for those who were sick. All these supplies had to be weighed out and distributed.

"Then we went to the kitchen, about fifty feet back of the main house, where winter and summer the enormous open fireplace with its huge back log and its cranes ready for the iron pots awaited Mum Jinny, who presided with an iron rule over her three assistants; two of these were preparing



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vegetables at a long table and another was picking chickens."

She describes the house servants:

"At the time of which I am writing the house servants wore dresses of the blue and white cotton homespun made on the place, and always a gaily colored head handkerchief which they arranged with much skill, and which had a very picturesque effect. All negro women wore these head handkerchiefs. They were all imported from Madras, and one of them was always a welcome present. They were of very fine cotton, woven in plaids of gay colors, and never faded in washing.

"There were several servants who waited on the table, and my grandfather's body servant, Uncle Lea always stood back of his chair and poured the wine. Claret was always drunk with an equal quantity of water. Uncle Lea had special care of his master, and always accompanied him when he held court in other parishes. They always went on horseback, and Uncle Lea packed the saddle bags, took care of the horses, shaved his master, took care of his clothes and assisted him in dressing. Naturally he fell heir to all of grandpa's discarded clothing, and it was hard to say which had more personal dignity.

"On all plantations, as soon as the crop was made, the negroes had a grand feast; the table was loaded with turkeys, pigs and chickens, with quantities of custards and cakes; and a head of this table Uncle Lea presided, and for that evening was addressed as Judge Lewis.

"He grew old in my grandfather's service, and by his will was set free, with a good house to live in, on the place; and he made enough money in his old age to buy his wife, to whom he had been faithful for years, and they lived together for some years before Uncle Lea died. All the Lewis family respected and loved Uncle Lea."

In the same year that little Amelia was in Opelousas there was a cholera epidemic in New Orleans, and then cases of it in Opelousas - a daughter of Mrs. Seth Lewis was stricken with cholera, and the mother went to her, and contracted the dread disease, and died in the span of two days.

This fascinating account of Amelia Watts' visit to Opelousas is part of a series of reminiscences of her life that she wrote in later years. She was a highly educated woman for that time; and during the Civil War when her husband was away she taught private classes to young ladies at the various places that she stayed with her children.

Her stories are told with candor and charm, and give an unforgettable picture of the past as may be seen from these few excerpts which we have selected as of particular local in-

# Edmond Dejean



EDMOND DEJEAN--His great-grandchildren are the sixth generation of Dejeans in St. Landry. Son of Felix Dejean and Azelle Louallier, he married Lise Garrigues, granddaughter of Gen. Garrigues de Flaugnac. This old portrait is owned by his daughter, Sarah.

terest.

We were privileged to have been allowed to print them through the generosity of Seth Lewis, direct descendant of Judge Seth Lewis, who was appointed the first District Judge of Louisiana, serving the Fifth District, by Gov. W. C. C. Claiborne, in 1812. A brief profile of Judge Lewis is given elsewhere in this history.

The old "Camp Hamilton" was to the north of the present overseer's house on the Camp Hamilton plantation, which is east of Opelousas, looking north from the railroad overpass on the new road to Port Barre, one can see the overseer's house.

This plantation is now owned by Dr. and Mrs. S. J. Rozas.

## Two things that go together

### Coke and

# 5¢



Ask for it either way... both trade-marks mean the same thing.

BOTTLED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE COCA-COLA COMPANY BY

Opelousas Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc.

PHONE 2582

OPELOUSAS, LA.

136 E. VINE ST.

© 1950, The Coca-Cola Company

## 5c in 1805

## And

## 5c in 1955

### 1946

### 1955

# 9 Years Of Progress

## Our contribution to the progress of Opelousas and St. Landry Parish



Opened in 1946

"Old Store"



Opened in 1952

"New Store"

# Bourque & Walker

304 West Landry

Opelousas, La.





J. J. PERRODIN was an early banker here. At the time this was taken, and reproduced in a booklet marking the dedication of the present St. Landry Catholic Church building, he was cashier of the Union Bank & Trust Co., which was located where the present Planters bank is housed.



**DANIEL SREUBLE,**  
Tailleur Fashionable,

Est toujours prêt à exécuter tous ordres concernant son métier, dans le dernier goût, avec soin et promptitude, et à des prix modérés. Pour répondre au temps qui court, pour de complais ou à de bonnes conditions à un court crédit.

Il a toujours en magasin un bel assortiment de vestons, draps, uniformes, etc. du dernier genre. Sa résidence est rue Main, entre Bellevue et Landry, dans la maison au Nord du bureau de Casimirides Opelousas.  
Opelousas 17 Décembre 1892.—14

DRS. A. J. PERRAULT and JAMES A. SHAW were prominent dentists here during the first half of the century. These pictures of them appeared in a booklet in 1909, marking the dedication of the St. Landry Catholic Church building, just completed then. Dr. Perrault was mayor of the city for a time, active in governmental, civic and fraternal affairs, and a public-spirited citizen of the community. He died only recently.

# LOUISIANA GOLDEN YAMS

Grown - Packed - Shipped - To Leading Markets



The above Yams have been washed and are in the grading process. The U. S. No. 2's are being graded out and the U. S. No. 1's are continuing on the conveyor into the waxing machine.



These Yams have now gone through the waxing machine. They were highly waxed and are going into the containers.



Pictured above is Mr. Cormier with his famous "St. Landry Beauties," "Lucky Boy," "Sweet Magnolia" and "Oscar" brands are packed by Oscar J. Cormier and being shipped to all leading markets.

The Yams are now loaded and ready for departure to Northern market as truck driver K. D. Calvert stands by.



# Oscar Cormier

Packer and Shipper  
Opelousas, La.





**Champ Motor Sales – Opelousas, La.**

**766 East Landry Street**

**Phone 3503**

Seaman Glasscock, authorized Studebaker dealer for Opelousas and Lafayette, moved to Opelousas from Marksville in 1929.

In 1939, Mr. Glasscock opened the agency for this popular automobile and truck at the corner of East Landry and Academy Streets. In 1940, he opened the Studebaker agency in Lafayette and seven years later he constructed a new building for this concern on College Avenue in Lafayette — the Opelousas-Lafayette highway.

In 1949, a new and modern all brick, glass and steel building was erected across the street from the old location in Opelousas. The old location is now being used for a storage building. A large used-car lot adjoins the present home of Champ Auto Sales in Opelousas and directly back of this is the service department. Plans are now being drawn for the construction of a new and modern service station, which will be connected with the motor company and should be completed in the near future.

Mr. Glasscock is area chairman of the National Auto Dealers Association and is also a director of the Louisiana Auto Dealers Association. He has been very active in both organizations and was recently commended for his efforts on behalf of the former.

Mr. Glasscock is being assisted in his operations by his son, Seaman, Jr. Two other sons, Wilfred and Carroll, are presently serving in the armed forces, but will join the organization on being released. A continued rapid and steady growth of this progressive firm is anticipated.



**Champ Motors – Lafayette, La.**





Old Building — Erected 1905.

**Officers:**

- ALLEN DEZAUCHE, President
- J. P. BARNETT, Senior Vice-Pres.
- O. A. LaHAYE, Vice-Pres.
- R. S. TOMLINSON, Exec. Vice-Pres.
- VERNON LACOUR, Vice-Pres.
- N. M. CHILDS, Cashier
- C. J. BUDD, Asst. Cashier
- E. E. CASTILLE, Asst. Cashier
- ELMER GUILLORY, Asst. Cashier
- B. ZERANGUE, Asst. Cashier



NEW ST. LANDRY BANK BUILDING  
Opened January, 1955

**Directors:**

- J. P. BARNETT
- SIDNEY BERTHEAUD
- AVIE BORDELON
- CHAS. BOURQUE, JR.
- ALLEN DEZAUCHE
- J. F. DEZAUCHE, JR.
- EDWARD DUBUISSON
- ISOM J. GUILLORY
- VERNON E. LACOUR
- O. A. LaHAYE
- O. J. SANDERS
- DR. J. J. STAGG
- R. S. TOMLINSON
- DR. DAVID WEINSTEIN



NEW DRIVE-IN BANK OPENED JULY, 1955





Pictured above is the present home of the Planters Trust and Savings Bank of Opelousas. Constructed in 1912, and a landmark in this parish, it has been the home of the Planters Bank since 1929 with an addition and two renovations.

# Planters Trust & Savings Bank

1929 Of Opelousas 1955

**OFFICERS:**

- L. J. LARCADE, President
- M. J. PULFORD, Vice-President
- L. J. LARCADE, JR., Vice-President
- FRED GUIDRY, Cashier
- KENNETH G. DURIO, Ass't. Cashier
- ALVIN E. DURIO, Ass't. Cashier
- H. L. McCLELLAND, Ass't. Cashier

**DIRECTORS:**

- Anthony Abdalla
- Charles F. Boagni, Jr.
- Osie Bordelon
- Frank Daly
- L. J. Larcade
- L. J. Larcade, Jr.
- M. J. Pulford
- Lawrence Thistlethwaite

	<b>JULY 9, 1929</b>	
Capital .....		\$62,500.00
Surplus .....		\$592,309.45

	<b>APRIL 9, 1955</b>	
Capital .....		\$700,000.00
Surplus .....		\$10,595,361.13

The figures above show the history of the progress of this parish and this bank. We are proud of our part in this history. As partners in the future progress of this great parish we offer all of our facilities of a sound Commercial Bank.



PROPOSED  
**PLANTERS TRUST & S**  
OPELOUSAS

The above picture is of the new Bank Building now under construction. Our new bank and location is an effort to meet the growth and present needs of modern banking facilities. It will have all modern facilities, including a drive-in window and parking lot.



# Buggy on the Prairie



**BUGGY ON THE PRAIRIE**--Snapped at Prairie Ronde near Gradstein's Island, one of the picturesque sights that abound in St. Landry--a horse and buggy. Sold for many years in Opelousas at J. B. Sandoz, Fred Sandoz, and other stores, the old Haydock

buggies are well cared for and still remain on the scene, pulled by old-time trotting horses, many of the Ethan Allen strain. A familiar sight on country roads, they still venture to town and never fail to interest the passerby. (Daily World Photo by Deville).



**RINGROSE** Plantation house at Opelousas (old Prudhomme place). (Daily World Photo by Deville).

# 'Live Oak' - Powers Place



Near Opelousas, off the road to Ville Platte, is one of the loveliest plantation homes in the section - the old Powers place, now owned by Harvey Phillips. Built in the typical "River Plantation" style, with lower floor of brick and weather-boarded upper floor, fronted by a double gallery, the home is built in a grove of magnificent live oaks, from which the name of plantation was derived. A long avenue of oaks leads to the house adding to the setting. Brick pillars on the lower floor support the upper gallery, with its slender cypress columns. There are several homes in the immediate vicinity of Opelousas of this same type of construction. The original batted shutters with their hand-wrought iron hardware add to the general beauty of this old home. The house was at one time occupied, and had fallen into a state of considerable disrepair, but has since been gradually repaired by the present owners, who are restoring it to its original condition.

# Ringrose Plantation House

One of the old homes of this section is the "Ringrose," which carries the name of the Ringrose family, who owned the house for about fifty years. Prior to this it was owned and probably built by the Prudhomme family, who owned the land at the end of the beginning of the nineteenth century. It had been in the content family, who were given a Spanish grant to the large plantation, which was adjacent to the old French fort. Michel Prudhomme was a native of Strassburg, and was married to Marie Snayler, the history of the Catholic Church in St. Landry his name is prominent, as he donated on several occasions large portions and small tracts of land to the church. He also gave lumber and other building materials for the second Catholic Church in the Poste of Opelousas, when it was moved from Washington Opelousas, in 1798. He was buried under the foundations of the first brick church, which was built during the time of Flavius Rev. Joseph Rossie, in 1828. The body of Michel Prudhomme still rests under the present foundations of St. Landry Church. In the church records in 1798 Father Barre noted "During this year the present church was moved from the bayou (bayou) the locality called the 'Pointe à la M. Tesson.' Mr. Michel Prudhomme a native of the neighborhood and near to Strassbourg in France, donated gratuitously three arpents of land by forty in length, and M. Tesson, a native of Yaintorgue, gave one." Actually dame Tesson had given one arpent wide fourteen in length, as was noted by later tests. The old home is a typical plantation type, with a lower floor of exposed brick, and clap-

boarded top floor. The hipped roof has a dormer on each of the four sides. Many of the original batted doors and shutters remain, and the interior has had few alterations. The walls are plastered, with all ceilings having exposed beams of hand-hewn cypress. The lower floor has round brick pillars supporting the second floor gallery, which has slender cypress posts. In front of the house are two pigeoniers, with poste-adobe construction. Several old buildings on the grounds are also of great age, with hewn timbers pegged together or of mortised construction. Many members of the Prudhomme family reside in Opelousas. Michel Prudhomme had two sons - Michel, Jr. and William. Gilbert was a son of William, and his, William Louis, is remembered by many as "Six Shooter Bill" Prudhomme, who died recently. He was chief of police for many years in Opelousas, and also served on the Sheriff's force. He always carried a pair of six-shooters, from whence he received his nickname. His widow is the former Mary Ella Hamilton, who comes from some of the old St. Landry Parish families - the Courtaubeaus, Richards, and Chacheres. Mrs. Prudhomme and a number of her children reside in Opelousas. Inez (Mrs. Leo Burleigh), Sadie (Mrs. M.L. Nicholson), Bonnie, (Mrs. Herbert Amy), Louise (Mrs. Charles Burleigh), Marjorie (Mrs. Sidney Siegel) and Willie Mae (Mrs. Harry Thomas). Gilbert is the only son. The old Prudhomme place is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. L. Austin Fontenot, Jr. and family.



# 1916 View of Ford Garage



BORDELON'S GARAGE taken shortly after remodeling from a grocery store, in 1916. Note the iron balcony rail on top of the gallery.

# Inside Blackshear's Store



FANCY AND STAPLE groceries were sold here in the early twentieth century, by the sales force pictured - standing at the left against a glass showcase, Miss Lizzie Blackshear; opposite her, garbed in black, her mother, Mrs. P. T. Blackshear, Mr. P. T. Blackshear, and a son, Wayne. Notice the elegant showcases, and handsome Corinthian columns supporting the upper floor. This was one of the finest stores in the region. The original building has been altered through the years, but its structure is basically the same. Now known as "St. Landry Supply" it is part of the Bordelon Ford block.

# History of 'Ford Garage'

Each old home or building has a colorful history of its own. As we search into the backgrounds of these old landmarks there are so many interesting memories that are brought back and every place has a story to tell.

The St. Landry Supply co. building, on the corner of Main and North was built by Christopher Dietlein 'round the turn of the nineteenth century. It was a wholesale and retail grocery establishment, the Dietlein's also having large warehouses. Many older people still remember Dietlein's grocery as the largest of its kind in this area -- everything was of the finest quality, and the store specialized in hard to get items as well as staples. It was what was called a "Fancy Grocery".

Later the store was bought by the Blackshear family, and was run as a grocery by "P. T. Blackshear and Sons". An interior view taken at this time shows the typical store of the period, with articles suspended over the ornate counters, and elegant china for sale. Mr. and Mrs. Blackshear and son, Wayne, daughter Lizzie are posed in the picture. Others in the photograph are unidentified.

In 1916 the store was bought by Joe Bordelon, who took the first Ford agency in Opelousas, one of the oldest in the state. With his sons Martin, Osie and Emile he soon had a thriving business selling "Model T's" to people of Opelousas and the surrounding area. He remodeled the store for use as a sales room, with garage at the rear. A photograph taken at this time shows the building shortly

after remodeling. Other photographs which accompany this article were saved by Martin Bordelon Sr. who kept the Ford agency, other brothers having gone into Chevrolet (Avie) and Mercury-Lincoln (Osie) agencies. The late Emile Bordelon was connected with the Ford agency. Avie Bordelon took over his father's hardware store, and never worked at the Ford Garage, as it was called. Later he became agent for Chevrolet.

At present Martin Bordelon has his three sons associated with him, thus continuing a family tradition--J. Y., Warren, and Martin Jr.

In 1919 "Ford Day" was held in Opelousas, in conjunction with The Cotton Carnival, which was held at the same time, within the span of several days.

Bordelon Motor Co. had an elevator, for transporting heavy equipment upstairs. It was one of the first of its kind in Opelousas. At the occasion of the Ford Day Parade and Cotton Carnival, the members of the royal Entourage were hoisted to the second floor and viewed the parade from the balcony of the Ford Motor Co. building, which was an open gallery with wrought iron balustrades.

Willis Roy was King and Yvonne Dejean was Queen. There were Dukes and Duchesses in grand manner -- this was a forerunner of the Yambilee, done with elegance and splendor.

Recent enough to be remembered, it is still old enough to be recalled with nostalgia by anyone past forty (with a good memory).

# Old-Timers in 'Fancy' Ford



RIDING IN THE FORD DAY celebration Parade in 1919 was Mr. Jeanson of near Eunice, who was at that time only 110 years old. His daughter accompanied him - she was a mere spriggin' of eighty. The car is now a collectors item.

# New-Timers in Old Ford



TURNING UP for a Yambilee Parade - a 1906 Model Ford with a Flower Show in the Showroom in the background. Passengers in the car, left to right, front seat, "Pete" Bernard (former shop foreman) at the wheel, and Martin Bordelon Sr. Back seat, Martin Bordelon, Jr., Warren, and Delaurence Collingsworth. The latter was an old-timer from the Ford factory who saw the old car when it was being towed in to Bordelon after Martin Bordelon purchased it. He loaned it to its destination, and applied for a job of putting it into repair - he had to make models of this type. So he stayed at Bordelon's, putting the old Ford back into running condition, and taking a real craftsman's pride in tuning up the museum-piece (Butts Studio Photo)

# 1925 Model T Sales Force



EACH IN FRONT of a shiny new roadster, the 1925 Ford sales force here poses for a picture, left to right, Osie Bordelon, H. H. Guillory, the late C. J. Cappel and O. H. McClelland. It is interesting to note alterations that were made on the building through the years.

# Bellevue

The term "Bellevue" as applied to the rich farming section and ridge area south and southeast of Opelousas is generally thought to be simply a descriptive term, meaning a beautiful view.

Records in the St. Landry Catholic church here show, however, that in the 1700s there was at least one family here named Bellevue. It may well be that these people named Belle-

vue listed in the church records settled in that region and that from them came the name applied to the area.

In Baptismal Book 1, Page 229, in archives of the St. Landry Catholic church, was baptised Joseph Bellevue. He was the son of Simon Bellevue and Louisa Moreau.

Simon Bellevue's paternal ancestors were Pedro Bellevue and Louisa Doucet. Louisa Moreau's parents were Valentin Moreau and Juana LaRos.

The "Ninaine" (godmother) was Louisa La-Casa, and the "Parain" was Joseph Moreau.



# Chachere Family Record

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — The first couple, No. 1 below, Louis Chachere and Catherine Vauchere, are the original couple in America. Nos. 2 through 10 in the compilation are the nine of their 10 children who were married, and their children.

(1) **LOUIS CHACHERE** (Died 1827) Married 1786 (Died 1825) **CATHERINE VAUCHERE**  
**CHILDREN:**  
 1. Louis Chachere  
 2. Veilland Chachere  
 3. Constant Chachere (Born about 1807, minor in 1827)  
 4. Hermance Chachere (Minor in 1827)  
 5. Louise Chachere  
 6. Lisle Chachere (Living in 1894)  
 7. Beaurepaire Chachere  
 8. Jacinthe Chachere  
 9. Emelie Melite Chachere  
 10. Manette Chachere

**TO WHOM MARRIED:**  
 Never Married  
 Heloise Lavergne  
 Celestine Lavergne  
 Dominique C. Sittig  
 Leon Boutte  
 Emeranthe David  
 Eugenie Lavergne  
 Jack Bacon  
 Balthazar Martel  
 Antoine Boutte

(2) **VEILLAND CHACHERE**  
 Born, May 25, 1801  
 Died, Jan. 26, 1895

**HELOISE LAVERGNE**  
 Born, Feb. 24, 1805  
 Died, April 23, 1879

**CHILDREN:**  
 1. L. Veilland Chachere (Sheriff 1856-58, Clerk 1866-7) (Q.M., 7th, La. Cavalry)  
 2. Louisa Chachere  
 3. Felix Chachere  
 4. Joseph Chachere (Co. F., 8th La. Cavalry)  
 5. Dr. Theogene Chachere (Surgeon, Co. F., 8th La. Cav.)  
 6. Calina Chachere  
 7. Celestine Chachere  
 8. Anaise Chachere  
 9. Susan Chachere  
 10. Leocadie Chachere  
 11. James O. Chachere (Co. F., 7th La. Cav.) (Recorder)  
 12. Henry Chachere (Co. F., 7th La. Cavalry)  
 13. Ida Chachere

**TO WHOM MARRIED:**  
 Emma Boutte  
 Waren Meginley  
 Amelia Pitre  
 Elodie Pitre; (2) Lucille Bacor  
 Mary Guidry  
 Sam Deputy  
 Saigle Darby  
 George T. Moore  
 Damonville Bernard  
 Never Married  
 Mary C. Beauchamp  
 Philomene Aglaee Boutte  
 Never Married

(3) **CONSTANT CHACHERE**  
**CHILDREN:**

**CELESTINE LAVERGNE**  
**TO WHOM MARRIED:**

1. Theodose C. Chachere (B. 1839, D. 1909) (1) Perina Young (2) Mary Gil Grandpre  
 2. Catherine Chachere Etienne Stagg  
 3. Elizabeth Chachere Martin Carron  
 4. Anatole Chachere (Died in Civil War) (Co. F., 7th La. Cav.) Never Married  
 5. Cora Chachere Louis Bacon  
 6. Louisa Chachere Joseph P. Lavergne  
 7. Clementine Chachere W. Frank Brooks  
 8. Louis Chachere Never Married  
 9. Alice Chachere Marshall H. Hundley  
 10. Emelie Chachere Alex. Richard

(4) **HERMANCE CHACHERE** (Assessor 1874) **DOMINIQUE C. SITTIG**

**CHILDREN:**  
 1. Mathilde Sittig  
 2. Emelie Sittig (1) Jacob Goldman; (2) Oscar Fux; (3) E. Veltin  
 3. Victor Sittig (Co. F., 8 La. Cav.) Louise Daville  
 4. Jules Sittig Lucia Lavergne  
 5. Rudolphe Sittig Scholastic Guidry  
 6. Alice Sittig Louis B. Sandoz (attorney?)  
 7. Lucia Sittig Camille Richard  
 8. Mary Sittig (1) Gilbert Prudhomme; (2) More.  
 9. Ernestine Sittig (1) E.Z. Bertrand; (2) Gayle.  
 10. Blanche Sittig Camille Roos  
 11. Nathalie Sittig Louis Desmarais (Dy. Clk.)

**TO WHOM MARRIED:**  
 Louis Bacon  
 Joseph P. Lavergne  
 W. Frank Brooks  
 Never Married  
 Marshall H. Hundley  
 Alex. Richard

(5) **POUPONNE LOUISE CHACHERE**  
**CHILDREN:**

**LEON BOUTTE**  
**TO WHOM MARRIED:**

1. Leontine Boutte  
 2. Ameline Botte  
 3. Myrtle Boutte  
 4. Estelle Boutte  
 5. Leopold Boutte (Co. F., 8 La. Cav.)

George Benguerelle  
 William Gil (Attorney?)  
 Elizida Boutte  
 Ogden Elmer  
 Sophie Arnaud

(6) **LISLE CHACHERE**  
**CHILDREN:**

**EMERANTHE DAVID**  
**TO WHOM MARRIED:**

1. Colastie Chachere  
 2. Rodolphe Chachere (Comy. Trans-Mississippi)  
 3. Lastenin Chachere  
 4. Ameline (Mimi) Chachere  
 5. Jules L. Chachere (Dy. Clk.-1879) (Pecot's Co.)  
 6. Adolphe Chachere

John Milstead  
 Louise Chachere  
 Dave Lyons  
 Joe E. Boutte  
 Irma Richard  
 Never Married

(7) **BEAUREPAIRE CHACHERE**  
**CHILDREN:**

**EUGENIE LAVERGNE**  
**TO WHOM MARRIED:**

1. Eleonore Chachere  
 2. Theodore Chachere (Comy. Trans-Mississippi)  
 3. Irma Chachere  
 4. Alex B. Chachere (Co. F., 8 La. Cav.)  
 5. Louise Chachere

Judge B.A. Martel  
 Clementine Benguerelle  
 Bennett Clarke  
 Josephine Compton  
 Rodolphe Chachere

(8) **JACINTHE CHACHERE**  
**CHILDREN:**

**JACK BACON**  
**TO WHOM MARRIED:**

1. Alfred Bacon  
 2. Philemon J. Bacon  
 Emelie Melite Chachere

Eliza Daigle  
 Emelia Savant  
 B. MARTEL (Attorney)

**CHILDREN:**

**TO WHOM MARRIED:**

1. Eugene Martel  
 2. B.A. Martel (Judge-1857)  
 3. Balthazar Martel (Attorney)  
 4. Emma Martel  
 5. Constance Martel  
 6. Eugenie Martel

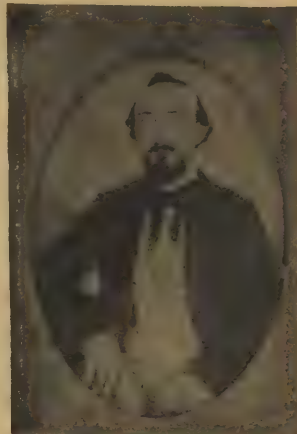
Mathilde Boutte  
 Eleonore Chachere  
 Hermina Bouillet  
 Never Married  
 Dulinox Verret  
 August Perreault



THE OLD VEILLAND CHACHERE home stood where the Lupo residence now stands on the Old Port Barre road. Identified in the picture are, standing, left to right, old Veilland Chachere, his wife and their son, Louis Veilland Chachere. Others cannot be identified because of the faded condition of the picture.



RARE CHACHERE FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS WERE PRESERVED BY Joseph D. Chachere, son of Dr. Theogene Chachere. OLDEST in generation of the photographs of the Chachere family is the charming one above of old Veilland Chachere, son of Louis Chachere (first of the family to settle here) and Catherine Vauchere, and his wife, Heloise Lavergne. They both lived to a great age — he was 94 at the time of his death. Several of his grandchildren are living, and one in Opelousas—Mrs. Lee Gil, who was Maud Chachere, daughter of Henry Chachere—says that old Veilland Chachere was called "Pap" by all of his grandchildren. Five of their sons were members of the Confederate Army. One son, Louis Veilland Chachere was long a Sheriff on St. Landry parish.



LOUIS VEILLAND CHACHERE, Longtime Sheriff of St. Landry Parish— Louis Veilland Chachere, famous figure in St. Landry politics, was the first son of old Veilland Chachere. He served in the Confederate army as Quartermaster of the 7th Louisiana Cavalry, and later became a celebrated figure in St. Landry parish, serving as Sheriff for many years, and to his death a prominent figure in St. Landry politics. He was married to Emma Boutte.



JAMES O. CHACHERE, "Mr. Jim" to his friends— Mr. James O. Chachere was the eleventh child of Veilland Chachere and Heloise Lavergne. He was married to Mary C. Beauchamp. Mr. Jim served as Clerk of Court of St. Landry Parish for a number of years, and was the member of the Chachere family who with the late William J. Sandoz compiled a record of the Chachere family. He was born Feb. 5, 1845. This photograph of Mr. Jim was taken when he was eighty-three. He served in the Confederate army, Company F, 7th Louisiana Cavalry. During his lifetime he was one of the leaders of the annual "St. Louis", the family reunion of this large and interesting family.



LEOCADIE CHACHERE, DAUGHTER OF VEILLAND CHACHERE — A daughter of Veilland Chachere, Leocadie died young. This photograph of her is particularly interesting in the costuming and coiffure. Note the long ringlets.

(10) **MANETTE CHACHERE**  
**CHILDREN:**

1. Vauchere Boutte (GGF)  
 2. Alcide Boutte  
 3. Albert Bourque  
 4. Mathilde Boutte  
 5. Angelina Boutte

**ANTOINE BOUTTE**  
**TO WHOM MARRIED:**  
 Aniza Lavergne  
 Sophie Arnaud  
 Eugene Bourque  
 Eugene Martel  
 Joseph Bacon



# Louis Chachere a Mystery

FATHER OF LARGE CHACHERE FAMILY WAS SAID TO BE FRENCH NOBLE WHO ESCAPED FROM REVOLUTION.

Long shrouded in mystery, the origin of Louis Chachere has for many years been a subject of speculation in St. Landry Parish.

From research into many old and obscure documents that we have brought to light, it is certain that he was in Opelousas as a resident of the Poste in 1790. On the twenty-fifth day of November of that year he gave his power of attorney—"procuration"—to Sieur Pierre Camur, a resident of the poste of Natchez, and in this same document it is stated that Louis Chachere was a former resident of the poste of Natchez. Further research may shed light on the date of his arrival at Natchez.

From stories handed down from generation to generation, the history of Louis Chachere is always identical, so we can assume that it is founded on fact.

A noble of the Bourbon line, he escaped in the early days of the Revolution with a brother, and they arrived in North America, landing at Canada. It is presumed that the brother either disappeared or took another name unlike that of Chachere, for this was not the family name.

Our subject was not surnamed Louis. He took the name of Louis after the name of his cousin, the then King Louis XVI of France. The name of Chachere was coined from his own name—he was said to be of the de Charette family, who were celebrated in French history as leaders of the Vendee, the French counter-revolution. One of those intrepid leaders was the Baron de Charette de la Contrie.

On his arrival at Opelousas Louis Chachere brought with him his wife, whose name as given in old records in Catherine Vauchere.

Louis Chachere had an office on the corner where now stands the "Planters Bank", once the old "Union Bank," at Court and Bellevue streets.

His first home was near Grand Coteau, in Bellevue. Later he lived closer to Opelousas, on a plantation in West Bellevue. The names and marriages of all of his children were compiled in a family tree by the late Willie Sandoz and "Jim" Chachere, a record of great value to more recent generations.

Many interesting facts are found in the valuable archives of historic St. Landry Catholic church, and in searching for information of the origin of Louis Chachere we have found recorded in Baptism Book 1 the birth of a son, Julian Chachere, born 1796. As at that time the parents of the child baptised had to give the names of the grandparents of the infant, we thus have on record the names given for the parents and grandparents of this first child—at least the first recorded.

Since the records at the time of the Spanish occupation were all kept in that language the names are spelled in a Spanish formation.

Don Luis Chacheresse and Cathalina Bos-

eraí are given as the parents of Julian Chachere. Paternal grandparents were listed as Luis Chacheresse and Maria Catherine Damond (later spellings were "Vancherez" and "Dumont"). Maternal grandparents were listed as Juan Baptista Boserel and Marguerita Lestage. Godparents of the child were Don Julien le Sasser and Genevieve Boisdore (wife of Jean Henry Lastrapes).

Other children are noted in the same book, and the spelling of the family names varies as different priests wrote them. Father Don Pedro de Zamoro recorded the earliest baptism (of Julian).

In later records by Father Louis Buhot (who was an ardent French Royalist), the names were spelled Chachere and Vauchere, Lestages and Dumont. The other books—funerals, weddings—all have data on the family as was recorded through the years. Births, weddings and baptisms, and deaths, carry the family on down. In only the records of Father Zamora are the grandparents of Father Zamora are the grandparents given, and this is of great value to one trying to trace back to the very early settlers.

Many of the descendants of Louis Chachere (or de Charette as some of his old friends called him) recall incidents that added to the mystery that surrounded him. Several of his grandchildren lived to be of great age ("Mr. Henry"—"Mr. Jim"—and "Mr. Bob" Chachere all lived into this twentieth century) and they remembered many odd facts that added to the stories about him.

It was told that he had regular visits from a "Mystery" man, whose name no-one knew. But sometimes in their conversations, which were always held in seclusion away from other members of the family and friends, Louis was heard to call him "General".

Louis was reported by various people to have been (A) a brother of Louis XVI and heir to the French throne (B) a Comte (C) a Baron. Whatever his origin, he certainly founded a dynasty of the new name that he adopted, for the Chacheres are now legion. To a student of history of art (or both) a definite likeness to the Bourbons may be seen in the many descendants, who all carry a mark of their prepotent ancestor.

Veillard Chachere, of whom we have spoken many times in our history, was one of the most celebrated of the descendants of Louis Chachere. He was for many years a "High Sheriff" of St. Landry, and raised a large family. After his death, his widow married Judge B. A. Martel thus adding more complications to the large family tree!

For many years the Chacheres held a tremendous family reunion each year or so, and this was called "St. Louis", by the family. It was on such occasions at this that younger members heard stories of the old days, and whispers of their ancestor who was a descendant of Henry of Navarre and wore the white cockade.

Present day members of the family still carry down the names of Louis and Veillard and Catherine—souvenirs of the first American Chacheres.

*Par devant Vous Monsieur de  
Monsieur Lieutenant d'infanterie, Comma  
dans Civil et militaire par interin de fo  
des Epelousas fut present en personne  
Sieur Louis Chachere cy devant habitant  
des etats et résidant en ce poste, lequel  
son bon gré, proprement et dans  
meilleure forme que le droit le requiert  
fait, crée et Constitué pour son Procureur  
Général et Spécial la personne du Sieur  
Pierre Camur habitant de ce poste de  
Natchez auquel il donne pouvoir le puy  
vance de pour lui et en son nom, le mettra  
en son lieu et place, droit, action et  
raison touchant et recevoir de qui il appartient  
tout ce qui peut lui être dû dans  
poste de Natchez, gérer et administrer  
toutes les affaires généralement quelconques  
au refus des payements par les débiteurs.*

LOUIS CHACHERE, the founder of the prominent Chachere family of St. Landry and Southwest Louisiana, having moved to Opelousas from Natchez, executed a power of attorney of which the first page is reproduced above, to settle his affairs and take his property in Natchez.

The document, signed November 20, 1790, gave Chachere's power of attorney regard to his Natchez property to Pierre Camur (it may be Camur), a resident of the de Natchez.

(The reproduction above is reduced to three-quarter size). Chachere signed the document in the presence of the then commander of the Post, Opelousas, Lt. Louis DeVillars. Witnesses who signed with Chachere were François and Philippe Boute.

Chachere gave Camur full legal authority to liquidate his affairs in Natchez. The document is on file in the archives of the St. Landry Parish clerk of court.



GRAVE of Veillard Chachere (1801-95) and his wife, Heloise Lavergne (1805-79) reposes in St. Landry's Catholic cemetery in Opelousas. (Daily World Photo by Deville).



JUDGE B. A. MARTEL, ST. LANDRY PARISH OFFICIAL.—One of the famous St. Landry parish was Judge Martel, son of Emelitte Melite Chachere and B. Martel married his cousin Eleonore Chachere, and later after her death and the death of Veillard Chachere he married the widow of The St. Landry Sheriff.

A prominent political figure of St. Landry Parish politics for many years, he was an able jurist, described by everyone who knew him as a distinguished and honorable

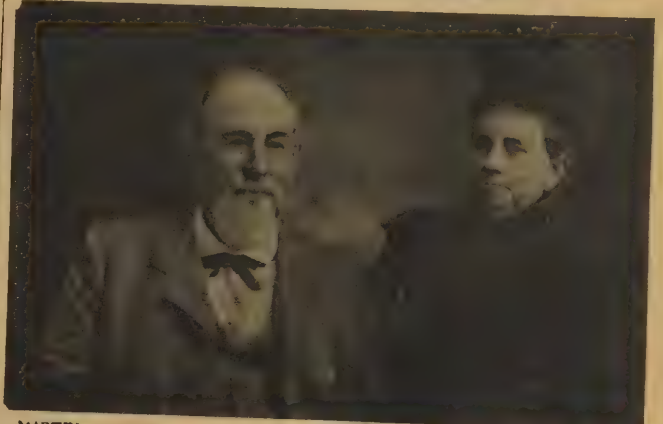




DR. THEOGENE CHACHERE AND SON JOSEPH -- A real old-fashioned Southern gentleman was Dr. Theogene Chachere, and all who knew him speak of his good humor and wit. He is photographed with his son, Joseph, who is dressed in an elegant Lord Fauntleroy suit of velvet. Dr. Chachere lived with son "Josie" in his old age, and it is to him that we are indebted for these priceless old photographs of the Chachere family, which he preserved.



DR. THEOGENE CHACHERE and wife Mary taking a buggy ride.



MARTIN CARRON, born Nov. 11, 1836, and his wife Elizabeth Chachere, daughter of Constant Chachere and Celestine LaVergne. The Carron family owned large acreage in St. Landry in the eighteenth century, and Bayou Carron was named for the first pioneer of that family. Constant Chachere was a son of Veillard Chachere.

## Dr. R. Chachere Home



Dr. Russell Chachere, a member of a pioneer family of the Opelousas territory, bought his old place in 1922 from the St. Landry bank, which had acquired it from the St. Cyr family. Prior to that it was owned by Horace White, of Alexandria.

At one time, it was said to have been the original site of the Opelousas Female Institute, a college, which opened by Mrs. M. M. Hayes, who was a member of the White family, being prominent in Rapides parish. The Opelousas Female College was incorporated by act of Legislature in 1861, although organized some years earlier. The Hayes family were early settlers in the Pine Prairie and Chicot section of the country.

The Chachere home was part of a plantation at the edge of town. It has been considerably altered through the years, and is presently in very good condition. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Allie B. Carriere. Mrs. Carriere is the former June Chachere, daughter of Dr. Russell Chachere and his wife, Ethel Edwards, both of whom died in recent years. The old home is lovely in its setting of live oaks. At one side was once a very large pecan grove, some of the earliest commercial plantings of pecan trees in this parish. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

**CAMP AT ATTAKAPAS NAMED FOR CAPT. "BEAU SOLEIL" JOSEPH BROUSSARD**

Among the many odd and interesting facts brought to light by Mrs. Edgar Hull in her research on the Fuselier family in St. Martinville was a fact recorded in a "Funeral Record Book of the old St. Martin Church." On the 25th of November, 1765, there was buried at the Attakapas poste "Joseph Broussard dit Beau Soleil Capitaine Commandant des Acadiens des Attakapas au Camp Appelle Beau Soleil." He was buried by Jean Francois, a Capuchin missionary "apostolique de la Nouvelle Acadia."

"Beau Soleil" Broussard was a legendary personality of whom many tales are told. He was nicknamed "Beau Soleil" because of a brilliant and winning smile. One of the most popular of the early soldiers of the poste, he was founder of a large and prominent French family of this state. Whether he was solely in command of the Acadians (possibly one himself) or a soldier under command of the King would be an interesting fact to ascertain.

Undoubtedly he was buried with all religious and military honors at a camp that was named for him.



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MAP OF WASHINGTON, with all property owners, was made in 1896 by civil engineers by John Dinsmore Jr., and four subsequent surveys by other engineers. Above cut shows map, now owned by Registrar of Voters, reduced to one-quarter its full size. Original survey in 1836 included only the first 28 squares in the town. They were the first six blocks south from Bayou Courtableau, and two blocks west and three blocks east of Main Street. (Some were not numbered, accounting for the difference in the totals. That is, the original survey of the town covered from Water Street, or the street along the bayou, from Corso Street on the west to Bridge Street on the east -- names on this map -- and as far south as Moundville Street.

Lettering at top left on this 1896 map reads: "The original town of Washington, blocks Nos. 1 to 28 inclusive, was surveyed by John Dinsmore Jr. in or about the year 1836, being a portion of a tract, having eight arpents front on Courtableau and running . . . to the Carron; then belonging to the Catholic Church of St. Landry. "From the evidence afforded by old buildings, and fence lines, it would appear that

this survey was made with a surveying chain which was about three inches too long. "Resurveys have concentrated this excess in a north and south direction in the blocks between Dejean and Carrier streets, and on the east of Main street in row 18-19-28-8-9. That west of Main street appears to be property distributed, and as this distribution of error is of long standing it is not disturbed by us."

The lettering at the bottom of the map explains the conditions which this property map was ordered, as follows: "Plan of the town of Washington, La., compiled for the corporation under the provisions of Act No. 53 of 1896, from the existing maps and surveys of L. E. Banovich, who surveyed the old town about 1836 . . . , who surveyed the Gardner addition in . . . , Geo. O. Elms, C. E., who surveyed the Ganu and Moore additions; J. D. Haggerty, C. E., who surveyed the western corporation line. Compiled by----- L. E. Littell, C. E. Ira W. Sylvester, C. E.

## Washington in 1896

Washington was, at the turn of the century, quite "the" place to live. It was a bustling, lively, prosperous community. The town grew during the era of the steamboat, when goods from most of the vast area of Imperial St. Landry Parish moved through its warehouse and over its docks.

By 1896 the Southern Pacific railroad had supplanted the bayou as the freight-passenger artery, but it was still at that time one of the principal communities of the state.

The accompanying map, property of Registrar of Voters George C. Blanchard, himself a Washington resident, was made in 1896. It shows all property owners in the town.

A journey along the Washington streets of 1896, listing the property owners as we go, will provide an interesting compilation of the people of means and property of that time. Some of the old family names survive; many have moved on, or the lines have died out.

The original town of Washington was built upon property owned by the St. Landry Catholic church. This original grant from the French government consisted of a frontage of about eight arpents along Bayou Courtableau, beginning three blocks west of now Main street and extending three blocks east. The original church was near the bayou and east of the present Main street. The church property extended south from Bayou Courtableau to Bayou Carron. The town was originally named "Church Landing."

After the church was moved in to Opelousas -- where a successor stands today on the original re-located site -- the congregation, then based in Opelousas, gradually sold its Washington holdings. The church re-

tained the lots on Moundville street on which the present Catholic church stands in Washington, but all of its other land had long been sold by the time the accompanying 1896 survey was made.

To make a property-owning tour of Washington in 1896:

Beginning on Main street at Bayou Courtableau and driving south along Main, the triangular lot west of the bridge, or the right, between the bayou and was owned by Wilkins. The next full block south, by Boagni, and that on the east side, by C. Wolff, Trapina and Mayer each owned half of the next block, west side, and J. Plonsky the full block on the east (where the town hall now stands).

Continuing south on Main street from this corner, noting owners only along the west side, we find them, in order:

Baillio, Plonsky and Lynch (joint), S.M. Doyle and J.J., and M.R. Winkler (joint), M. Klaus (where the Klaus store stands today), Mrs. M.D. Kavanaugh, F.P. Boudreau, Doyle and Comb, Mrs. Braster, Gardner, Mrs. Vellion, Leon Wolff, Est. of G. Carriere, J.D. Haggerty, Dr. Rogers, and Dr. D.L. Todd owned a long lot extending down to Bayou Carron, the south town limit.

Going back to the present town hall corner and again down Main, this time looking to the east, or left, property owners in 1896 were: C. Wolff, Claude, J. Claude, Sam Haas, Dubuisson, Hummel (where the Hummel bakery stood for many years), McNicolls, Leon Wolff, A.L. Winkler, Miss M. Wartelle, Alice Lalanne, L.P. Carriere, Felicien Pitre, Julius James, and the final block to the east had

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OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA



CITY HALL, WASHINGTON, LA.

Washington was incorporated prior to 1836. It is located in the center of St. Landry Parish between Bayou Courtableau and Bayou Carron. The population is 1300, and the people are proud of their municipally owned Natural Gas System.

### Officials of the Town of Washington, La.

Julian E. Wolff, Mayor; Armand Deshotels, Mayor Pro-Tem. Aldermen: Armand Deshotels, Thaddeus "Cap" Ehrhardt, Mason Darbonne, Howard Martin, Kermit Soileau. Robert Moseley, Chief of Police; Arthur Kimball, special police; J. R. Wartelle, Clerk; Oliver E. Blanchard, Treasurer; L. J. Muller, manager Gas System; Larris Soileau, ass't. manager Gas System. Kenneth Deshotels, City Attorney.



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The attractive main dining room offers table, booth and counter service. Original seating capacity of 50 people has been enlarged through the years until today is capable of handling 300 customers at one time. Approximately 2,000 daily are served Diesi's famous steaks, chicken, seafood, Pizza pie and Gumbos.

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Diesi's private dining room can accommodate 150 people and is in large demand for group banquets. It has been the scene of many political gatherings and flood control meetings.

Prior to the opening of Diesi's Restaurant in 1941, Owner-Manager Frank Diesi operated a general store at Woodside, a bar at Melville and a farm at Woodside. He still has the farm which produces cotton, corn, sweet and Irish potatoes. He also raises cattle.







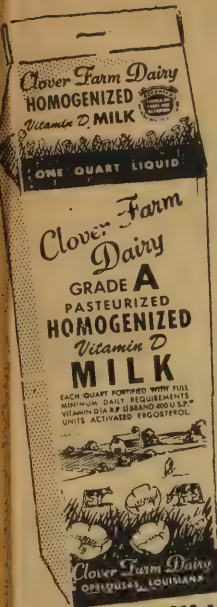


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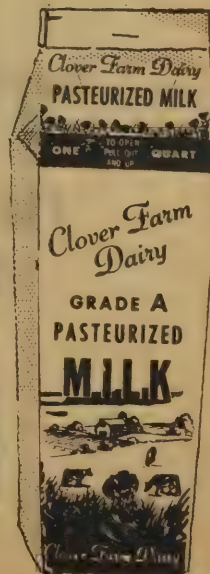
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Mail

LETTER from Thos. H. Lewis, Opelousas attorney, was posted in the fashion above, in no envelope, the letter being folded neatly and the address written on the center of the fold. It was postmarked March 23, 1839.

Opelousas La 22<sup>d</sup> March 1839

Sir,

Being in New Orleans a few days ago my friend Col. Isaac T. Preston put into my hands your letter to him of the 14<sup>th</sup> Feb. & requested me to attend to its contents, as the land you mention lies in this part of the States and entirely out of the limits of his practice. You are mistaken in supposing that Col. Preston was the purchaser of the requette mentioned in your letter. It is Judge Wm. H. Ouston who purchased & who has since sold the land to Mr. Thomas A. Cook of this place who now is in possession of it. I have seen both these gentlemen to-day & have conversed with them about this business. Judge Ouston, I have no doubt, purchased the requette in good faith, believing it to be the property of the estate of your dec<sup>d</sup> brother Stephen Tippetts & he was at great trouble & expense in procuring the confirmation of the title and location of the land; which is not worth any thing like the sum you suppose. Judge Ouston has sold it, as I am informed, at ten dollars per acre at a credit of one, two & three years. I take this to be, at present, about its value.

My opinion is that the heirs of your father who have not parted with their rights, can recover their portions of this land, by proving 1<sup>st</sup> that this requette belonged to your father 2<sup>d</sup> that they are really his children heirs, and to do this they must each be identified, as the acknowledged children of the same Stephen Tippetts who obtained the requette.

This proof is generally difficult to be made in a country, far distant from the place where the ancestor lived and died, particularly after the lapse of many years.

The parties opposed to you in this case appear disposed to make a reasonable compromise; and perhaps this would be the best course for you to pursue. I submit it however to your judgment whether you will undertake to make out the necessary proof and risk a lawsuit to recover your portions of the land, that must take several years to determine & cost much money; or whether you will agree to a fair compromise.

I would advise the latter course, but am willing to take either you may direct, provided we can agree upon the terms after you shall have decided upon the course to be

pursued. If you decide upon a compromise it will be necessary for you & the other heirs to send me (or whoever you may select) a power of attorney to execute such act as may be necessary.

It will also be necessary to say what sum you will be willing to take as a compromise, that this should be done in a letter of instructions (not in the name of attorney.)

I would be willing to take a certain part of such sum as might be received as a compromise, but would not like to take part of the land as a fee for doing for it in kind; indeed this is irregular practice. I have thus fulfilled the request of Col. Preston, by giving all the information I have been able to collect on this business, with such suggestions as I thought proper on the occasion.

Very respectfully

Thos. H. Lewis  
Opelousas La.

My address is  
Thomas H. Lewis  
Opelousas  
Louisiana

A PROSPECTIVE CLIENT in Geneva, N. Y., was sent the letter above and in the column at left, more than 116 years ago by attorney Thomas H. Lewis of Opelousas. Although slightly reduced in size, we hope that it is legible. The matter concerns ownership of property in this vicinity.

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# Church Archives Yield Marriage-Birth-Death Data

Much historical data of St. Landry Parish is preserved in the early records of the St. Landry Catholic Church, with records dating back to 1777.

Actually, the information goes back much further because of the fact that one of the early priests, Father Pedro de Zamora, required that at the time of Baptism the names of grandparents as well as parents be given. This gives us a great deal of information on some of the very early settlers of this parish.

In his precise and beautiful handwriting, which is reproduced on a page of the record, he kept a very exact account of the parish. Unlike some records kept by those preceding and succeeding him, the ink that he used is as fresh and sharp as if it had been written yesterday.

Father Joseph de Arazena started a register of Baptism in 1787 and copied the sheets of records that he found existing in the parish — entries made by Fathers Louis, Grumeau, and Grefoin — all in the French language.

The records of Father Valentine as pastor at Opelousas were found, although he is known by other records to have been here on and off for several stays. He was considered the first resident pastor at Opelousas.

Father de Zamora came to Louisiana with the Marquis de Casa Calvo, and remained in Opelousas for twelve years. In 1804 he was assigned to a Louisiana regiment of Spanish soldiers on their way to Pensacola. He was succeeded by Father Louis Buhot, and Father Michel Barriere.

Some of the early marriages noted in the Marriage Book One are as follows: 1-William Collins to Hortense Le Sasser. Witnesses who signed were Luke Collins, Etienne de la Morandiere, Dr. Julien le Sasser, Theophilus Collins. Many of these names are written in Spanish - William is Guillermo - Hortense is Hortensia, etc. Father Joseph de Arazena was the priest.

The second marriage was that of George Desmarest to Maria Silvestre.

Third marriage in the book was that of Roberta Brasile and Constanca Margotan.

Fourth was that of Miguel Blanchette to Angeli la Pinet.

Other names that follow include that of one of the commanders of the fort, whose name we have run across a number of times - Eduardo Forstall, certainly an English name in the midst of French and Spanish.

Many familiar names follow — Pedro Ric-

hardson, and Maria Josepha Dugas, Miguel Stuts and Juliana Prudhomme, Don Juan Alexandro Gadoin and Catalina Bello, Miguel Bordelon and Maria Josepha Carron.

A good Spanish name that still has descendants in New Orleans is that of "Maria Constanca quinteros."

Lastrapes, Bourdureau and LeDoux. Hebert, DeVillers, LaCombe, Posey, Fontenau, Rougeau, Vidrine, Boutte, Huspeth, Montgomery, Joachim Ortego and Marie de Soto, Piere Blote Vidrine and Marie Joseph Brignac, Joseph Manuel Ortega and Marie Denise Vidrine, Jean Joseph Louaillier and Celisse Carriere, Francois Christophe LaCombe and Chalotte Bok, Maria Caroline Matte DeClouet (daughter of Alexandre Chevalier de Clouet and Louise Favrot).

Most of the names could be found in any telephone book in St. Landry Parish. The following are extracted from Baptism Book One, which is dated from 1777.

Bello, Maureau, Nezat, Prevot, Fuselier, Soileau, Gilbau, Roye, LaLande, Jeansonne, Brasseux, deJaMirande, Boisdore, LaCasse, Fontenot, Gradenigo, Silvestre, Brinac, Moudon, Doucet, desMarret, Tesson, Socie, L'Anglois, Barre, Vidrine, Miller, Stely, Thi-baudeaux, Jobert, Richard, Bouillon, Cormier, Guidry, LaFleur, Roman, Comaut, Trahan, Mayeux, Gullory, Bervique (Berwick) LaMott, LeJeune, Primeau, Ortolan, Saunier, Jubert, Istre, Mils, Latiolais, Cretien, Vige, Derbonne, leBlanc, Savols, Brossard, Brown, Hollier, Bertrand, Odom, Figureon, Duralde, Meche, Olivier, Grange, Soileau, Prud'homme, DesHautels, Carriere, Mayeux, Dou-sset, Bossie, Babin, Bouigny, Grevemberg, Montaz, Martin, Breaux, Dejean, Vidal, Dugas, Gebert, Lopez, Fuselier de laClaire, LeBieu, Guidri, Santaigo, Beaulieu, Ory, Vaible, Go-deau, Boudique, delTorres, Brunet, Vasseur, Burratta, Poirer, Robin, Chatelain, quin-tero, de la Fosse, Manuel, Hanchette, Blau-sergent, Andrus, Bim, McDaniel, Callahan, Taler (Taylor), Benoit, Veillon.

Many of the early marriages were witnessed by soldiers from the post, and after one has been working through the civil and church records of years back, the names grow familiar and you soon have a feeling that some of them are old friends, you have seen them so many times.

One is able to trace the birth, marriage, and baptism through several generations as the names recur.

There are so many old documents that one

## Old Jack Compton Place



PLANTATION HOME of Jack Compton, once a prominent planter of St. Landry Parish, is situated in the East Bellevue section of St. Landry, near Opelousas, on the Opelousas road. It is now owned by Isaac Lewis who is pictured standing on the gallery. The lower floor of brick supports the upper living quarters, as is typical of this period. Once a lovely home, it has finely panelled sections on the gallery, woodwork and nicely turned railings on the central staircase of the exterior. Slender cypress pillars support the upper gallery; the lower pilasters are squared brick. It is situated on a slight rise, and once had an avenue of oaks in front of it, traces of which are still standing. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

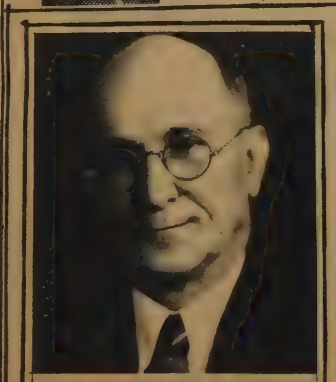
scarcely has time to get into all of them in the span of half a year --- in a parish this old and rich in history one could find for a lifetime.

THE HOME OF LOU-ANA



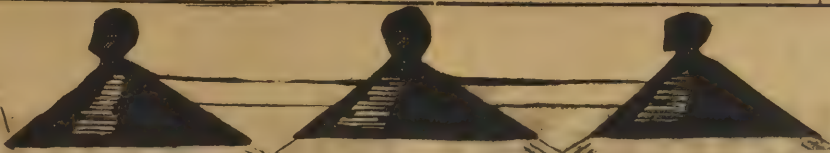
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# TOBY VELTIN

## Known From Coast to Coast for Fine Foods

The first real night club, in this section, the "Bellevue Club," was opened many years ago by Toby Veltin's late father, Farmer Veltin, a courtly host whose food and entertainment became reknown . . . Toby opened Cedar Lane Club in 1929 . . . After the outbreak of World War II, Toby moved to Lake Charles and opened another famous night spot, "The Palms," which quickly became the most famed eating place in that section . . .

Toby opened Club Hill Top just south of Lafayette in 1942, and in 1945 opened the now-famed Toby's Oak Grove in Lafayette, finest dining-dancing establishment in this section . . .



1912 — "MIGHTY TOBE VELTIN" is how the St. Landry Clarion of July 27, 1912, captioned this picture of Toby Veltin, at that time Opelousas' leading pitcher. By that date of the season Toby had pitched and won 8 games, fanned a total of 83 men, gave up 26 hits, walked only 6, and, said the Clarion, "his work at the stick has broken up many league material by scouts for Opelousas, and winning, until the 1920s. The Sunday previous to publication of this picture, "Mighty Tobe" and mates had beaten Washington 12-2, with Toby fanning 14. Said the Clarion, "He whiffs more batters and passes less men than any other pitcher on the circuit."



1939 — TOBY'S CEDAR LANE CLUB, known as the beauty spot of the Southland. "Palm trees in swing time." Insert, Toby, genial host to famous club goers, who came to Cedar Lane from all over Louisiana and, indeed, the South.



With a solid reputation as a genial host of 26 years in the entertainment world, supplying the finest in name bands, in food and in entertainment, Toby is known from coast to coast, especially for food. Particularly distinguished are his Shrimp Remoulade, his barebqued crabs, and his steaks.

1955 — TOBY'S OAK GROVE, Lafayette, La., where Toby's famous foods and excellent service attract gourmets from coast to coast. Toby recently enlarged the Oak Grove and completely redecored the interior, creating one of the most beautiful dinner clubs in the state.



# Millions To Mr. Farmer



## FOR THE MERRY - GO - ROUND

Yes Sir, Even though we have been here in St. Landry Parish for only eight years, we have already paid out MILLIONS to Mr. Farmer for his produce; yams, Irish potatoes, cabbage and shallots.



Since Mr. Farmer is one of our main sources of income, every one benefits indirectly including you, me, the doctor, lawyer, grocer, gas and oil dealer, fertilizer manufacturer, truck dealer, druggist, builders and what have you.

Yes Sir, Mr. Farmer is an important man. He helps the Merry-go round go around and around. This picture shows one of the partners, A. J. Dupuis, handing a check to one of our oldest customers, Mr. Alex Guillory, RFD Opelousas, for his yams.

We trust that when St. Landry is celebrating its 300th anniversary, our firm will still be paying millions out to the farmers of St. Landry.

# STEVEN DUPUIS & BROS

Buyers and Shippers of Produce

600 N. Court

Phone 6581





VIEW of Bayou Callahan, in the Bellevue Grant southeast of Opelousas. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

# Officer of Napoleon

Among the early settlers of St. Landry were several men who were officers in Napoleon's army, who came and resided in Louisiana. They have many descendants here and throughout the state.

Of one of them we have little information, but he has a great many of his descendants living in Ville Platte and St. Landry. This is Charles LeBas.

LeBas was born in Paris, France, and was Chief of Marines under Napoleon. He was at Toulon, and helped transport the Army of Napoleon to Egypt. He married Appoline Stagg, who was born in West Virginia, and whose parents came from Dutchess County, New York.

The LeBas and Stagg families have been prominent in St. Landry parish for many years, numbered among them have been some of the celebrated lawyers and Doctors of Imperial St. Landry. At this time there are many

members of family prominent in the civic life of the community.

After writing the above, the following information has been located in Marriage License Book 1, Page 371, in the St. Landry Catholic Church, and also in the marriage records in the office of the parish clerk of court. Their marriage was the first in that book in the court house.

Charles Joseph LeBas married Ann Helend Patric Stagg (her name was really Ellen Patrick, according to other records, but was Francoized for the church record).

He was born in Luc, in France, Department of Vas., son of Charles Joseph LeBas and Therese Christina Ferrier.

Ellen Stagg was born in New Orleans, daughter of Henry Stagg and Josephine Fuselier.

Father Rossi was the priest here who performed the marriage ceremony.

# R. MORNHINVEG & SON

110 S. Main St.

Eugene J. Chachere, Owner  
"Your Jewelers Since 1873 - That's Your Guarantee"  
Opelousas, La.

Phone 3411

R. Mornhinveg & Son was established March 10, 1873 by Remi Mornhinveg and was originally called "Mornhinveg Jewelry Emporium." Dr. Lorenzo Mornhinveg, son of the founder, became a partner and "R. Mornhinveg & Son" was the new name chosen. Dr. Mornhinveg attended watch making school for two years in Canada after learning the business from his father.

Gene Chachere, who began working as an employee of the firm when a young boy, learned the watch business from Mr. Remi and Dr. Lorenzo. He became manager, eventually a partner, and now is sole owner.

Mr. Chachere, who is sometimes called "Mr. Mornhinveg," is proud to point out that R. Mornhinveg & Son has served the public for four generations. He has been with the firm 48 years.



Mornhinveg Jewelry Emporium, Opelousas, La. Photo by Jacobs Lewis, D.D.



# Road Contract Baton Rouge-Here, Signed 1811

## List of ~~Common~~ Public Roads in the Parish of Saint Landry. for 1859. North-East Division, to the Parish of Avoyelles, By Washington, Mounsville and both sides of the Bayou Boeuf,

No.	EXTENT OF ROAD.	MILES.	OVERSEERS.
1	From the Town of Opelousas to the Town of Washington,		<i>Elisha Gardier</i>
2	From the Town of Washington to Bridge over Crocodile—and from the lane at Wartelle's to <sup>Town of Point</sup> <del>lower line of V. B. Bennett Vanhille</del>		<i>S. A. Seaborn</i> <i>Comes Fortet</i>
3	From and including bridge over Crocodile to <sup>half the</sup> <del>lower line of Alex. Biles to Parish line</del> <sup>Cummins Point</sup>		<i>John S. Edwards</i> <i>Neblan</i>
4	From the <sup>lower</sup> line of Alex. Biles to Parish line,		<i>Louis A. Webb,</i>
5	Including Draw Bridge on Bayou Boeuf, to <sup>Sower</sup> <del>upper line of Geo. B. B. Smith</del> <sup>or Cook</sup>		<i>Thomas Cook</i>
6	From <sup>Sower</sup> <del>upper</del> line of Geo. B. B. Smith to <sup>Sower</sup> <del>line above Little's</del> <sup>line of Sower's</sup>		<i>J. A. McHenry</i>
7	From <sup>Sower</sup> <del>line above Little's</del> <sup>line of Sower's</sup> to <sup>Sower</sup> <del>upper line of E. Ferguson</del> <sup>line of Garrison's</sup>		<i>E. Ferguson</i>
8	From <sup>Sower</sup> <del>upper</del> line of Garrison's <sup>line of Sower's</sup> to Parish line,		
9	From Bridge over Grand Marais to half the Bridge over B. Petite Passe,		
10	From <sup>Sower</sup> <del>lower</del> line of B. Petite Passe to <sup>Sower</sup> <del>line above Little's</del> <sup>line of Sower's</sup> and from half the bridge over Bayou Petite Passe to road near Lafleur's, <sup>Sower</sup> <del>line above Little's</del> <sup>line of Sower's</sup>		<i>John S. Fortson</i>
11	from Cummins Point to Lower line of Alex. Biles		<i>Charles Sessier</i>
12	" 18 mile post on Bayou de Rouge to Parish line		<i>William Norton</i>
13	" Stapleton's Rouge to E. McBride on State Prairie		<i>Josiah Scott</i>
14	" E. McBride to road at Jos. McBride		<i>J. Scumble</i>
14	" road at Jos. McBride to line of T. Houdoupoth		<i>J. Callahan</i>
16	from Scott's Rouge to Isaac Hayes up petite Prairie		<i>James Keenan</i>
17	" Washington road in Grand Prairie to Opelousas road in Prairie Raisonne passing Augustin Guillory		<i>Augustin Guillory</i>

## North Division, to the Parish of Rapides, By Flat Town and Bayou Chicot.

No.	EXTENT OF ROAD.	MILES.	OVERSEERS.
1	The lane between Prudhomme and Donatto, to and including bridge <sup>to the corner of Mr. Lacombe's field</sup> <del>over Bayou near Ch. Flaupac</del>		<i>Jacques J. Dupre</i>
2	From <sup>Garrigue's</sup> <del>bridge</del> to half of Bridge at J. M. Debailon,		<i>J. Valade</i>
3	From half of Debailon's bridge to half of Bridge over Grand Marais,		<i>Soms Chapman</i>
4	From half of Grand Marais bridge to 23d mile post,		<i>John Seal</i>
5	From 23d mile post to South edge of Pine Prairie, <sup>as the junction of the</sup> <del>Alexandria and</del> <sup>Northwestern road</sup>		<i>Elisha Whittington</i>
6	From lower edge of Pine Prairie to <sup>Jackson's</sup> <del>road</del> <sup>on Crocodile</sup> ,		<i>Thomas Hebert</i>
7	From the forks of road near <sup>David C. Miller's</sup> <del>23d mile post</del> , to half the bridge on black lake,		<i>John C. Griffith</i>
8	From lower edge of Pine Prairie to F. Hebert's Crocodile, <sup>to the Bill</sup> <del>Cherry Springs</del>		<i>Wm. Fear</i>
9	From <sup>at the head of</sup> <del>the</del> <sup>other side</sup> <del>the</del> <sup>Black Lake</sup> <del>the</del> <sup>Black Lake</sup>		
12	from Garrigue's Bridge to Washington		<i>Napoleon Franchibois</i>
13	" from Carr's to Bridge at E. Vahore B. Fontenot		<i>Emogene Young</i>
14	" from Hebert's to road to Hebert's old field		<i>John Fortet</i>
15	" from Hebert's to Whittington's		<i>John G. Mathis</i>
16	" from Hebert's to Cummins Point on Bayou Boeuf		<i>Auguste Bordelon</i>
17	" from Hebert's to Vanoverberg's to the old <sup>to the Bill</sup> <del>Cherry Springs</del>		<i>Thomas B. Charney</i>
20	" from Hebert's to Bayou Crocodile		<i>Augustin Joseph Guillory</i>
21	" from Hebert's to Bayou Boeuf		<i>Augustin Deque</i>
22	" from Hebert's to the upper line of a Baillie		<i>Sebastien Guillory</i>
23	" from Hebert's to the mouth of Bayou Boeuf on west side of B. Crocodile		<i>Am. Guillory</i>

A ROAD CONTRACT that is probably one of the earliest such documents in Louisiana, was unearthed in clerk of court records by Herbert J. Castille, Opelousas abstractor. Reproduced above, it is an agreement between the judges of St. Landry and Pointe Coupee parishes and William B. Jackson, contractor, signed Dec. 5, 1811. By its terms, a road was to be laid out between Opelousas and Baton Rouge, and Jackson was awarded the contract to "trace" that portion "from the House of Charley Barre on the Bayou Courtaiseau

to Baton Rouge by the shortest and highest route." The road was to be erected, Jackson's to Baton Rouge by the shortest and highest route." The road was to be 10 feet wide, with a tree marked at every mile or, if no trees present, a milepost was to be erected. Jackson's price was \$1,000. The judges were Judge George King of St. Landry and William Wiloff of Baton Rouge. Witness to the signatures were Benjamin John and Jos. W. Hayes.



# A History of St. Landry Parish from 1690

By RUTH ROBERTSON FONTENOT

One hundred and fifty years ago April 10, 1805, St. Landry Parish was officially established by an act of legislature. In 1690 the first white man is believed to have settled in Opelousas, which is the parish seat, thus making Opelousas one of the oldest settlements in these United States. The name of the first settler has not come down to us, but he was undoubtedly a Frenchman.

The Attakapas Indians were here - this was their land. They had chosen for their camping grounds the site of the city of Opelousas, because of its location on high land above the flood level. From legends comes the story of how Opelousas was named.

The Attakapas were a cannibalistic tribe, fierce and warlike, and they preyed upon the neighboring tribes who dwelled along the high bluff that we call the Grand Coteau ridge. There were three tribes - the Opelousas, the Choctaws, and the Alabamans. They held a council and decided to try and wipe out the Attakapas, who were constantly making war with them. So together the three tribes waged war upon the Attakapas and finally succeeded in driving them from their lands, destroying almost the entire tribe of Attakapas Indians. The few who escaped with their lives fled to the south, and made their camping-grounds in the regions of what is now St. Martin parish.

The three tribes then made a pact and gave the land of the Attakapas to the Opelousas Indians, and thereafter the territory was called "Opelousas", as the land below it was called "Attakapas".

For their main campsite the Opelousas tribe chose the high land on which the present city of Opelousas is located. The exact spot has by tradition been established as the grounds of the old Academy of the Immaculate Conception, on the north end of town. Some years past there was here a small mound with a pine tree standing on it, and this was said to be the lookout post. Many arrowheads have been turned up on lands nearby, and also near this same spot are some very old springs.

The name "Opelousas" has been given many meanings, but the one most commonly accepted is "Blackleg" - possibly the tribe painted their legs a dark color. Other translations are "Blackfoot", and "Man with black leg". Still another translation is "Salt Water," which alludes to the fact that from here south the land lowers to the Gulf of Mexico and "saltwater".

The history of Opelousas has changed through the years with the successive changes of government.

The recorded history of Louisiana begins in 1519, when Alvarez de Pineda explored the Gulf Coast and reported the discovery of a great river. In 1528 Avar Nunez Cabeza deVaca made a journey along the Gulf Coast. In 1541-2 Hernando DeSoto explored the northern part of the state, and on May 21, 1542 he was buried in the great river that he was exploring. He was buried in the Mississippi river near the mouth of the Red river. After his death survivors of his expedition made their way down the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico, with the leadership of Luis de Moscoso. They were the first Europeans to descend to the mouth of the Mississippi. In 1553 Marcos de Meza was shipwrecked off the Gulf Coast, and traveled through Louisiana to Mexico.

In 1682 Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle descended the Mississippi from the mouth of the Illinois to the Gulf of Mexico, and at the mouth of the river he erected a cross and column, claiming the territory in the name of Louis IV, for whom it is named Louisiana.

(1) From 1682 to 1812 it was claimed by France, (2) Granted to Crozat in 1712, it remained under his jurisdiction until 1717, (3) It was next under the administration of the Western Company, until the surrender of their grant in 1732, (4) Under the direct authority of the King of France until the final delivery of the province to Spain, 1763, at the treaty of Paris, (5) Under the government of the treaty of Spain until the treaty of cession in 1803. (6) A possession of the United States, first as a territory, and then as a state.

In 1803 Louisiana was divided into the Territory of Orleans (south of latitude 33) and the District of Louisiana (north of 33). W.C.C. Claiborne was appointed Governor. In 1812 Louisiana was admitted to the Union.

The first permanent settlement in Louisiana was established at Natchitoches by Louis Juchereau de St. Denis, and it was named Fort St. Jean Baptiste. It was started in the year 1714, and was built on a high bluff at the southern end of the Great Raft in Red River.

In 1718 New Orleans was founded by Sieur de Bienville, and it was named in honor of the Regent of France, the Duc d'Orleans.

## TRADING POST

As early as 1720 definite mention was made of the trading post at Opelousas, and Governor Perrier was requested to send French traders to the lands of the Attakapas and the Opelousas. During the administration of Bienville, in 1735, the request was again repeated. Old documents reveal that a few men actually signed contracts to visit the Attakapas and Opelousas territory to trade with the Indians, but a greater number of the traders were a class of men almost unique in history. They were called "coureurs des bois."

The Opelousas tribe was a friendly one, and as the "coureurs des bois" began to establish a regular trade here, a small village soon sprang up at the site of the Indian village. Rude dwellings of logs, daubed with mud and laced with interwoven branches, were the first settlers' homes. They used moss to bind the adobe together, and there are still standing today a few buildings that have some of this elementary construction. Articles of trade were furs, bear grease, tallow, hides, horses, indigo, sassafras and other products.

One of the earliest traders was Joseph LeKintrek (also known as Dupont). Others were Joseph Blanpin, Gerard Pery, Alexandre Portier, and Fabry de le Bruyere. Joseph LeKintrek apparently settled here, for his daughter married one of the early colonists of the Opelousas territory.

## COURTABLEAU CAME EARLY

Jacques Courtableau was one of the earliest known colonists. He obtained a large grant of land and settled near the bayou which bears his name. He appears to have been the first official of the Opelousas territory, which extends from the Atchafalaya River to the Sabine; north to the southern boundaries of Rapides and Vernon, and south to the borders of Lafayette and St. Martin Parish.

Sieur Jacques Courtableau, first commandant of the "Poste de Opelousas", held the title of "Capitaine du Quartiere de Opelousas". For decades his home was a center of the Opelousas area, and was used as a church, since there was none in this vast wilderness. He was married in 1765 at his home to Marguerite LeKintrek, daughter of the fur trader. Father Valentin performed the ceremony.

## FIRST CHURCH IN HOME

Spiritual jurisdiction over the Opelousas territory was held by the Bishop of Quebec, who in 1765 granted permission for celebration of Mass and other religious services such as baptisms, marriages and the like to be held at the Courtableau home. The first priest residing here was Father Jacques Didier, who stayed a month and then moved on to the Attakapas territory. His visit was recorded on June 5, 1765. Thus the Courtableau home may be considered the first church in the Opelousas territory.

French settlers were coming in to the territory at this time, and some of the earliest names on record are:

Jacques Guillaume Courtableau, Louis Pellerin, Antoine and Pierre Mallet, Valentin Moreau, Etienne Robert de la Morandiere, Joseph Moreau, Francois Lemelle, Carron, Donat, Antoine Langlois, Louis Fontenot, Mondon, Louis Bigue, Jean Ortolan, Bois-dore, Chretien, Boyez, Philippe Deplessant, Jacques Saintinont, Anne Judith Cheval, En-nemond Meleton, Tesson, Charles Lucas, Joseph Cormier, Marcantel, Augustin Solleau, and Bertrand Auret.

Louis Pellerin was one of the officers of the now well-established fort and military garrison, erected at the site of the Indian village near the present Catholic Church. He was an officer of the colonial troops, who had evidently decided to stay on. He was granted a concession of 126 acres by 63 arpents at the Opelousas post to establish a settlement. This was on July 9, 1764, and is thought to be the beginnings of the actual town of Opelousas.

Between 1763 and 1765 Acadian refugees came into the Attakapas section, increasing the number of colonists in the Opelousas post. Some of the soldiers who had been stationed at the garrison had settled after their period of enlistment was over, and had obtained tracts of land from the French commandant. Many of the early settlers now had herds of cattle and horses, established on large plantations. A census taken by Galvez in 1785 shows Opelousas with a population of 1211.

The second commandant at the Poste de Opelousas was Sieur Gabriel Fuselier de la Claire, who has many descendants still residing in this section.

Following Gabriel Fuselier de la Claire as commandant of El Poste de Opelousas was



OPELOUSAS, a recent aerial view of the center of the business district. Court house is roughly in center. View is looking toward the northeast. Note bare lot beyond court house on which construction is soon to start on new Planters bank building. (Daily World Photo by Bourdier).

Chevalier Alexandre De Clouet, who was a French noble belonging to the order of St. Louis. He was a "Capitaine d'infanterie, commandant civil et militaire du Poste des Opelousas et des Attakapas". DeClouet made his home near St. Martinsville, and was buried near the church. Some of his descendants live in Lafayette.

Other prominent officials and pioneers of the times were Robert de - la Morandiere, Province de la Louisiane et commandant actuel de ce poste; Don Juan Lamelle, "Capitaine d'infanterie"; Nicholas Forstall, "ancien alcade et regidor perpeneul de la "lieutenant d'infanterie"; Etienne de la Morandiere "capitaine des milices de ce poste"; Nicholas Rousseau, "officier de cavalerie au service de sa Majeste Catholique"; Francisco Robin "medicin du poste".

Prominent landowners at this time were Juan Gradenigo, Lambert du Flaugac, de Brignac, Duplessis, de la Morandiere, LaCase, Boudreaux, Favron, Devillers, Pruhomme Lejeune, Roy, Bienvenu, Hollier, Sandoz, and many others.

J.J. Louillier is thought to have been one of the first merchants.

Other names as noted on records and grants are Francois Neda, Pierre Wartelle, An-

**BRILEY'S**  
Modern  
**Courts - Restaurant - Service Station**  
2 miles from downtown Opelousas on the  
Washington Road



Photo above shows part of the addition of new Briley's Courts. Below the new modern restaurant, service station and courts.



BRILEY'S MODERN COURTS  
Phone 3276  
Opelousas-2 Miles North Route #5

MODERN CONVENIENCES - Air Conditioned, Beauty Rest Mattresses, Private Hot and Cold Showers, Tile Floors, Always neat and clean, Home Cooked Meals, Short Orders. For reservation Dial 3276, Opelousas, La.





LAV. J. P. SAIZAN, seen in his buggy, had fine teams of woodred, brooding horses. Right is early - 1900 view of Landry Street, looking east. Court house square is at left. These



Photo of the present church building in Opelousas, published in connection with the completion of the present church.

toine King, William Moore and John Merimond.  
**SPANISH RULE**

In 1769 at the treaty of Paris the Louisiana territory changed hands from French to Spanish rule, and one of the early records of Spanish rule show that General O'Reilly, the Spanish commissioner who took over Louisiana from the French, requested a statement of the condition of the church in the colony. The report showed that there was no priest or church at the Opelousas Poste, which was now called "Puesto de Opelousas."

By this time great herds of cattle were being moved across the vast Opelousas prairie which extended to the Sabine river. They were moved through the Opelousas post to the site of the present town of Washington, where they were loaded on boats for New Orleans. Others were driven down the Old Spanish Trail. Some came from the distant ranges of Texas, and so made thousands of miles before they reached the final point of embarkation.

How well the Spanish were received in the community that was now predominantly French, we can only guess. Some of the Spanish soldiers remained and settled here as did their French predecessors, for we have their names in the community to this day. Among them are Castille, Hidalgo, Ortego, Hernandez, Lopez.

The Spanish authorities made many land grants in favor of the original settlers, a number of which are still preserved. Persons who acquired deeds of land from the Spanish at the post of Opelousas numbered 800.

**FIRST CHURCH BUILT**

A series of land disputes gave a clue to the beginning of the first church in the Opelousas territory, which was erected at or near the landing on Bayou Courtableau. Governor Unzaga, successor to O'Reilly, designated the site for a church and Antoine Mallet was summoned by Fuselier de la Claire, commandant of the poste. He was ordered to erect a bridge to permit the hauling of lumber to build a church, in the year 1774. This is clearly shown on the old map, which was found in Spanish records of the time which had been preserved at the Cabildo in New Orleans.

Names of property owners were studied by the late William A. Robertson and by Roy D. Edwards, both experts on land matters. By comparing and locating various tracts in the map, which shows the meanderings of a bayou designated merely as "Le bayou", they found that on the Lemelle tract, which is now owned in part by William Elter and Mrs. Walter Smith, was the location of the old bridge, a short distance east of the present bridge over Bayou Carron at Washington, on the Smith tract. The church was built away from the woods (Bois), probably on the high ground between Carron and Courtableau.

**WASHINGTON SETTLED**

When the Spanish authorities took over the post they visited at the home of "Don Santiago Courtableau" at Opelousas, as this was the name of the entire area then. After the erection of the church "La Iglesia Paroquial de Inmaculada Concepcion del Puesto de Opelousas", what is the present town of Washington began to be settled. It was soon called "Church Landing".

Father Valentin became its first pastor, and he was followed by Father Louis Dubourg de St. Sepulchre, a Capuchin.

Father Valentin was a missionary who traveled over the entire territory while he was pastor at Natchitoches. He was also a Capuchin of the Champagne Province. He died in 1783, and for two years there was no resident pastor. DeClout, commandant of the post, was left to handle all affairs, and for several years Father Grefotin, a Dominican friar at the Poste des Attakapas, had to extend his missionary work to Opelousas.

In 1785 a Capuchin Friar arrived from Spain, Father Jose de Arzena, but proved unpopular with the French-speaking settlers. He was followed by Father Pedre de Zamora, who was a determined and energetic man. Upon his arrival at the Poste he noted and criticized many existing conditions, and it was he who pointed out that the growing Poste was a more suitable place for the church than "Church Landing". In 1795 he petitioned Governor Carondelet for permission to make the change of location, and his request was granted.

**CHURCH MOVED TO OPELOUSAS**

At the public assembly May 31, 1796, Michel Prudhomme, a native of the environs of Strasbourg and a resident of Opelousas promised to rebuild the church if it were established at the post, and to donate land for the site. He also promised to give the necessary cypress lumber from his forests for the church building, the priest's house, the jail, and the fences around the property and the cemetery. The act of donation was dated October 16, 1796, and was executed in the presence of Martin Duralde, captain of the militia, civil and military commandant at the Poste.

The land donated by Prudhomme measured three arpents front by a depth of forty arpents. Added to this was a donation by Sieur Tesson, also of the Opelousas Poste. The new church was erected at the site of the present parish church. It was named "St. Landry's Church".

In March 1803 Pierre Laussat arrived in New Orleans as Colonial Prefect, announcing the transfer of Louisiana from Spain to France.

**LOUISIANA PURCHASE**

April 30, 1803 Louisiana was purchased from France by the United States for the sum of \$15,000,000.

December 20, 1803 William C.C. Claiborne and General James Wilkinson took over Louisiana for the United States, and was appointed governor the following year.

In 1803, following the Louisiana Purchase, Opelousas was made the seat of the "county of Opelousas".

On April 10, 1805, the country was officially named St. Landry Parish, the name of the Parish being derived from the church.

At this time the first formal grant was made, with an official description of the city. It was described as "a tract of land containing 178.75 acres, and modeled according to the approved field note of William J. McCulloh, deputy surveyor." The plat accompanying the formal grant shows that Opelousas included the section between Bayou Tesson on the west, the section line on the east, and between Grolee street on the north and a line to the south that was common with the north line of section 75.

Existing streets in the town today are named in this description, and show that by the turn of the eighteenth century Opelousas was a well-laid-out town.

**OPELOUSAS INCORPORATED IN 1825**

In 1821 Opelousas was formally incorporated by act of legislature. This included all land within a half-mile radius of the parish courthouse.

In 1812, the first Baptist Church established west of the Mississippi was organized by Joseph Willis, Mulatto-minister. It was built at Bayou Chicot, in what was then St. Landry Parish, and was named the "Bayou Chicot Calvary Church".

The first Protestant minister in Opelousas was Elisha Bowman, Methodist, who came here after a visit to New Orleans in 1805. He arrived in Opelousas in 1806. Letters from him describe the country. "It is entirely level, and I suppose three-fourths prairie. The people are rich in cattle. They have from one to two or three thousand

head of cattle to a farmer; and, notwithstanding their large stocks, you might with ease carry on your back all that you could find in many of their houses.

"About eighty miles from here, I am informed, there is a considerable settlement of American people; but I cannot get to them at this time, as the swamps are swimming for miles; but as soon as the waters fall, I intend to visit them. I have great difficulties in this country, as there are no laws to suppress vice of any kind, so the Sabbath is spent in frolicking and gambling."

He describes the people, "I find the people very much dissatisfied with the American government, and we have a constant talk of war. The Spaniards are fortifying themselves all around the coast; and three-fourths of the people hope they will get this country again. This I hope will never be the case."

"Three-fourths of the inhabitants of this country, I suppose, are French."

The first Protestant church in Opelousas was built in 1825 and was non-sectarian. It was used by all Protestant denominations.

The first Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1845 on the site of the present building, by Warren Meglin and Hezekiah Hayes. In 1866 additional work was done on the building.

**'CIRCUIT RIDERS'**

One of the earliest Methodist families in Opelousas was the Seth Lewis family, and their home was always open to itinerant preachers, the "circuit riders" so aptly described by Dr. Robert Henry Harper in his book "Louisiana Methodism".

Seth Lewis was a native of Massachusetts, and his family settled in Mississippi. After the death of his parents and his elder brother he went to Nashville and studied law. He stayed in Natchez for some years and became Chief Justice of the Mississippi Territory. Andrew Jackson was his friend.

Shortly after moving to Opelousas he became parish judge, (1810) and three years later he began a term of twenty-seven years as judge of the Fifth Judicial District.

A portrait of Judge Seth Lewis hangs in the parish court house, where his descendant and namesake, Seth Lewis, follows the practice of law. Several members of the family have served as parish judge, the majority of the Lewis family having continued in the same profession as their distinguished ancestor.

A description of the first Methodist Church building in the Attakapas country was

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Hardware, Feeds, Notions, Groceries, Drugs

**Joubert's Farmer's Exchange**  
Packers & Shippers of Irish and Sweet Potatoes and Louisiana produce

**Opelousas-Ville Platte Highway**





"A GROUP OF ST. LANDRY BEAUTIES" on the cover of the St. Landry Trade Review of December 1896, a copy of which belongs to Will Nicholson of Washington. They are, 1, Mamie Lastrapes; 2, Ada Sandoz; 3, Olympia Laas; 4, Mattye Curtis and 5, Lucille LaCombe, (Mrs. Jno. W. Lewis, Sr.)

given by Daniel DeVinne, one of the pioneer Methodists who served this area. In 1820 he writes: "During my two years on the west of the Mississippi, we built a church in Plaquemine Brulee, the first Protestant edifice in the beautiful country of Opelousas. It was about twenty-four by thirty-six feet, and on the Spanish model; roof largely projecting, and walls of wattle and plaster, whitewashed on both sides; the outer walls of which gave the church, at a distance, a very fine appearance."

The exact location of this church is not known, but Dr. Harper, minister and methodist historian, points out that a "mud schoolhouse" is said to have stood within the bounds of Branch cemetery, north of Rayne," which is about the spot that might have been the site of this historic building.

(Another history of the Opelousas Methodist Church, compiled by Algy Rose, will be found elsewhere in this edition).

Erasmus Strickland was appointed to Opelousas, 1841, and it was he who built the first Methodist Church in the town of Opelousas.

Shortly after the erection of the church, in Jan. 1847, the General Conference was held. The session was held in the Courthouse until the last day, on which the new church was used. Bishop Joshua Soule was entertained in the home of William Lewis, son of Judge Seth Lewis. Robert J. Harp was the next minister.

The second time that a Conference was held in Opelousas was Dec. 12-17, 1877, with J. J. Billingsley the host.

Jan. 6, 1947, a century after the first session, a Special Centennial session was held in Opelousas. This was a most impressive affair, with members attired in costumes of the century past, re-enacting the first meeting, and recalling the first events of the Church. Plans were made at this time to build a new church in celebration of the Hundredth Anniversary, and these are still being formulated and completed at the present time of writing, bringing to a fitting close the anniversary occasion. Thus through the



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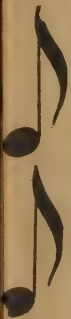
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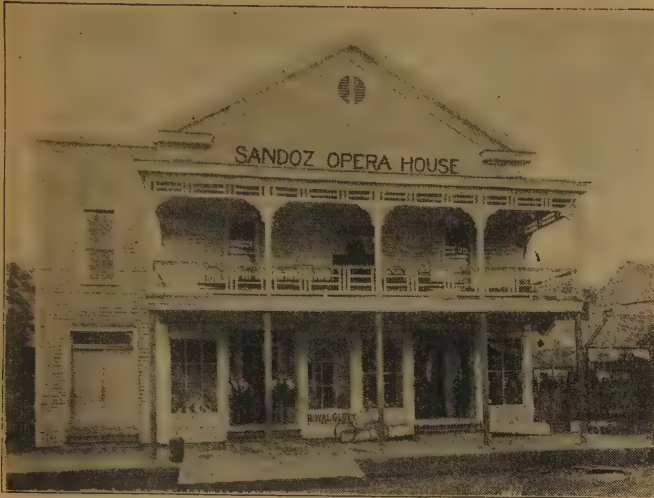
WILSON'S DAIRY

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SANDOZ OPERA HOUSE. (Photo by Threlkeld)

OLD SANDOZ OPERA HOUSE stood in Main Street and was "one of the finest Opera Houses in the State outside of New Orleans," said the St. Landry Trade Review in 1896. Proprietor was Leonce Sandoz, and Adolph Jacobs was manager then.

pages of history are edifices built, and when they have been outgrown by the increasing population new buildings take their place.

One of the early institutions of learning in Opelousas, The Opelousas Female Institute, was organized by the Methodist Church and Conference of this town at the middle of the nineteenth century, and as mentioned elsewhere in these pages, it was conducted by Mrs. W.H. Hayes, an aunt of the late H.H. White of Alexandria, who was a prominent member of the Methodist Church.

Private schools were the only means of instruction, except private tutoring, which was beyond the means of the general public. Many plantations had their own governesses and tutors in these days, and many children of the well-to-do planters were sent to colleges abroad. The university of New Orleans was incorporated by legislative act in 1873, several decades after its first opening.

Public schools did not come into existence until after the Civil War.

It was not until 1893 that the first public high school graduation took place in the parish, in the town of Opelousas.

FIRST NEWSPAPER

The first Opelousas newspaper was the Opelousas Gazette, begun in Sept. 1827, and continuing until 1852. The editors were: George W. Addison and Joel Sandoz. Andre



## Opelousas Production Credit Association Opelousas, La.

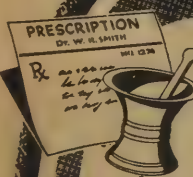
Serves any good farmer with short term credit needs in parishes of St. Landry, Evangeline, St. Martin, Lafayette and Iberia.

Was organized December 29, 1933 with farmer capital of \$45,000. 1934 loans amounted to \$232,000.

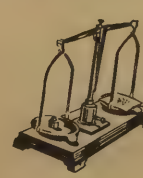
Net worth now exceeds \$500,000 and it is completely farmer owned. 1954 loans were \$3,900,000.

OFFICERS

O. L. POLLINGUE .....	President
D. W. WILSON .....	Vice-President
CLARENCE O. HARMON, JR. ....	Secretary-Treasurer
J. D. JOHNSON .....	Ass't Secretary
A. L. MILLER .....	Ass't Treasurer



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# DELTA

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Cutsie Bailey, owner (formerly of Opelousas) congratulates Opelousas and St. Landry Parish on their history and progress.

**Delta Lights the Flame  
of Progress...**

**For Home and  
Business Use**





OPELOUSAS BELLE of the Nineties, Vidalia Comeau Pickett.



OFF FOR A HUNT - so dressed up? But "Bee" Boagni and Arthur Comeau are posed with a prized hunting dog - and firearms aplenty note the pistols in shoulder holsters.

Meynier founded the Opelousas Courier, which continued until 1910, except for the period of the Civil War. Later editors were William Spencer, Leonce and L.A. Sandoz.

The St. Landry Whig was established in 1844 with John E. King as editor, followed by E. North Cullon and E.D. Estilette. In 1855 the Whig was succeeded by the Opelousas Patriot, which ceased to publish at the outset of the war. It was established by Albert DeJean, Cyrus Thompson and Alfred Livingston. It was later owned by Charles N. Ealer.

In 1867 a Republican paper was formed, with Michel Vidal Casimier Edme Durand and Emerson Bentley as editors. Incendiary articles from this publication started a riot in St. Landry, and the press was destroyed by local citizens and thrown into Bayou Tesson.

After the war the Southern's sentinel was begun by T.G. Compton, with J.W. Jackson added to the staff later. Jackson also edited the Journal, which succeeded the Sentinel. In 1890 the Clarion was established, with Raymond Breaux as Editor. A. Andrepoint followed Breaux.

The St. Landry Commoner was begun by John W. Lewis in 1910, and was published until 1919.

**PRIVATE SCHOOLS WERE FIRST**

The history of education in the parish began with the foundation in 1821 of the Academy of the Sacred Heart at Grand Coteau. It was begun by Mother Eugenie Aude, who had come to this country with Blessed Phillipine Duchesne, the pioneer foundress of many of the first schools in the United States. The present building was erected in 1823 on land donated by Mrs. Charles Smith. The original three-story structure is of brick, plastered, with long open galleries supported by wrought-iron columns and fronted with lacy balustrades of wrought iron. Later buildings were added and at the rear of the convent still stand the old slave quarters and brick barn.

The college of the Sacred Heart was an extension of the Academy, authorized in 1921 to give teachers' certificates, and later (1937) BS and BA degrees after a regular four-

**St. Landry's Newest and Most Modern Night Club**  
**THE SOUTHERN CLUB**

Eunice Highway — 1½ miles from downtown Opelousas.  
Music Nightly except Mondays.  
**STEVE FONTENOT, Mgr.**



Photo above front view of Southern Club, seating capacity 650 couples, catering to banquets, dinner parties and wedding receptions.



Shown above is the Southern Club's spacious bar and to the rear is a large and modern dining room, where the finest K. C. Steaks, Fried Chicken, Squab Broilers, and Seafood are served daily.



**1922**

**1955**

Mr. Leo Laflour started in business in 1922 selling Buicks. He now has a personnel of 32. They now sell MACK TRUCKS, EVINRUDE OUTBOARDS, GATES TIRES AND GULF OIL PRODUCTS.

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in Waldorf Hotel  
OPELOUSAS, LA.





THE PRETTIEST faces launched a thousand flivvers. They are Corinne Lacombe, Mable Lacombe, Helen Harmanson and Barbara Jacobs. At the right the oldest couple, with their silver anniversary for 40 years.

OLD HANK FORD himself was radiator cap for on products in the Opelousas parade.



OFF-HAND YOU'D be inclined to say no Ford COULD look worse than this, yet this one, captured only second prize in the contest.

DEFOT came to the fore with a beautiful float bearing a no less beautiful cargo. Won- Laffleur evidently prepared their masterpiece in Opelousas and if there'd be a chance for a poor bachelor scribe to land a job there?

FIRST PRIZE for worst-looking Ford concrete mixer.



**At the Throne of His Majesty, Henry IVd**

Opelousas, parish seat of St. Landry, turned itself over to such a holiday as only the joy South Louisiana really know how to stage when, last Saturday, Ford Day was celebrated there. Prettiest Girls, for the best decorated flivvers, for the luckiest contestants, for the worst looking oldest couple in the oldest tin tonneau were offered and awarded by the merchants of Opelousas. doggone much fun that it was much too good to keep exclusively for St. Landry parish, and News Camera was dispatched to bring the fun to you. Here it is. Have a good time, and come soon.

—Item Staff Photography Stanley Clazy, Arthur.

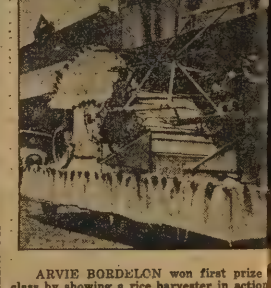
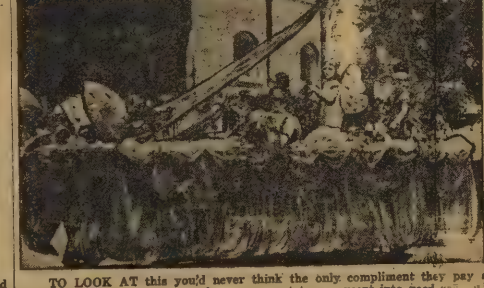
THE LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS took first prize for best decorated Ford entered by any organization. Louisiana magnolias and St. Landry babies were the decorations.



LAWYER W. A. ROBINSON made a hit—and deservedly—by entering "Ye Old' Mill on Ye Ford."

THE ROTARIANS might have secured first prize, but for the Magnolia float. As it was, they earned and received honorable mention.

A TREAT FOR sore eyes or sound were the aides to O



...e prize for the Ford that came the longest distance, went to Louis Reynolds, who motored 200 miles from Vicksburg to attend the festivities.

TO LOOK AT this you'd never think the only compliment they pay a flivver is "It'll take you anywhere you want to go except into good'."

ARVIE BORDELON won first prize class by showing a rice harvester in action

ONE OF THE BIGGEST celebrations in Opelousas history was the "Road-Bug Revelry" staged here by Bordelon's Garage to promote Ford cars. Ruler was "His Majesty, Henry IVd."

The New Orleans Item thought it such a big event they dispatched a cameraman to cover the proceedings, as above. Prettiest girls (top

left picture) "these faces launched a thousand right (now the Daily World city and society editors," said the Item, are Corinne LaCombe, Mable LaCombe, Helen Harmanson, Barbara LaCombe, Miss Lillian Jacobs, top

Ford at lower left came all the way from Vicksburg for the event.

year COMESE. Located in the academy building is a shrine and chapel to St. John Berchmans, a Jesuit saint. The chapel was built after the occurrence of the only recognized miracle on the North American continent.

The grounds of Sacred Heart Convent are notable for the extensive planting of live oaks in long alleys, and large camellias, azaleas and other flowering trees and shrubs. St. Charles College was founded in 1837 for the education of boys. Its founders were French Jesuits. The original building was a log structure, and several years later a handsome ante-bellum school was erected. This fine old pillared landmark was destroyed by fire, and the present college built in 1909. It now serves as a seminary for young men studying for the Jesuit priesthood.

Beautiful oaks and pines set off this school, which is on the same large tract of land as the Sacred Heart Convent. At the east of the present Grand Coreas church is a very old graveyard, containing many historic tombs and unusual wrought-iron crosses, set under the branches of moss-hung, ancient oaks.

FRANKLIN COLLEGE, 1840 These two colleges were the only formal means of education in St. Landry until 1840, when Franklin College was erected. This was a large four-building frame school, and was located on the site of the Opelousas Cotton Oil Mill. Franklin College continued in

existence for about sixty years, until it was demolished and the land sold by the school board at the turn of the century.

Established not long after Franklin College was St. Mary's Academy, which was taught by Fathers Gilbert and Raymond, and later staffed by Prof. Blanc Duquesnay and Prof. H. G. Lewis.

In 1858 the Academy of the Immaculate Conception, under the supervision of the Marianites of the Holy Cross, opened their doors for students from Opelousas and surrounding areas. After two years the sisters were forced to leave because of the war.

They were ordered to leave Opelousas, which was now the site of a large Confederate camp, Camp Hamilton.

For a short while the Ursulines of Brown County, Ohio came and reopened the academy at the request of Father Guilbert Raymond, who was then pastor. Twelve years later the Ursulines gave up the school, and in September 1879 the Marianites of the Holy Cross returned and re-opened the academy once more. It has been in operation since then, on the original site of the old Poste de Opelousas, until the recent erection of the new building on Frudhomme road.

FIRST NEGRO SCHOOL. Father Gilbert and Francis Raymond, the two priests, brothers, also pioneered in another educational field . . . the education of Negroes. The first school was established





This is the chrysanthemum covered sedan in which the four beauties in the first picture took first prize. Miss Lilian Isandra won first prize for the best costume.



SPANISH MOSS and red, red roses combined into a strikingly decorative effect to make this flivver look better than a Snopetrix Special.

Wonder! Willie St. Cyr and Teurling managed by driving it off a cliff into a...

...of ... for the ... the ... all so ... them's ... real



HERE'S HIS MAJESTY, Henry IVd, in person, a coupe drawn through the streets of Opelousas by a Fordson tractor.



Little Marie Andreant gave Daniel Fisher the lucky number that entitled him to specialty new Parkway-Typhons, department Opelousas merchants.

...son Haas in their white riding togs.



Purple Wisteria, lattice work, dah'lin' N? Japanese girls and a Victrola brought many an admiring "oh" and "ah" from the crowd.

float

in 1866, and was known as St. Joseph's school. The Sisters of the Holy Family were called to teach their own race. Thus began the education of the negroes in this parish.

In 1920 a separate church parish for negroes was established, under the able direction of Father James A. Hyland, C.S. Sp.

He established the Holy Ghost School, which was the first Catholic school for colored in the state to become accredited.

In May, 1875 the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Grand Coteau opened a school for colored WHICH HAS BEEN IN CONTINUOUS OPERATION SINCE ITS BEGINNING. No Peter Claver Colored School, it was one of the pioneer high schools for colored in the parish, with high scholastic rating.

History of public schools in the Parish begins during this time.

The Opelousas Female Institute was a well-known boarding school for girls and young ladies of the section. It also took day pupils from the town. Mrs. M.M. Hayes and a staff of teachers were instructors at the institute.

"Aunt Mag" is remembered affectionately by many in Opelousas and adjacent towns who attended her school. The lovely old brick structure stood on the corner of Court and South Streets, facing east. It was a two stories, galleried building, with shuttered windows, and a long wing at the rear. The residence of Alex Andrus, Jr. stands on the site of the institute.

Other professors gave private classes, and among these are Professor Cushman and Professor Autobridge. Professor Frazee was another noted educator, and the latter held classes for many years in the old Litell residence, a landmark of the parish. Professor



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Air Cooled  
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and  
Light  
Plants



# Landmarks on Square



FACING THE COURTHOUSE Square on Bellevue Street are two red brick buildings, both two-storied. They are both well over a hundred years old, and have been used for many years as law offices by prominent citizens of St. Landry, and for other office purposes. At present they house a number of lawyers and businessmen of the community quaint and attractive aside the more modern structures that have replaced their old neighbors.

Both buildings are of interesting construction, with nicely proportioned doors and windows on the simple facades. On the Boagni office are lovely old casement windows, and the gallery of the adjacent building is frosted with a lacy white rail that stands out against the dark red of the bricks, and offers a contrast to the severe facade of the other building. Together they form a landmark in the town.

Bernard was another educator, who taught after the Civil War. GOVERNMENT CENTER

Opelousas was an important center of government from the beginning of the establishment of the territory. Government and politics were concentrated at this spot. The State Land Office was located in Opelousas for many years, and this was one of the four places where court was held up until the year 1898, the other three being Natchitoches, New Orleans, and Alexandria.

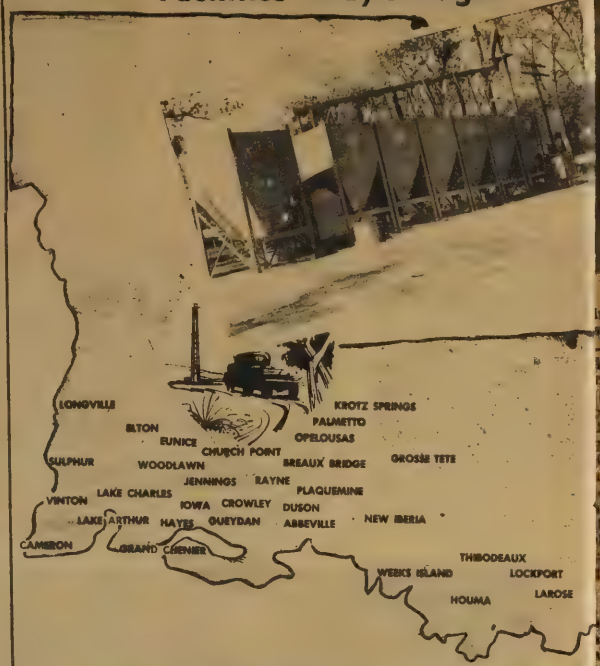
Many interesting cases were brought to court in Opelousas, and the practice of law has always been held in very high esteem. Many prominent officials of the state were residents of St. Landry Parish, and its judges were distinguished for their brilliance; its lawyers for their oratory and wit.

The first session of the legislative council of Louisiana was held in December, 1804, and it divided the Orleans territory into twelve parishes, Opelousas being one of these. The large territory then comprising St. Landry has since been divided into other parishes, giving St. Landry the name "Mother of Parishes".

Calcasieu, Acadia, Evangeline, Jeff Davis, Beauregard, and Allen have been formed from this territory.

The governing body of the parish was the police jury, which was first organized on July 16, 1811. The members were, and still are, elected by popular vote. The parish was

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 Roy Leblanc, Warehouseman  
 OPELOUSAS, LA.

## 49 Years Of Civic, Charitable And Social Activities For The Betterment Of Our Community



Elks Home 1955

During the roaring twenties the Opelousas Lodge played a most prominent part in the social life of the parish. A building had been purchased at the site where Abdalla's Furniture store now stands and a multi-storied building was soon erected. Many St. Landry old timers will recall the glorious socials sponsored by the local Elks Lodge.

The present location and edifice which serves as the Elks home was purchased by the Lodge in 1946 and has been improved since that time so that it includes a game room, kitchen, Lodge room and billiard facilities.

The Opelousas Lodge of Elks has throughout its fascinating history been known primarily as a charitable organization forever willing to sponsor and contribute to the less fortunate among us.

### Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks Opelousas Lodge No. 1048

210 S. Union Phone 2341

No history of St. Landry parish would be complete without prominent mention of the colorful part played by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Opelousas Lodge No. 1048. The records indicate that on 20th September, 1906, a pension was granted by the Grand Lodge of Elks whereby "Phil Asher, Dossmann, M. L. Swords, R. L. Walker and four others," all themselves members New Iberia Lodge No. 554, were permitted to assemble without a charter here Opelousas. Thereafter the Grand Lodge did, in regular session, on July 17, grant a charter entitling the membership of the Opelousas group to operate a subordinate Lodge in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Twenty names appeared on the original charter many of whom would be readily recognized by the citizenry of Opelousas and St. Landry parish.



CHAIR OFFICERS, BPOE 1048 for 1955-56: Left to right—Kenneth Desha Esquire; Jack Wozsack, Loyal Knight; H. B. Dejean, Jr., Exalted Ruler; O. H. Clelland, Leading Knight; Harry Garland, Lecturing Knight.





SPORTS - and the Sport of Kings -- "Bee" Boagni and Arthur Comeau, posed in a racing trap with a high-bred horse under the reins. This style of rig is still used at horse shows to demonstrate the ultimate control of a horse in harness.

originally divided and laid out in wards, according to the boundaries of the old militia companies.

Members of the police jury meet in Opelousas on the first Monday and Tuesday of each month to conduct the business of the parish, as they have done from early days. The president is elected by the members from their group, and has the power to call special meetings when necessary. Members receive a per diem rate for their compensation. Other parish officials were the judge, district attorney, sheriff, assessor, clerk of court, coroner, state senator and members of the legislature. Individual towns were governed by a mayor and a board of aldermen, elected by the people according to wards. The larger towns had a police force, headed by a chief of police.

Politics and government were always centered at Opelousas, and many interesting political campaigns have made the town from its early beginnings one of the political hotbeds of Louisiana politics.

**LIBRARY POLITICS**

Politics in St. Landry, as aforementioned, has always been fiery.

Among interesting documents that exist today which testify to this are a pair of little paper-bound booklets. One is titled "the Horse Race," and parallels a political campaign of the day. Sub-titled the "Grand Four - Mile Race", Purse \$10,000, it gives the names of the two entries, their trainers, and their riders.

This bit of satire was followed shortly by a much longer one bearing the title of "Hi-Fa-Lu-Ti," and was printed, complete in one volume (First and only edition of 100,000 copies) by "Pilgarcic Freres," in 1857.

"Hi-Fa-Lu-Ti" is quite a document, with the then prominent persons represented named and thinly disguised, by pseudonyms. The scene is laid in "Hing Landri," and opens with the description, none too flattering, of one of the political groups in St. Landry. The Oriental names conceal, to all but those "in the know," the identity of the players who met out the drama.

When "Hi-Fa-Lu-Ti" came out, those who were lampooned in it promptly bought up and destroyed all of the copies on which they could lay their hands. At present there is only one known original, from which a number of copies were made in recent years. The writer of this literary flight was never really known, although several people were named as suspects.

**WAR BETWEEN THE STATES**

Shortly after the publishing of this, St. Landry Parish had other more serious prob-

# Where Your Famous ANDREPONT Milk-Fed Fryers Are Grown 50,000 Capacity



1939 - Brown's Home Appliances



Featuring  
The Finest in famous name  
furniture and appliances

# BROWN'S

N. Main Opelousas

Brown's Furniture Store had its beginning in April 1939 when Mr. T. G. Brown, late father of Herbert Brown, opened Brown's Home Appliance on West Landry street. Robert P. Walker, Sr., was active with Mr. Brown in the business and in 1940, Brown's moved uptown to the present location of Olga's Beauty Shop. After the death of his father, Herbert bought out the Davis Furniture Store on South Main Street in September 1942 and has operated it with his mother, Mrs. T. G. Brown, and Robert Walker, Jr. Still in the same location, Brown's Furniture Store is one of the largest and most complete furniture and appliance stores in Southwest Louisiana. In 1952 the store was extended a block deep from Main through Union streets and was completely modernized and air-conditioned.



1955 - Brown's Furniture Store





**SPONSOR AND MAIDS OF HONOR** of Opelousas' "Robert E. Lee Camp, United Confederate Veterans No. 14," in the year 1896, were depicted in the St. Landry Trade Review of that year. Sponsor was Miss Sallie Long Prescott, center in diamond, daughter of Capt. L. D. Prescott, Co. A, 2nd. La. Cavalry, commander of the veterans' organization here. Others, starting top center and going clockwise, were: Blanche LaCombe, daughter of Aus in LaCombe, proprietor of the then LaCombe Hotel; Annie Pearl Harmanson, daughter of Dr. A. D. Harmonson; Mattie T. Anderson, daughter of A. B. Anderson, who was also in Co. A; May Sandoz, daughter of Col. Leonce Sandoz, who fought with Lee's army and in all of the major Louisiana engagements; Mabel Ogden, daughter of attorney John M. Ogden; one time district attorney here; Leah Braud, daughter of J. C. Braud of Donaldsonville; Sidney A. Derbanne, daughter of Dr. J. A. Derbanne of Washington, a pioneer dentist and Confederate soldier.

The R. E. Lee Camp No. 14, UCV, was organized here in 1889, composed of Confederate veterans. Its officers were:

Commander, L. D. Prescott; 1st Lt., J. N. Ogden; 2nd Lt., C. W. DuRoy; 3rd Lt., Ozeme Fontenot; 4th Lt., E. Sumter Taylor; adjutant, B. Bloomfield; Quartermaster, J. L. Chachere; Surgeon, Dr. Theogene Chachere; Asst. Surgeon, Dr. A. E. Arnold; Chaplain, the Rev. T. R. Carroll Sr.; Officer of the Day, Wm. R. Cochran; Sergeant-Major, David Higginbotham; Vidette, Emile Poirer; Color Sergeant, Art. Simon; Color Guards, Ben. Fontenot and Azenor Durio; Secretary-Treasurer, Leonce Sandoz; Commissary, Sam. Haas. There were 146 members in 1896.

lems -- the War Between the States. This led to a general upheaval of economic, social, and political life in the Parish.

Camp Hamilton was established on what is the Boagni plantation, north of the overpass on the new Port Barre road. From the camp issued large-scale Confederate operations.

Although no major battles were fought here, several took place in the vicinity, notably near Chretien point. General Banks was at one time quartered around here, and used several of the larger local homes for his officers and himself. One of these has since been demolished ... the old Sandoz home, which had since been given to the church for use



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**K-C STEAKS      SEAFOODS OF ALL KINDS**

**BARBECUED AND FRIED CHICKEN**

**REGULAR DINNERS DAILY**

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**OPELOUSAS, LA.**



Tribute To  
**St. Landry Parish**  
**On Its 150th Anniversary**

Southern Six Drilling Company is proud to share in the wonderful progress of so great an area!

Southern Six Drilling Company, Land and Marine Drilling Contractors was organized in 1944 with offices in Baton Rouge, La. In 1952 the Company moved to Opelousas and is presently located at 310 East Bellevue Street.

## SOUTHERN SIX DRILLING CO., Inc.

Oil Well Drilling Contractors

Telephone 3592

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Opelousas, La.





AN EXCURSION, popular form of diversion. This was in July or August, 1908.



It was an occasion for rejoicing in that pioneer Illinois village the day in 1837 when John Deere's "self-polisher" first shed the rich prairie soil. It was to become known as the world's first successful steel plow.



Today's John Deere leaders are *truss-frame* plows, a full line designed throughout for greater strength and clearance. These husky plows are available both in tractor-drawn types and for "pick up and go" fully integral operation.

### Hollier Implement Co.

OPELOUSAS, LA.

Eunice Road

Phone 4528



of a colored school, a donation made by the widow of J.B. Sandoz. In Washington, a story is told of how some of the men slipped into town one night and tore all of the planks off the bridge, so that when the Union soldiers came to cross the bayou they had to rebuild it before they could cross. Some of the Union soldiers liked the locale so well that they stayed on after the war, and among their descendants are numbered some of our present-day Southerners.

**NEGROES VOTE**  
After the Civil war's end the Negroes in St. Landry Parish were registered and allowed to vote for the first time, and a large number of Indians also voted. In 1896 was the last election at which negroes voted in the Parish until their recent re-registration.

An interesting account of politics in St. Landry was written by the late Judge Gilbert L. Dupre, and contains many sidelights on local affairs. It is of particular note that many of the names in politics have continued to this day, with a rather startling similarity in the officeholders of this and past generations.

Seventy-five years ago the names prominent in affairs of the parish were Dupre, Lewis, Garland, Guidrey, Duson, Thompson, Anderson, Estilette, Estorge, Pavy, Ganti, Chachere, Haug, Ferrodin, Desmarais, Hayes, King, Porter, Vidrine, Fontenot, Garrigues, Lasrapas, Dubuisson, Perry, Deshotels, Daly, Swords, Truman, Bailey, Robin, Thibodaux, Joreau, Prescott, Andrus, Lafleur.

Many of the names of judges and office-holders of the parish have come down to us through hearsay, as well-known orators and brilliant logicians. Famous among these were Judges Perrault, John E. King, Joseph H. Moore, J.H. Overton, John J. Morgan, James M. Porter, E.T. Lewis, William Murray, Henry Adams Bullard, Lucius J. Dupre, Amedee Martel, Adolphe Garrigues, Henry L. Garland, George W. Hudspeth, Alfred Pavy, and many others.

In the twentieth century, Judge B.H. Pavy and District Attorney R.L. Garland served from the turn of the century for four decades.

**PARISH IS LARGE**  
The parish now contains 598,400 acres. It is well-defined in the difference of its land. On the west is an open prairie, and running down from north of Washington to below Grand Coteau is a high bluff or uplift of land known as the Grand Coteau ridge. East of this begins the great Atchafalaya swamp, many acres of low woodland, some of which has been



1037 WEST VINE

**THE HOUSE OF FLOWERS**, serving Opelousas from two locations, 1037 West Vine Street and the J. W. Low Arcade — owned and operated by Jule and Kenneth Smith and Paul Boagni, Jr. — was the first flower shop opened in Opelousas. Originally owned and operated by Kermit Stelly under the name of Stelly's Flower Shop, it was purchased by its present owners February 20, 1947. In November 1951, the downtown branch of the House of Flowers had its formal opening, presenting Opelousas with new and unusual lines of gifts, china and glassware as well as the finest in cut flowers and potted plants. The House of Flowers is a member of Florist Telegraph Delivery (Worldwide), Louisiana Horticultural Association and the Opelousas Association of Commerce.



J. W. LOW ARCADE



cleared and drained.

By the beginning of the eighteenth century navigation was well established from Port Washington and Port Barre, with water routes through the Bayous Courtableau and Teche to the Atchafalaya and thence to New Orleans. The Bayou Courtableau was first called the Opelousas river, later taking its name from prominent plantation owners along its banks. In some sections it was called Bayou Grand Louis (after Grand Louis Fontenot) and again Bayou Courtableau after Jacques Courtableau. Bayou Carron was named for the Carron family. Bayou Teche was sometimes spelled "Tash".

In 1826 there is recorded a legislative act granting certain privileges to the Opelousas Steamboat Company which was composed of George King, Garrigues Flaugéac, Benoit Vanhille, Eljakim Lillie, and Stephen W. Wikoff. The act gave them "Authority to establish, keep and maintain a steamboat and ferry from Bayou Plaquemine in the parish of Iberville through the usual route of the Grand River, Atchafalaya and the River Opelousas or Courtableau to the junction of the Bayous Crocodile and Boeuf."

Steamboats thus came as far inland as the junction of what we now call "Cocodrie" (Crocodile) and Boeuf, which flow together to make Courtableau.

At this last steamboat landing, products were loaded on barges, and towed farther up the bayous by mules.

WASHINGTON PORT GREW

A great volume of business was carried on by this water route, and Washington soon developed into the chief shipping port in Southwestern Louisiana. Large warehouses were built all along the bayous, and when Washington was granted its town charter on March 31, 1895, it was a thriving town.

Unique among the towns of St. Landry, Washington has preserved its old homes and buildings to an astounding degree, and the greater part of the standing structures in the town is over 100 years old. Many historic buildings were destroyed by fire that raged through the Main street of the town.

Individual structures in the town will be discussed in greater detail elsewhere in this story, but suffice it to say here that Washington has a number of remarkable and interesting buildings.

OPELOUSAS WAS CAPITOL

During the War between the States Opelousas was for a short time the State Capitol, when Federal forces captured Baton Rouge in 1863. The seat of government was moved to the old LaCombe Hotel, which stood between the present LaCombe building (housing the New Drug Store) and the Federal building, and post office on Court st, opposite the court house square.

State records and officials were moved to the hotel, and Governor Allen visited at the home of Homere Mouton, then Lieutenant-governor of the state. The Mouton home still stands on the corner of Grolee and Liberty, and old-timers still call it the "Governor's Mansion".

Later the state officials moved to Shreveport, where they remained till the war's end.

RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD

The reconstruction period in St. Landry was a turbulent one, marked with strife, bitterness, and riots, with the great majority of the families impoverished by war, their homes overrun by invading armies, carpetbaggers and scalawags stirring up racial conflicts.

In 1868 occurred a general riot, when the editor of the St. Landry Progress printed inflammatory articles, and was horsewhipped by local citizens. Rumor spread that he had been killed, and a considerable disturbance resulted in the unfortunate death of a number of local citizens. The short-lived newspaper (one year) came to an abrupt end, its type and presses thrown in the Tesson. The site of the Progress was on the southwest corner of Main and Littell.

Just across the street was the beginning of one of Opelousas oldest business establishments -- the blacksmith shop of J.B. Sandoz, which developed into the modern store that recently celebrated seventy-five years of existence.

RAILROADS

The New Orleans, Opelousas and Great-Western was the first railroad to be constructed in the parish. The roadbed was laid into the parish about 1850, but the train was never operated. Morgan's Louisiana and Texas Railroad came into Opelousas in 1882. This was followed by the Opelousas Gulf and Northeastern, which later became part of the Texas and Pacific, running through Opelousas to Crowley in 1907. In 1909 the New Orleans,

Crop Dusting  
Rice Seeding  
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Cotton Dusting  
Spraying - Defoliating  
Pasture Seeding, Fertiliz



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IN THE AIR



Foshee Dusting Co., Inc.

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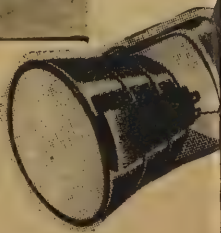
Airplane Rentals - Flight Instruct

1948



1955

Main Motors was organized in 1948 on North Main St., with five employees, including Mr. Osie Bordelon, the present owner. In June, 1949 we moved into the above building and have grown to a staff of nineteen employees.



MAIN MOTORS

LINCOLN-MERCURY DEALER - SALES AND SERVICE  
OPELOUSAS, LA.

PHONE 6546

730 W. LANDRY ST.



id Mexcio Railroad extended its route through Opelousas to Texas.

first actual bank in St. Landry parish was located at the home of Lastie Dupre, in Ronde. This was a private one-man brick-vault, where the wealthy planter aced his many friends by allowing them to place their bags of money for safe-

This small brick structure is still standing in front of the old house, which has been remodeled.

first official bank in St. Landry was built around 1850, operating until 1862. It was on the square south of the courthouse in Opelousas. From 1862 until 1890, when Landry Bank was organized, the parish had no bank.

In 1862 the parish courthouse at Opelousas was destroyed by fire, and many valuable and documents were lost. At this time the question of rebuilding the court- to a heated contest between Opelousas and Washington, which demanded that ish seat to be moved to the latter town. The question was put to a formal vote, rited political contest ensued. In 1898 a referendum was held, the voting favor- opousas, and a new courthouse was built on the site of the original edifice. In 1938 landmark was replaced by a modern structure.

ederal courthouse and posthouse were erected in 1893, the present red brick build- ings from the square.

AND BUGGY DAYS

end of the nineteenth century, steamboat traffic was being gradually replaced by road, and several highways had been built. By present standards they were scarce- ly called "highways", but were fairly good. These were the horse and buggy days, the enge the whole town might turn out to see the train come in at the "depot." men wore high silk hats and cutaway coats with their striped trousers. A gentle- is judged by his ability to ride horseback, drink and play poker. Ladies skirted is floors, and little boys wore long curls and velvet suits.

as steamboat era declined, so did the prosperity of the two St. Landry ports of erson and Port Barre. New towns were springing up - Curly Duson, one of the out- personalities of his times had laid out a new town to the west "Eunice." M" was promoted by Mr. J.G. Lawler and Littell. "Cankton" was renamed in of Dr. Cank Guidrey from the old settlement of "Coulee Croche". "Sunset" up at a railroad crossing, and soon began to outgrow the older village of "Grand " that had built up around the schools for which it is so well known.

esting to note at this point are the towns of Leonville and Arnaudville, which are sit- in historic Bayou Teche.

ville began as a settlement of "free men of color", the principal families being melles, the Auzemes, Rideaux, and the Frilots. In several old sections of Louisi- ainly Natchitoches, Opelousas, there are still to be found very close-knit groups a very light-skinned families, who were descended from some of the earliest colonists of Louisiana who had intermingled with their mulatto slaves.

offsprings of these unions were in many cases freed, and given lands by their owners. Some were educated, and became free-born owners of large planta- owning slaves themselves. They did not mix with the black Negroes, and inter- ed -- creating a separate group of very light-skinned, often blue-eyed and fair- people.

VILLE QUIET TOWN

the village of Leonville grew on the bayou, the settlements of the "free men of moved away into more isolated sections, where they in some cases continue to y. Leonville became a quiet little bayou town, settled by French speaking Creol- Acadians, with several German and English families.

of these families became so closely associated through marriage with the French ay became "French" themselves. The Wybles, Speyers, Schaeffers, Meyers pical. We find Fitzgeralds speaking fluent French today, and pronouncing their "Fee-jay-rah". Stehle became "Stelly".

village of Leonville obtained its name from that of its Catholic church, which was the same "St. Leon" by the first pastor, Rev. Leon Mailluchet. He built the first in 1898, which is presently used as the rectory. Leonville was a mission station Port Barre, where he resided. He was buried in Leonville in 1914.

second pastor, Rev. Eugene Livorel, came to Leonville in 1907, and remained until He built the second church, and remodeled the first church into a home for the Upper windows in the attic are still paneled with stained glass from the days when

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**St. Landry  
Parish  
and entire  
South**

over  
20  
years

**Louisiana  
Advertising  
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**OPELOUSAS**

1936

1955



**K. Jennings Commission Barn, one of the oldest sales barns for cattle and hogs in the state, prides itself on obtaining full market prices for their customers at all times and invites every farmer in St. Landry and other parishes to market their cattle and hogs through their sales barn.**

**We are proud of St. Landry parish and glad to be a part of the history and progress of it.**

**Eunice Hwy.  
U. S. 190**

**Opelousas  
Phone 4963**





CIVIL WAR DOCTOR'S KIT is owned by Mrs. S. B. Wolff of Opelousas. It's a frighter, looking more like a woodworker's outfit than tools to use on human beings. The kit, manufactured in 1854, was the property of the late Dr. T. L. Todd, who practiced in Washington. It is beautifully and sturdily built, and lined with red velvet. There are two saws, a large one for big bones and a smaller one for little bones. There are several pliers in different sizes, made just like ordinary mechanic pliers, several tweezers of different sizes and shapes, a tourniquet with metal tighteners (rolled up at left), and several empty slots evidently designed to hold scalpels and probes. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

the house was a church.

Successive pastors were Fathers Cambiere, Gelabert, Charles and LaChapelle. The present pastor is Father Alfred Gaudet, who has recently erected a new church at the side of the old, which is soon to be demolished. Thus the old and the new stand side-by-side.

During the last few decades Leonville has become a prominent sweet potato shipping and packing center, with some of the richest land in the parish producing record crops.

By the end of the nineteenth century the Indian was vanishing indeed, for all that was left of the Opelousas tribe were a few scattered families here and there, some half-breeds. There is little left to remember them by save the name of the town. At Moundville, between Grand Prairie and Washington, there are still a few Indian mounds on Bayou Courtableau.

On Bayou Rouge, near the Atchafalaya, are several large and impressive mounds. Several decades ago, at Goldust, there were a few Indians who had retained the ancient art of basketry, and many examples of their art were collected by a local citizen. Occasionally we find arrowheads and other artifacts of their civilization. All that is left of the once great Opelousas tribe is their name.

When the early settlers came, they found the Indians cultivating corn and tobacco. Since then the planting of tobacco has long been a thing of the past.

Early crops were corn, rice, tobacco, cotton and sweet potatoes. At one time it was thought feasible to grow silk here, and a great many mulberry trees were planted in an attempt to establish a silk industry. Cane developed into an important crop. Wheat was grown on a number of plantations in St. Landry. The raising of cattle and hogs became an important part of the economy of the parish, and as time passed, less cattle were raised, more crops cultivated as the land was gradually made ready. During the twentieth century the raising of cattle returned to prominence, beginning a new cycle.

LUMBER INDUSTRY

The lumber industry was a large one in St. Landry, and a number of sawmills have been established in the woodlands of the parish. Several large lumberyards are located in Palmeto, Opelousas, LeMoine, and Eunice. In the past there were large yards in Washington, Pine Prairie, Ville Platte, and many other sections that are no longer within the boundaries of the parish.

Small "one-horse" sawmills were the pioneers of this industry. "One-horse" syrup mills pioneered the present day large establishments located in Washington, Rosa, Leonville. Open kettle syrup is still made in the parish, the like of which has never been equalled. "La Cuite", syrup cooked to the consistency of taffy, was made up to the last decade in Washington, and is remembered with nostalgia by those who once tasted this old-time treat.

# Who Was St. Landry?

A contemporary of the do-nothing King Clovis II, Landry succeeded Audebert as Bishop of Paris in the year 650. He was so good-hearted that he could refuse nothing to the sick or poor.

During a time of famine he pawned his best furniture and some of the sacred vessels to feed the needy; therefore he is usually shown with a basket in his hand distributing bread to the starving.

Certain ancient traditions attribute to him the founding of the Hotel Dieu in Paris; his statue formerly adorned it, as it still adorns the facade of St. Germain of Auxerre.

Landry ordered Marculp to prepare a register of those acts of the chancery by which, at that time, privileges were granted to the monasteries; this monk dedicated his work to him, and it is apparently a register of Marculp's which the Bishop used in 652 to exempt the new abbey of St. Denis from the episcopal jurisdiction.

It seems that even after his death our saint did not like irreverence shown in the house of God. The bell-ringer of St. Germain of Auxerre, to while away the time, had played dice in the church. The following night Landry appeared to him, a whip in his hand, and so soundly beat the bell-ringer that his skin showed marks for a long time.--from "The Lives of the Saints" by Omer Englebert.

RACE TRACK OPENS

A new race track for St. Landry parish, the Washington and Opelousas Race Track, being located between and three miles from the two towns, was opened by Sol. Harman on Dec. 29, 1853. The first day's purse was for \$100, put up by the proprietor, plus \$10 entrance fee for each horse.

AN ADVERTISEMENT

"A RUNAWAY IN JAIL --- WAS committed into the Prison of the Parish of St. Landry on the 10th of November inst., a negro man calling himself Ralph or Raphael, and saying he belongs to Mr. Thomas Compton, residing about 5 miles north of Pattersonville.

"This boy is of a griffe color, 5 feet 9 inches high, spare made, and speaking English only. He had in his possession when taken up a brown pony with saddle and bridle.

"The owner is requested to come forward and prove property, pay charges, and take him away otherwise he will be disposed of according to law.

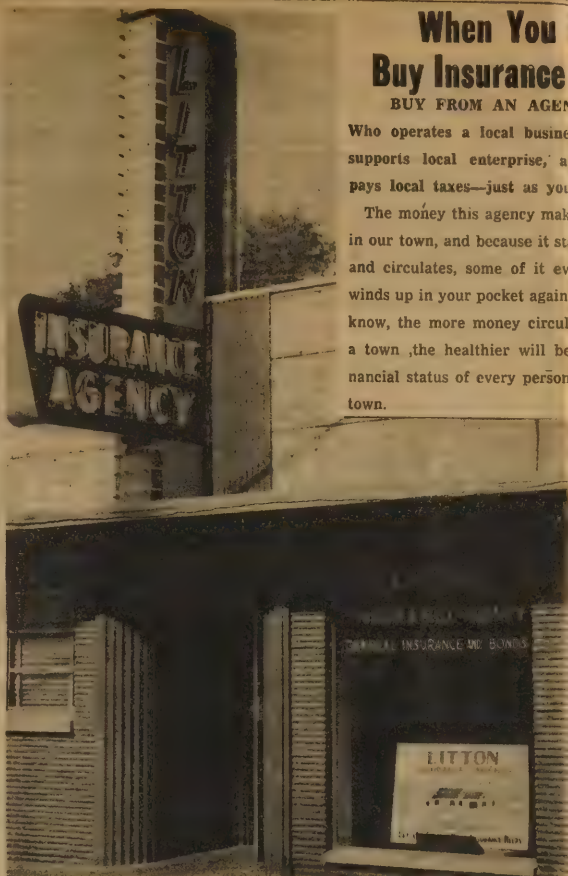
"CHS. THOMPSON, Jailor.  
"Opelousas, Nov. 19th, 1853."  
(As advertised in The Opelousas Courier  
Of Dec. 10, 1853)

TRANSPORTATION CENTURY AGO

There were two principal means of going from St. Landry parish to New Orleans in 1850:

A combination stage and boat line began at Washington, went by stagecoach to New Iberia, then by steamboat to Franklin ("Opelousas to Franklin in 18 hours!" read the advertisement in The Opelousas Courier) Pattersonville, to Berwick's Bay and through Lake Verret to Donaldsonville. There, passengers transferred to river mail boats for New Orleans.

The other route was to take the steamboat Opelousas, at Washington, Sundays at 10 a.m. The steamer left New Orleans on Thursdays at noon, arriving at Washington Fridays at 5 p.m. Fridays. Master of the boat was O. Hinckley.



## When You Buy Insurance

BUY FROM AN AGENCY

Who operates a local business supports local enterprise; and pays local taxes—just as you.

The money this agency makes in our town, and because it stays and circulates, some of it eventually winds up in your pocket again. Know, the more money circulates in a town, the healthier will be the financial status of every person in town.

**LITTON**  
**INSURANCE AGENCY**  
223 S. Court St. Opelousas, La.



The above station was purchased by Mr. Thibodeaux January, 1953



Left to right: owner and employees—Aaron Thibodeaux, U. J. Meche, G. Vidrine, Rodney Carroll, Nath Semien, Simon Doucet.

## THIBODEAUX'S TEXACO SERVICE

Aaron Thibodeaux, owner  
B. F. Goodrich Tires and Tubes Motorola Television Sets  
Phone 2177 OPELOUSAS, LA. 311 East Landry



# Marriage Contracts Were Custom Beside Ceremonies

*M. Rousseau, Marie Gradenigo*  
*Marie Rousseau*  
*Leone Bollog*  
*M. Durand*  
*Marye de Danie*  
*Maryuitt Krob Gradenigo*  
*Le chef de la Société*

avec e vous commandant out signé  
 a vingt cinquieme jour du mois de novembre  
 de l'année mil e sept cent quatre vingt onze  
 marque du e<sup>me</sup> } marque du e<sup>me</sup>  
 pierre Joubert } Louis Fontenot }  
 marque de Blaine } marque de Blaine }  
 Catherine Fetre } + }  
 Marie Jeanne Blignac } Marie Joubert }  
 + }  
 Louis Guillois }  
 F. Fontenot } F. Munoz }  
 N. J. Stall }  
 1811



MARRIAGE CONTRACTS were the custom of Opelousas Country in the 18th and early centuries, in addition to the church ceremonies. The archives of the clerk of the court in the attic of the court house here, contain many files of such contracts. In them, the parties in the marriage lists properties and dowries. All are written in French. Some are reproduced the signatures of the members of several prominent dowry-settling families, selected at random from the early files:  
 DECEMBER 30, 1786—Marriage contract between M. Veolian Rousseau and Dele Marie Gradenigo.  
 FEBRUARY 25, 1791—Marriage contract between M. Louis Fontenot and Dlle. Marie Fontenot.  
 In each contract the parties listed their assets through the grandparents on either side, whether they were legitimate children or not, their birth places, the names of their witnesses, and, if minors, "curators." They made various promises, including to wed in the Roman church, to put

each other's movable and immovable property into the family community, and each listed their holdings.  
 In the Fontenot-Joubert marriage, the future spouse listed property worth a total of \$998.6 piastres, including a Negro named Charles worth \$493.6, a total of 40 head of cattle worth 175 piastres, three riding horses and five mares worth 80, forty arpents of land worth 50. The future husband contributed 70 piastres in cash given by his father, from the sale of 10 female cattle; a milk cow and two carriage horses, worth together 30 piastres, and furnishings worth 120, for a total of 220 piastres.  
 In the Rousseau-Gradenigo marriage the young woman contributed seven slaves worth 5,000 piastres; a home at Natchitoches on four arpents of land worth 1,500; 25 arpents of land at Vermilion in the Attakapas post, worth 2,000, for a total of 8,500 piastres.  
 The future husband contributed a Negro named Sophie aged 6 years, worth 400 piastres; and furnishings worth 2,000, for a total of 2,400 piastres.

EIGHT PROMINENT OPELOUSAS residents at the turn of the century, as depicted in the Clarion newspaper, in a special edition, are shown here. From top to bottom, left and right, Judge Gilbert L. Dupre, Capt. L. D. Prescott, John J. Healey, Col. Leonce Sandoz, Patrick Cosgrove, J. W. Allen, A. C. Skiles and Prof. A. W. Bittle.



# Estorge Home, Opelousas

# Intrepid Pioneer Woman

By FRANK J. DIETLEIN, JR.



One of the lovely old homes in Opelousas is the Estorge home on North Market at Bloch Sts. Built by slave labor well over a hundred years ago, it has been in the hands of the family since its erection. It was built by Pierre Labyche, great-grandfather of the present owners.

The two-and-a-half story brick and weatherboarded home is an unusual style in this section. The central portico is a typical Greek revival pediment, of which we have very few examples hereabouts. Beautifully proportioned classis Doric columns support the pediment on upper and lower floor galleries. Unusually fine door and window shutters all have the original hardware. The shutters are paneled, which is another unusual feature.

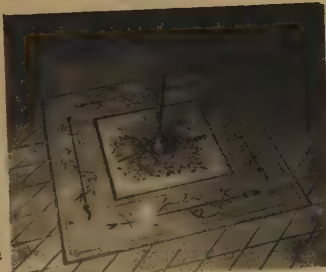
The interior has a central hall with nice staircase, and the walls once had a mural of "Washington crossing the Delaware". The hall ceilings still retain the odd "Trompe d'oeil" (trick of the eye) painting, as does the living room, of which we have a detail photograph showing a design painted around the light fixture. The effect given by the painting is of a paneled ceiling with bevelled edges. The ceiling is actually of wide cypress planks with a small beaded edge typical of this era.

Another house in this area probably painted at the same time is the old Gibson home in Washington, on Bayou Courtableau. It was very likely executed by the same artist.

Many of the original antiques are still placed in the Estorge home, which has fine marble and carved wood mantels, pier mirrors, and charming pieces of furniture that have been handed down from one generation to the next.

The garden of the Estorge home is particularly nice, with a long and uncluttered approach to the house, which is set back from the street.

Henry Etienne Estorge married Aline Marie Robin, who was a daughter of Auguste Ro-



"TROMPE D'OEIL" ceiling in old Estorge home in Opelousas. (Daily World Photo, by Deville).

bin and Therese Labyche (daughter of the original builder of the home). The children of Henry Estorge and Aline Robin are: Julia, Mathilde, Minnie (the late Mrs. Charles Carstensen of New Iberia), Nita (Mrs. John Catlett of Crowley), Alice (D. - never married) Louise, Henriethel (Mrs. Frank Sibille of Sunset), Aline (Mrs. J. H. McMillan of Gramercy), and the late Edward Estorge (who married Margaret 'Pud' Lewis).

Mr. Henry Estorge was the Clerk of Court of St. Landry for many years, and in the latter part of his life went into the insurance business (Estorge and Dunbar) which later became his son's.

Miss Mathilde Estorge and Miss Louise Estorge live in the old family home. "Miss Mat" retired last year after teaching in the Opelousas High School for 45 years. Miss Louise has taught for many years at the Opelousas Elementary School, where she is still serving as instructor. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

### LOW WATER

In January 1854, the water in Bayou Courtableau was so low that no steamboat could get within 40 miles of Washington. As a consequence, warehouses at Washington and Barry's Landing (Port Barre) were so full they could receive no more goods. There were more than 1,500 hogsheads of sugar, 2,500 bales of cotton and much molasses and other produce awaiting shipment. It was the first year in memory of the then oldest resident that the water rise was so late.

### WAXIA BRIDGE, FIRST IN STATE

A drawbridge built over Bayou Courtableau at the mouth of Bayou Waxia by John Lyons, bridge builder, completed in February 1854, was reported to be the first of its design built in the state. Although 130 feet long and 65 feet wide, one man could pivot it easily.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, John Posey was the druggist in Opelousas, and called his apothecary at Main and Landry streets "The Medicine Depot."

METHODIST MINISTER appointed to Opelousas 100 years ago -- for 1854, to be exact -- was P. M. Goodwyn. Rider of the Chicot and Opelousas circuit was A. E. Goodwyn.

"AN IMPORTANT PUBLICATION" said the Opelousas Courier on Dec. 24, 1853, of a pamphlet published in New Orleans containing a list of all the burials there from May 1 to Nov. 1, 1853, with names, ages, places of nativity and of interment given for all persons. Price, 50 cents. It will be bought by thousands in Louisiana seeking to learn the fate of relatives and friends during the fearsome yellow fever outbreak that killed thousands in New Orleans that year.

The courage and intrepidity of a young German mother some 110 years ago is an interesting story that affects many St. Landry parish families now living in this area.

Margaret Burkhardt Christman was 25 years old when she bundled up her three daughters and boarded the Nancy Hawks, a schooner, at LaHarve France, and made her journey to the United States to join her husband at New Orleans.

Her husband, Jacob Christman, and his 14 year old son had arrived in New Orleans in the year 1830. A year later they had moved to Opelousas, where Jacob Christman and his son established the first bakery in the town. Jacob, a native of Dahn, Germany, had left his native country to seek his fortunes in America in the year 1828. After establishing himself in Opelousas and prospering he immediately sent for his wife and three daughters.

The courageous Margaret Christman, with daughters Katherine, Eve and Mary Ann, aged 2, 4 and 6 years, secured passage on the American schooner Nancy Hawks, bound for the west Indies and New Orleans.

After a stormy voyage that lasted some 93 days, in which the schooner ran out of drinking water, Margaret arrived in New Orleans and was met by her husband and her son Antoine.

The Christmans at the time of Margaret's arrival in America had their residence and bakery on what is now North Main street and in the vicinity of Bordelon's garage.

After their arrival, another son Jacob, Jr., was born, and when he was 17 years old he operated the first livery stable in Opelousas. During the Civil War, the federal forces of General Banks confiscated most of his fine blooded horses during their occupancy of Opelousas. Jacob, Jr., died at the age of 22.

The eldest boy, Antoine, married a Miss Malvina Banguerel and from this union came five girls and 2 boys.

The girls were Mrs. T. B. "Aunt" Fannie Bowden, still living at the age of 96; Mrs. L. R. Deputy; Mrs. A. J. Manouvrier, the mother of Antoine Manouvrier; Mrs. A. S. Chappuis, who died last year in Rayne, the late Mrs. A. C. Poulet, the mother of Mrs. J. P. Barnett, Louis T. Poulet, Mrs. Dunbar Wilkins, and Avie Bordelon, all now living here, R. E.



AN OPELOUSAS CHILD of bygone days. This is Frank (Frankie) Dietlein Jr.

Christman, the father of Earl and Christman, and Abraham Christman, still living in Lake Charles.

Mary Ann Christman, the second child married a German boy, Christ Dietlein. Her only living child is Frank Sr., who resides in Opelousas.

Her daughter Alice married Edward Boagni, and another daughter was married to Joseph Eckart. Two sons, Anthony and another, are now deceased.

The third child, Eve, married George Ford, and their descendants include L. Pulford, vice president of the Planter's Mrs. Marion Childs, Mrs. H. O. "Tom" Lauman, both living here.

The fourth child, Katherine, married Leer and resided in Washington. Their descendants today include Mrs. Gus Baulica, who was the former Byrl Lee and Mrs. John Fitzpatrick of Bayou



D. ROOS and Sons---pioneer merchants of St. Landry parish, erected this store 1892 at Main and Bellevue sts.

# Roos & Sons, Merchants

One of the large buildings of its time was the general mercantile store of D. Roos and Sons, built in 1892 by this pioneer merchant of Opelousas. Still standing on the corner of Main and Bellevue, it is now in use as Morgan and Lindsay's, and has been remodeled several times. Of recent years an extension has been added at the rear, but the original framework of the building is substantially the same.

David Roos was a native of Alsace-Lorraine, and came to this country during the Civil War, beginning as a peddler, later as a small store-keeper. His large brick building was erected in 1892, and served as a wholesale and retail house for many miles around. Small shopkeepers from all over the large St. Landry Parish came to D. Roos's Store for supplies.

Mr. Roos spoke five languages -

French, German, Hebrew, Spanish and English. His wife was Marks, also a native of Alsace. Children were Henry, Leon, Charles, Jonas, Isaac, Jeanette, and Mary. Many descendants still reside in the town, where they are numbered among the prominent citizens of the community. One member of the family in Opelousas has retained the mercantile business - Leonce Roos, son of Roos, who for many years had at the location of the present Furniture on Main and North Main next block Mr. Roos has a large antique shop, and nearby a clothing office.

Leon S. Haas, son of Mark and Leon Haas is a member of St. Landry Bar, another son who has followed his father as a peddler.



# We Are Proud

OF OUR TWO YEARS OF PROGRESS WITH  
ST. LANDRY PARISH



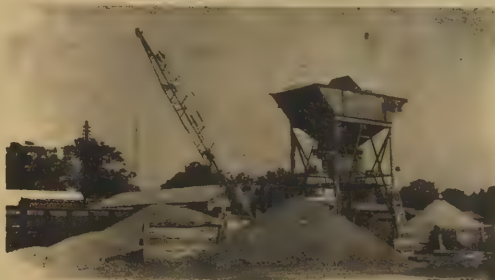
### PLANT, EQUIPMENT & PERSONNEL

Standing are Harry Thomas, Bookkeeper; Onezime Guillory, Mechanic; Paul Mayne, Manager; Front Row are Gene Truille & Dudley Quibadeaux, Truck drivers & Donald Ray, Crane Operator. Absent from picture are Dorsey Quibadeaux & Thomas Rideau, truck drivers; John Boleware, cement finisher & Geo. Carriere, yard man.



#### Bulk Cement Silo & Scale

Here Cement is handled & stored in bulk and accurately weighed to your specifications.



#### SAND & GRAVEL BATCH PLANT

Here Sand & Gravel are weighed out to Your Specifications. Water is added by automatic metering device.

READY - MIX CONCRETE TO ANY  
SPECIFICATION - ACCURATELY  
PROPORTIONED BY WEIGHT -  
YOUR ASSURANCE OF UNIFORM QUALITY

COMPLETE READY - MIX CONCRETE SERVICE  
SAND - GRAVEL - SHELL - STEEL  
CONCRETE & STEEL CULVERT PIPE

# Concrete Service Inc.

551 West Grolee St.  
Opelousas, La.

PHONE 6555



# General Robin



IN TRUE NAPOLEONIC STYLE, General Robin posed for his portrait—a handsome and striking portrait in a remarkable state of preservation. Brilliant coloring and the military costume make this a room an outstanding one among the many that are in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Chauvin of Opelousas. Mrs. Chauvin is a descendant of General Robin, who settled near Leonville.

General Robin arrived in this country shortly after Napoleon's defeat and exile, and he first settled in St. Louis, Mo. Later he came to St. Landry parish, and settled near what is now Leonville. He had five sons, of these we have traced the names of four—Frank, Napoleon, Theodule (who is portrayed in his mother's arms), and Ellisphor.

Numa, Placide and Michele were sons of Frank Simon was the son of Theodule Emilie was the son of Napoleon. He married a Darby and his children were: Homer, Auguste, Edouard, Emar, Gaston, Marie and Ida. Of this last named family, all are living except Edouard.

Mrs. Richard is descended from the Numa Robin branch.

General Robin also had several daughters, and the names of these are not known definitely to the writer.

Many relics of the Robin family were preserved in the old Numa Robin home near Leonville, and these have passed into the hands of various relatives and descendants, following the death of Mrs. Robin, who lived



GENERAL ROBIN'S WIFE, posed with her infant son Theodule. (Daily World Photo, by Deville).

to a ripe old age. Mrs. Chauvin has several other unidentified portraits, all of early date. (Daily World photo of portrait, by Deville).

# R. Lee Garland

Robert Lee Garland was the son of Capt. Henry L. Garland and Julia Lawrence Bulard. He was graduated from the Law School of Manhattan College, and began practicing law in St. Landry Parish. He served as District Attorney of St. Landry Parish for forty years (1896-1936).

Known and loved all over the Parish of St. Landry, he was an eloquent public speaker and a brilliant lawyer. He married Helen Hessian, and they had Julie, Helen, Robert Lee, Jr., Mercedes, Patricia, Henry, Harry and Alice.

Of these, the following live in Opelousas: Julie is married to Michel Milton Halphen, Helen is married to Kenneth Boagni, Alice is married to Paul Pavy, Harry is married to Somer, and Lee is not married.

Harry Garland is a practicing attorney of this town and parish.



Hon. ROBERT LEE GARLAND, district attorney of St. Landry parish for 40 years.

# T. H. Harris, Educator

T. H. Harris was born at Arizona, Claiborne Parish, March 26, 1896 and received his education in the Lisbon Academy, Homer College, Claiborne Parish, and the Louisiana State Normal College at Natchitoches. He came to Opelousas at the opening of the fall term of 1896, and assumed his duties as principal of the high school. He was previously engaged as first assistant of the Lake Charles High School, and was principal of the Winnaboro High School.

He was appointed State Superintendent of Schools at the death of Aswell, in 1901.

In 1938 the legislature authorized the establishment of the T. H. Harris Trade School at Opelousas by passing house Bill No. 36, Legislative Act No. 15. The bill was introduced in the Legislature through the efforts of Henry D. LaRcade, then Representative from St. Landry parish, and his colleagues. An appropriation of funds was made by the legislature for the purpose of building and maintaining the school, and the state board of education added to these funds. The St. Landry Parish school board donated to the state board of education the lot on which the school is situated, and later a lot and home for the nursing school was acquired.

First of its kind in the Parish, it has increased rapidly since its original construction, under the administration of Mr. Glen H. Madere, who has been at its head since the beginning.

Among the original sponsors of the school were Leo Lafleur and the late R. Lee Hawkins, members of the St. Landry Parish school board; the late W. B. Prescott, super-



T. H. HARRIS, born in Claiborne parish March 26, 1896.

intendent of schools of the parish; Henry LaRcade, Member of Congress and Member of the Legislature; and S. A. Moncla, supervisor of schools at that time.

## Historic Baptism

The baptism of Etienne Robert De La Morandier, son of Etienne DeLaMorandier and Marguerite Gradenigo, was recorded in 1797 in St. Landry Catholic Church records. He is the ancestor of many a present day resident in St. Landry parish.

His paternal grandparents were Etienne DeLaMorandier and Marianne Solleau. His maternal grandparents were Juan Gradenigo and Marguerite Krebs.

Godparents were Gabriel Fuselier and Marianne DeLaMorandier.

## Early Spanish Names

Joachim Ortega, was one of the Spanish soldiers at the fort in Opelousas, and so many early documents on file in church records here. Other Spanish names in old records found in the St. Landry Catholic church include:

Quintero, Delgado, Villanova, Manuel, jas, (said to be the original form of the "Rozas"), La Miranda, Unzaga, Hernandez, Martinez.

## An "OLD-TIMER" Salutes PARISH PROGRESS

Today 1955



In 1887



The two people on extreme right are Miss Irene E. Shute and Dr. I. E. Shute

Shute's Drug Store was established in 1887 by the late Dr. I. E. Shute. At his death in 1908 Miss Irene E. Shute, his daughter, assumed ownership. In 1937 she sold one-half interest to Lee D. Mizzi, who had been with her since June, 1925. December 31, 1952 Miss Irene sold her one-half interest to Raymond J. Guilloite. Until the time this store had been in the Shute family 66 years.

Miss Irene says, "Why, those boys (referring to Lee and Raymond) grew up with me. Now I'm growing up with them, in the same capacity as when I owned half interest."

## SHUTE'S DRUG STORE

Lee D. Mizzi and Raymond J. Guilloite  
R. Ph. G. Props.  
OPELOUSAS, LA.

PHONE 2611

PHONE 2612



**On the occasion of the  
One hundred and fiftieth  
Anniversary of the  
incorporation of St. Landry  
Parish, Brown & Root, Inc.  
takes this opportunity to  
doff its hat to the  
Community**

**We're extremely proud to  
have Played a small part  
in the fabulous growth and  
progress of the area**



**BROWN & ROOT, INC.** *Engineers · Constructors*

CABLE ADDRESS — BROWNBILT

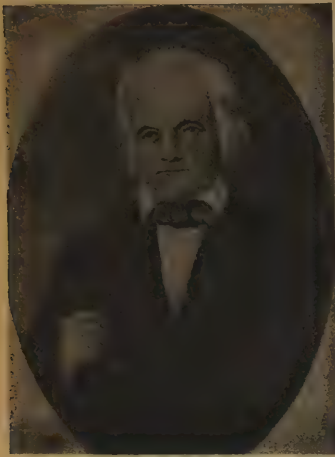
P. O. BOX 3 HOUSTON 1, TEXAS

BROWN & ROOT, LTD., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada • BROWN & ROOT de MEXICO, S.A. de C.V., Mexico City, Mexico  
BROWN & ROOT, S. A., Panama City, Panama • BROWN & ROOT CONSTRUCCIONES, C. A., Caracas, Venezuela

• BROWN & ROOT, INC., One Wall Street, New York 5, N. Y.



# Lewis: 6 Generations Law



SETH LEWIS (1764-1848) was first district judge appointed in Louisiana.



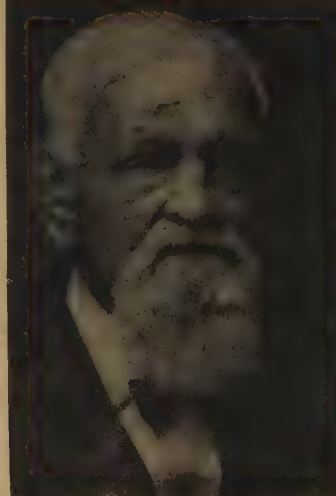
WILLIAM B. LEWIS (1798-1868) was admitted to the Louisiana bar in 1833.



SETH LEWIS, Jr., (1933- ) will this year complete his law studies at Louisiana State University.



THOMAS H. LEWIS (1836-1914) prominent attorney and Louisiana figure for a half century.



JUDGE EDWARD TAYLOR LEWIS (1834-1927) was a brother of Thomas H. Lewis and was also a prominent Louisiana figure.



JOHN WILKINSON LEWIS (1874-1946), eloquent orator and brilliant attorney.



SETH LEWIS, Sr. (1907- ) is the fifth generation of his family to practice law in St. Landry parish.

For five generations the name of Lewis has been a familiar one in the courtrooms of this State, and today the sixth generation of this distinguished family is studying Louisiana law. . . named for his illustrious ancestor. Seth Lewis, first District Judge of Louisiana. Seth Lewis was born in 1764, in Massachusetts. His great-grandfather was a wealthy merchant of London who moved to Connecticut with the first settlers, seeking a new religious and civil freedom. Seth's father was a man of moderate wealth, who was ruined financially by going security for his friends. When Seth was born in Massachusetts in

1764 the family was very poor. When he was ten, the family moved to West Florida on the Mississippi, then a British Province. Two years later the father died of fever, and Seth, with his sisters, passed into the hands of an older brother. In the years immediately succeeding they moved to Natchez, then to Plaquemine, then to Baton Rouge, and at this time the older brother died, leaving Seth and his sisters to the care of his widow. Seth then took his three sisters and moved to New Orleans, where he soon was apprenticed to a shoemaker, about sixty miles above the city. At the age of twenty-one he moved to Opelousas, where he served as clerk in a

who had been interested in Lewis through friends. He remained in this position for little over a year, until on May 3, 1813, was appointed Judge of the Fifth Judicial District of Louisiana. The judicial districts of the State were established at this time and Judge Lewis had the distinction of being the first district judge of the state to take office. He remained in this office for the next years, when he retired and entered private practice. Among the most notable contributions that he made to his profession was celebrated controversy with the famous Edward Livingston of New York. It was at that time that Livingston sought to draw up and introduce to Louisiana a penal code which Lewis construed as "ruinous". Apparently the only one in the state to fight the renewed Livingston, he entered into a series of controversies that culminated with his construction on the unsoundness of the Livingston Code. Minute Books of the St. Landry parish court house have records dating back to the first day of court, May 3, 1813, and list the first Grand Jury drawn up in the State of Louisiana. David L. Todd was the first Clerk of Court. The first Grand and Petty jury was drawn Sept. 16, 1813, and was as follows: Jean M. Deballion, foreman, Charles Smith, Jack B. Fontenot, Eugene LeLan, Cyrille Thibodeau, Joseph Daigle, Joseph Matt, Thomas Gardner, Jean B. John, Joseph Richard, Joseph Andrepoint, Pierre Richard, Robert Roger, Augustine Gradenigo and Coulon DeVilliers. A number of residents were fined for failure to report for jury duty when summoned: Pierre Forest, Maximilian DesHotel, Jean Joabert, David Guldery, Pierre Savoy, J.J. Tousaint, William Link, Charles Feltner, Joseph Gradenigo, William John David Terrenque, Michael Leger, and John Clark. Judge Lewis wrote a book "Restoration of the Jews", showing interest in the fundamentalism issue of the day. He died Nov. 15, 1848. In a direct line, these are the descendants of this distinguished and interesting jurist of Louisiana who have followed his profession: Judge William B. Lewis, Thomas H. Lewis (father of Good Government League in Louisiana), John W. Lewis, Seth Lewis, and son, Seth, who is now in his last year of study at Louisiana State University. Judge William B. Lewis (b. 1798, d. 1868) was admitted to the practice of law in Louisiana and three famous names are signed to his admittance to the state bar -- Judges

general store. He had a misunderstanding with his employer over a letter that the latter had written to one of his sisters, and he left Opelousas for New Orleans. Here he entered into the employment of a New Orleans merchant, who sent him along with a large shipment of merchandise by boat to St. Genevieve, Missouri. He accompanied the cargo and on the return stopped off at Nashville, where he remained and made the first step toward his life occupation. In Nashville he came happily into the acquaintance of Andrew Jackson and Josiah Love, who persuaded Seth to take up the study of Law. After diligent study he was admitted to the bar in 1791. In 1793 he married a daughter of Colonel Hardeman of Davidson County, Tennessee. In 1800 he was appointed by President John Adams to be Chief Justice of the Mississippi Territory, and this office he held for three or four years, during which time he introduced important measures that have had a lasting effect upon the judicial proceedings of that state. He was next appointed Judge of the Attapapas Territory by Gov. W.C. C. Claiborne,

who had been interested in Lewis through friends. He remained in this position for little over a year, until on May 3, 1813, was appointed Judge of the Fifth Judicial District of Louisiana. The judicial districts of the State were established at this time and Judge Lewis had the distinction of being the first district judge of the state to take office. He remained in this office for the next years, when he retired and entered private practice. Among the most notable contributions that he made to his profession was celebrated controversy with the famous Edward Livingston of New York. It was at that time that Livingston sought to draw up and introduce to Louisiana a penal code which Lewis construed as "ruinous". Apparently the only one in the state to fight the renewed Livingston, he entered into a series of controversies that culminated with his construction on the unsoundness of the Livingston Code. Minute Books of the St. Landry parish court house have records dating back to the first day of court, May 3, 1813, and list the first Grand Jury drawn up in the State of Louisiana. David L. Todd was the first Clerk of Court. The first Grand and Petty jury was drawn Sept. 16, 1813, and was as follows: Jean M. Deballion, foreman, Charles Smith, Jack B. Fontenot, Eugene LeLan, Cyrille Thibodeau, Joseph Daigle, Joseph Matt, Thomas Gardner, Jean B. John, Joseph Richard, Joseph Andrepoint, Pierre Richard, Robert Roger, Augustine Gradenigo and Coulon DeVilliers. A number of residents were fined for failure to report for jury duty when summoned: Pierre Forest, Maximilian DesHotel, Jean Joabert, David Guldery, Pierre Savoy, J.J. Tousaint, William Link, Charles Feltner, Joseph Gradenigo, William John David Terrenque, Michael Leger, and John Clark. Judge Lewis wrote a book "Restoration of the Jews", showing interest in the fundamentalism issue of the day. He died Nov. 15, 1848. In a direct line, these are the descendants of this distinguished and interesting jurist of Louisiana who have followed his profession: Judge William B. Lewis, Thomas H. Lewis (father of Good Government League in Louisiana), John W. Lewis, Seth Lewis, and son, Seth, who is now in his last year of study at Louisiana State University. Judge William B. Lewis (b. 1798, d. 1868) was admitted to the practice of law in Louisiana and three famous names are signed to his admittance to the state bar -- Judges

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GANTT, III — GANTT, SR. — GANTT, JR.

Mr. Gantt Nicholson, Sr. began working for Thistlethwaite Lumber company in 1919 in Washington. When the company moved to Opelousas in 1924, he continued with them until 1935, when he opened a retail lumber and box factory for himself. Expansion continued until 1954 when he leased and added to his already large business the dissolved Thistlethwaite saw mill. His combined mills and yards occupy approximately sixteen city lots. Mr. Nicholson has his three sons as partners in the business. They are

- GANTT NICHOLSON, JR.
JIMMY NICHOLSON
BOBBY NICHOLSON

## GANTT NICHOLSON

Manufacturer of
CYURESS AND HARDWOOD LUMBER — BOXES AND CRATES
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL LUMBER YARD
P. O. Box 775 Opelousas, La. Phone 2757





HOME in Opelousas, spacious and home for generations of jurists and lawyers, the residence of Attorney and Mrs. Seth Lewis. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

# Old Lewis Place



NOW THE RESIDENCE of Mrs. L. L. McCarthy, this charming old home was built here in the nineteenth century by Judge E. T. Lewis, who was parish judge for St. Landry and member of a prominent family among whom were numbered several public officials. Julia, daughter of Judge Lewis, married Joseph M. Boagni and they later owned and lived in the old Lewis home. For many years it was called the Boagni home, and the roads and woods in nearby country also bore the Boagni name. Mrs. Boagni now resides in Opelousas, since the death of her husband some years ago.

Approached by a long avenue of oaks, the old house stands in shadows. Sunlight sifting through the trees picks up the delicate white traceries of the lacy gallery banisters and trim.

The gallery extends around the entire south side of the roomy old place, which is a story-and-a-half home. It is painted white with a green trim, and green louvered shutters. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

Martin and Porter.  
 ward Taylor Lewis, son of Judge William  
 and Ellen Taylor (cousin of Zachary  
 C.) was born Oct. 26, 1834. He died April  
 17, 1877.  
 ing the War Between the States he ser-  
 ved the rank of captain. During Recon-  
 struction days, he was an outstanding figure  
 in the state, and organized the "Knights of  
 the Camelia."  
 was educated at college in Alabama, and  
 Old University of Louisiana. In 1883  
 Member of Congress for one term. In  
 he served as district judge. In 1894-  
 was appointed and served as Judge of the  
 Court of Appeals to replace Judge  
 who had resigned. From 1900-1908  
 served again as district judge. He also  
 one term as assessor. During the  
 when his father was Judge at Rapides  
 presented that parish in the state Legis-  
 was Hardeman Lewis was born in Ope-  
 June 13, 1836, and received his early  
 education under the Rev. C.A. Frazee, a  
 educator of that time. In 1859 he grad-  
 uated from the Law School in New Orleans,  
 and was practicing in Catahoula parish. He

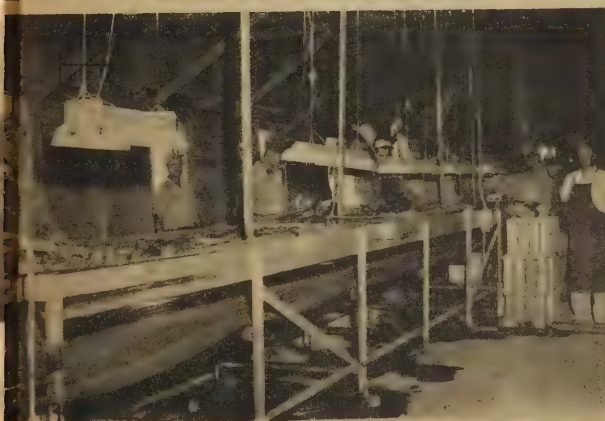
held the office of district attorney of that  
 district until he entered the Confederate army  
 in 1863, in the Trans-Mississippi Depart-  
 ment. He remained in the service until dis-  
 charged at the termination of the war, when  
 he came to Opelousas, where he remained  
 for the rest of his life. He resumed the prac-  
 tice of his profession, and in 1858 married  
 Miss Josephine Williams. In politics he was  
 always a zealous worker for the Democrat-  
 ic Party, and was long a member of the State  
 Central Democratic Committee.  
 He was a prominent figure in St. Landry  
 parish during his lifetime, and left his mark  
 on State and Parish politics for many de-  
 cades. In Judge Dupre's "Political Remini-  
 scences" (1872-1902) Tom Lewis is one of  
 the outstanding characters, a colorful person-  
 ality for over half a century in this parish.  
 He died Jan. 2, 1914.  
 The late John Wilkinson Lewis was the son  
 of Thomas H. Lewis and Josephine Williams.  
 Born Oct. 31, 1874, he was educated in public  
 and private schools of this parish, and re-  
 ceived his law degree at the University of  
 Virginia.  
 A brilliant, eloquent speaker, he was for  
 many years one of the outstanding lawyers

of St. Landry parish. He died March 16, 1946.  
 Seth Lewis, son of John W. Lewis and Lu-  
 cille LaCombe, was born Nov. 16, 1907. Edu-  
 cated in the public schools of this parish, he  
 then attended Louisiana State University, and  
 received his degree in law from that univer-  
 sity. Now an active member of the St. Lan-  
 dry bar, Mr. Lewis served as District At-  
 torney of St. Landry in 1940-48.  
 Young Seth Lewis, born Dec. 30, 1933, now  
 in his last year of law studies at Louisiana  
 State University is the son of Seth Lewis and  
 Vernon Fontenet.  
 Completion of his studies and subsequent

admittance to the bar will make him the sixth  
 generation of his family to practice the pro-  
 fession of law in the same city and parish -  
 a most notable occurrence.

### EARLY OPELOUSAS SCHOOLS

In 1850, there were three schools in Ope-  
 lousas. The Rev. Thos Rand Jr., A.M.,  
 was principal of a school for boys, the  
 Opelousas Academy. Mrs. Renaud (nee Tra-  
 sner) and Miss Bercliar each conducted board-  
 ing and day-school for young ladies. Rates  
 on both of the latter were \$10 for instruc-  
 tion per quarter, \$18 additional for music,  
 and \$25 for boarding.



Picture shows washing and grading of Louisiana Yams.

## Louisiana's Finest Yams

- Magnolia
- Creole
- Little Jax
- Co'Co

## Dohmann and Franchebois

BUYERS & SHIPPERS

Louisiana Porto Rican Yams  
 and Irish Potatoes

Route 1 Box 115-C

OPELOUSAS



Dohmann—left; Franchebois, right.

## LEVY FONTENOT Produce Buyer and Shipper



Route 1, Box 86  
 Church Point, La.

Above photo is Mr. Levy Fontenet of Route 1, Box 86, Church Point, Louisiana. Mr. Fontenet is specializing in the Shirley and Pelican sweet potato brands.

Telephone  
 4911

Opelousas  
 La.



### Early Marriage

A MARRIAGE CONTRACT between the daughter of a pioneer settler, an early commandant of the Poste des Opelousas, and the son of a Virginia family which settled here, is the above document, slightly reduced. This is the first page of six.

It is on file in the parish clerk's office. In addition to the church records, it was then also the custom for engaged couples to sign a legal contract before the king's commander, listing their immediate forebears, the property they will bring into their new family community, and other matters, signed by apparently every living relative. Such is this document.

It states that on September 7, 1792, there appeared before Alexandre-Chevalier de Clouet, lieutenant colonel and civil and military commander of the Attakapas and Opelousas posts, one Luke Collins, legitimate son of Luke Collins and Sarah White, a native of Virginia, Hampshire County, and Demoiselle Zoe Courtableau, minor daughter of Jacques Courtableau, captain of militia and interim commandant of the Opelousas Post, and Marguerite Kintrek.

Having received the permission of the girl's parents, and in the presence of them and other witnesses, they promised to be wed in the Roman Church and to observe the customs of Spain, and of other countries should the colony change hands.

The future bride listed the property she brings into their new home (Values listed in "piastres")  
 A Negro named Thomas. ....  
 Three carriage horses. ....  
 Household items. ....  
 400 acres of land at Natchez, ...

The future husband contracted to the following:

A home on 11 arpents surrounded by 10 arpents in area secured from the general; the home being 31 feet (Paces) long by 20 deep, not counting verandas, a storehouse 20 x 15 feet kitchen, and with closets, situated small woods. ....  
 Two mares and a carriage horse. ....  
 Fifty head of cattle (betes a corne) ....

There were two pages detailing the obligations and arrangements of the new community to be formed.

And there were sixteen signatures, including these, or parts of them, which are legible:

Luke Collins Jr., Luke Collins, Collins, Delle, Zoe Courtableau, Del. Kintrek, L. Laune, Grademgo, Donat Brunet, Wm. Collins, L. Hollier, L. Chars, P. Theo Collins, John another Sarah Collins, and below the "Le Comm. De Clouet."

*Aujourd'hui Dix Septieme jour de  
 fevrier mil Sept ans quatre vingt deux Par  
 devant Monsieur Alexandre Chevalier de Clouet  
 Lieutenant Colonel et Commandant Civil  
 et Militaire des Postes Attakapas et  
 Opelousas furent presens en personne  
 de Sieur Luke Collins fils legitime du  
 Sieur Luke Collins et de Dame Sara  
 White ses pere et mere d'une part, natif  
 de Virginie Comtee d'Hampshire  
 Et de Demoiselle Zoe Courtableau fille  
 Mineure de son Sieur Jacques Courtableau  
 de son vivant Capitaine de Milices, et  
 Commandant par interim le Poste des  
 Opelousas, et de Dame Marguerite Kintrek  
 ses Pere et mere, native dudit Poste d'auce  
 par  
 Lesquelles parties ont fait et du conde-  
 nement des Parens de ladite Demoiselle  
 mineure les traites et accords de Mariage  
 en presence des temoins cy-dessous nommes,  
 Savoir: De la part dudit futur Epoux des  
 Sieur et Dame Luke Collins son Pere*



OLD OPELOUSAS CONVENT view, taken in the latter part of the 19th century. Pupil and teachers, with a priest, standing near the old convent. Note pine trees was evidently taken at a picnic. Fourth girl from left standing in front row is V. Comeau Pickett.



The  
**Oldest**  
 With The  
**Finest**

The BEST BUY any day . . from CORMIER

**Oldest Chrysler Dealer  
 In The State Of  
 Louisiana**

The Chrysler contract was accepted in 1926 under the name of Cormier and Fields Motor Co. In 1928 the late Mr. Robert Fields sold his interest to Mr. Cormier, who operated the dealership under the name of J. C. Cormier Sales and Service until 1946 when he sold half interest to his brother, Lee Cormier and Jack Sharp upon their discharge from the the service. During these years he has enjoyed consistent growth and progress with Chrysler and Plymouth cars and Gulf products.



## CORMIER MOTOR CO., INC.

Chrysler & Plymouth Dealers

1207 West Landry

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Gulf Dealer Since 1917





**A  
New  
Industry  
For  
St. Landry  
Parish**

The new Gulf Pipeline Terminal, just outside Opelousas on the Sunset highway, is St. Landry Parish's newest industry.

A marvel of petroleum engineering, the new storage plant receives Good Gulf, Gulf Super Refined No-Nox gasoline, diesel fuel and kerosene piped in from the Gulf Refinery in Port Arthur, Texas for storage prior to delivery to bulk distributors in this area.

The terminal consists of four storage tanks and administration office. The main tank holds 1,380,000 gallons of Good Gulf, while the second largest tank holds 700,000 gallons of Gulf Super Refined No-Nox gasoline. The two remaining tanks holds 450,000 gallons each of diesel fuel and kerosene.

Four men maintain the local operation.







## Gen. Garrigues de Flaageac

GENERAL ANTOINE Paul Joseph Louis Garrigues de Flaageac was born in the town of Montaudou in the Province of Lot, in Southwest France. He was the son of Jean Charles Garrigues, Field Marshall and bodyguard of the unfortunate Louis XVI. His mother was Dame Marie Jeanne Subrejeon. He was born Sept. 5, 1780.

Of noble blood, he was also noble and fine in appearance and character. Much has been written about him and other members of his family, and there is a considerable write-up of his military talents in Gayarre's History of Louisiana, and in Grace King's "Creole Families of Louisiana". He was a non-commissioned officer of the Dragoons, who became a protege of Murat. After the treaty of Amiens, he left France and went to San Domingo, where he took part in severe combat, winning his officers' epaulettes on the battlefield.

He fell into the hands of the English, and was a prisoner in Cuba until 1804, when he sailed for France. A storm arose, changing the destiny of his life. He and his companions took refuge on the shores of America, and landed at New Orleans in January, 1805.

He was then twenty-five years of age, with no resources but his own talents and fine character. With the aid of French people in New Orleans he obtained from the territorial government a commission as land-surveyor, and it was in this way that he came to the Opelousas territory. He arrived in the Poste Opelousas and was sent to the home of Grand Louis Fontenot, then one of the richest and most influential citizens of the territory. He met and married the daughter, Marie Louise Fontenot, August, 1805, at St. Landry's Catholic Church.

In 1812, when the constitution of Louisiana was formed Garrigues de Flaageac was Brigadier General of the State Militia, and was sent to Baton Rouge as a member of the Senate.

During the Battle of New Orleans he served as head of a corps of raw recruits, when he volunteered his services. The courageous actions of his men under his trained command led to special commendation by Jackson, in an address made in New Orleans following his victory.

He served in the Senate for eighteen years, and his imposing and severe physique, coupled with a brilliant intellect and a rare modesty made him one of the most memorable characters who helped to build this section of the country.

He retired from public office, and some years later was called back to serve as representative, and was in this office at the time of his death, on June 25, 1845. He was survived by his widow and six children.

### JUDGE ADOLPHE GARRIGUES

One of his sons, Adolphe Garrigues, became a prominent public figure, serving his parish first as probate judge, later as parish judge, and still later as collector of taxes, in which office he was serving at the time of his death.

Judge Garrigues was the last male representative of this line. He died at the age of 76, on Feb. 25, 1885. He was the only son of General Garrigues. The daughters all married into prominent families of the state.

Educated in Paris, Judge Garrigues continued the distinguished career of his father, whom he closely resembled. A tall and strikingly handsome man, with the same high character and fidelity as his father, he died one of the most beloved and respected citizens of the parish.

The Garrigues family had a large grant in the parish, at Plaisance, where they resided. Their home, which was destroyed by fire, must have been one of the loveliest in the area, as the entire lower floor was built of marble, and paved with the same material. There is no known picture extant. Many of the fine furnishings from this home are still in existence in private homes of members of the family, who have cherished them through the years. They were all of French make, with ormolu mountings and rare Italian marble surfaces.

The sword and epaulettes of General Garrigues de Flaageac have been handed down in the family, and are now in possession of a direct descendant, Miss Myrtle Mornhivog, who also has a photograph reproduced from a tintype.

A fine French miniature of Judge Adolphe Garrigues is owned by another member of the family, Mrs. John Edward Zoder. This was painted in Paris when he studied at the University.

The grave of General Garrigues de Flaageac and his wife are side by side in the Catholic cemetery, with inscriptions in French.

The nearby grave of Judge Garrigues, identical to that of his father (a table-type grave of marble with turned pedestals) is falling into ruin, with the inscribed marble top gone.

said as of Nye, he was "le brave des braves", is laid low at last by the foe he had so often defied. Death, that had so often recoiled from his bold front, has stolen stealthily upon him and taken his life away.

The eye that could look unquailing into the blaze of battle and in the glint of bayonet, is dimmed and closed. The ear, so quick to catch the roll of drum and blare of trumpet, shall wake no more until summoned to the last grand muster by the trump of the last Angel.

This is none of the fulsome adulation paid to suppositional merit through interested motives, as it is but too commonly the case now, but a soldier's honest tribute to the memory of one whose dauntless bearing and noble qualities had won his admiration—the survivors.

"Of the last few, who calmly brave  
Died for the land they could not save"  
are diminishing year by year, and it is fitting that their departing comrade would bear with him the testimony of those who witnessed his brave deeds and noble fortitude.

Aye, I can see now in my mind's eye that pale, handsome face, undisturbed mid all the fury of battle; the marble whiteness and imperturbability of that countenance, the only unmovable feature in all that saturnalia of death.

And yet the finer feelings were not blunted by those scenes of blood and carnage, and the constant contact with suffering in some shape or other, as a little incident I remember will illustrate. We had dragged ourselves wearily into Appomattox, and were preparing to bivouac for the night—that last night of the Confederacy—preparing to kindle our fires, but found fuel scarce when the joyful discovery of a heavy Virginia worm fence that had escaped notice in the obscurity, offering abundance of wood, was right there at hand, skirting our camp site.

An onslaught was immediately made on it, the colonel was leaning against it and though somewhat of a disciplinarian, made no objection. He knew the men were exhausted, hungry and cold. A fire might afford some alleviation. There was little to cook, heaven knows, and then there were so few of them left, only eighty-two—eighty-two at the flag that night at Appomattox; all that was left of the 16,000 infantry furnished by Louisiana to the Army of Northern Virginia, so he made no objection.

Think, for all that, they were doomed to disappointment, for out of the gloom beyond the fence, where a light dimly glimmered, and the outlines of a cabin could be discerned, a rather aged woman hurried painfully to the fence, asking for the colonel. Having had

him pointed out, she begged piteously her fence might be spared.

She was true to the cause. She let her all, son and husband included. The fence was the only barrier between living little ones and relentless soldiers in the spring, for the country was bereft of everything that could sustain life. To tell us that, and that fence surrounded a small patch of wheat, saved from the destruction that had swept the

This was the appeal to charity, could ear be turned to it? But then, men, the fiction invoked justice, and we bow to turn "Fiat Justitia Ruat Coelum"; we be their rest after seven days of arduous fighting, from the time of Petersburg to the present moment? A bed on the wet ground, a bit of ra and numbered limbs, to be their prey for the last desperate struggle of the

Could they, in justice to themselves charitable, they had nothing to give their present comfort?

Well, they would give that, but their hearts must not be wounded by harsh or unjust exaction; their feelings must be listed by persuasion.

The colonel spoke to Major Prados was standing near him; "Major" said and tell our men that poor woman's That was, all, he knew the admiration felt for his reckless daring and nobility would lead them to the conquest of the even in that trying moment. Not mistaken, for but few moments had before blazing rails were snatched from fire and restored to the fence with alacrity as to induce the observer to that each saw a mother in that form, and his own supply of bread next summer in that little patch of saved to feed the widow and the will appear to the recording angel that those who by dauntless valor midst of blood and strife.

Such was Major Louis Prados, a man of stainless record, a soldier with no fear, of soldier stock "an eagle's noble nest", and there where he lies.

"Like a warrior taking his rest With this martial cloak around may the sod lie light upon his noble and may he rest in peace.

**ST. LANDRY LOAN CO. INC.**

**Proud Of Our Past Service We face The Future with Confidence!**

We at St. Landry Loan Company are happy to be a part of this fine and fast growing community, and we wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the people of Opelousas and St. Landry Parish for the cordial reception they have given us.

St. Landry Loan Company was organized less than two short years ago—October 15, 1953—and has progressed rapidly by serving the needs of the people of this area. St. Landry Loan Company has helped hundreds of people with their personal loans . . . they have a plan for every need and will be happy to talk over your requirements at your convenience.

**Auto**

**Furniture**

**Signature**

**LOANS**

## Tribute to a Brave Soldier

A glowing tribute to Major Louis Prados, an Opelousas man who served bravely in the War Between the States and an ancestor of James Prados, who resides here today, was published upon the major's death in the form of a letter to the editor of the New Orleans States.

Written in the somewhat ornate style of the period, the letter -- by a writer who had

his name withheld—nevertheless recounts a bravery and devotion to a cause and to his fellowmen that merits its reproduction here. The letter follows:

PRADOS' LAST BIVOUAC

To the Editor of the Daily States:

And Prados is dead! I saw it in your paper of Sunday, and he whose hand was a synonym for bravery, of whom it can be



1895

# ABDALLA'S

1955

# 60

## YEARS of LEADERSHIP in Southwest Louisiana



ABDALLA'S DEPARTMENT STORE, OPELOUSAS



ABDALLA'S, FURNITURE STORE, OPELOUSAS



WINSBERG'S, OPELOUSAS

Southwest Louisiana's  
Finest Stores  
in

- OPELOUSAS
- LAFAYETTE
- NEW IBERIA
- ABBEVILLE

Back in the days when a pair of horses and a carriage was a luxury, and the latest Paris Fashion was balloon sleeves, pinched waist and shoe top length, a small store made its debut in Opelousas.

This was 60 years ago, and that small store of the late George Abdalla has grown into seven larger, modern stores in four of the principal cities of Southwest Louisiana.

The first expansion of the Abdalla stores began in 1913 when a building was purchased on Main Street in Opelousas, on the site of the present department store. In 1926 this structure was replaced by a handsome brick building. This building was again rebuilt and enlarged in 1954 into Southwest Louisiana's most beautiful and complete department store, after the store had been gutted by fire the previous year.

In 1932 Abdalla's began a small store in Lafayette. Through the years this was expanded until today it includes a modern shoe store, an equally modern ladies ready-to-wear store and a smart, new men's store.

The New Iberia store was opened in 1936. It is a complete department store including ladies and men's departments and a shoe store. A completely new and larger store there is presently being constructed and will be completed this year.

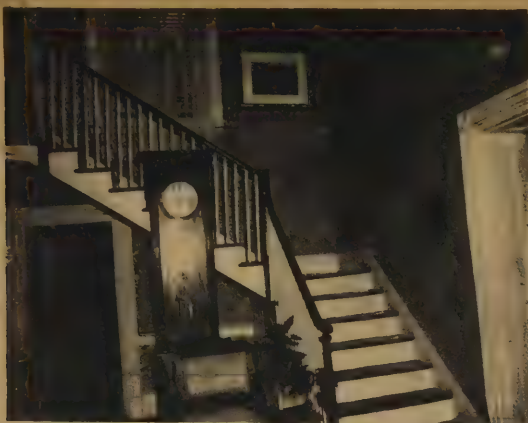
In 1945 Southwest Louisiana's largest and finest furniture store was erected in Opelousas across the street from the department store. A branch of this store, a bargain furniture annex, was established on Main and Grolee in 1952.

The Abbeville store, exclusive for ladies ready-to-wear, accessories and shoes was opened in 1947.

Winsberg's in Opelousas was acquired in 1950 and has recently been remodeled into a complete family shoe store with a ladies' accessory department.

We look back through the years at our growth and development and are proud that we have been a part of the progress of our parish and Southwest Louisiana. Our thanks go to the thousands of families throughout the area who have so greatly helped to make all this possible.





INTERIOR OF Dietlein home shows graceful staircase. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

## Lovely Dietlein Home

ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE and lovely old homes in this area is the Dietlein Home, which stands on Main St. just off Landry, at the main intersection of town. Centrally located, it is a familiar sight to all of us, and has been standing for well over a hundred years.

Mr. Frank Dietlein and his wife, the late "Tia" (nee Felicia Durio), bought the old home in 1919 from Mrs. Leonce Sandoz, who had moved to New Orleans after the death of her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Leonce Sandoz had made their home here. Prior to this the home was owned by the prominent King family—Major Felix King, and his son Preston King. The late Judge Amede Porter, a celebrated jurist of Opelousas once resided here.

At the time of the purchase by the Dietlein family the home, as pictured in the accompanying photograph, had a double gallery, and this too had evidently been remodeled. The original brick structure is the same, but the Dietlein's altered the facade, removing the upper gallery and small wooden squared columns, in their place he put the present handsome fluted Doric columns, and used the wrought iron balustrades on the lower gallery. From the two french doors upstairs they built projecting balconies, protected by wrought iron rails.

The interior has five paneled doors, woodwork and exceptionally nice mantels, in the



DOUBLE GALLERY graced the present Frank Dietlein home on S. Main St. in 1919, when Mr. and the late Mrs. Dietlein purchased it, as shown by this somewhat faded old snapshot.

entrance room is a graceful staircase.

Tall chimneys are part of the structure wall, which has a fine and classic line—it is a home that is a heritage of beauty.



DIETLEIN HOME on S. Main st. here, a lovely landmark, with Mr. Frank Dietlein standing in front. He purchased the home in 1919. (Daily World Photo by Deville)

## Judge George King

Member of a distinguished family of America, Judge George King was one of the judiciary officials of Imperial St. Landry. The story of his life is an interesting Descended from English stock, his forefathers came to this country from England settled in Virginia. He was of the fourth generation of his family to live in Arkansas. George King was the son of William King and Letitia Bland. He was born in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, July 21, 1769. His father emigrated to Kentucky in 1784. He was educated at Danville, Ky., by the celebrated Dr. James Priestly. Among his schoolmates and companions were Grundy, Wickliffe, Pope and Rowen.

He had a taste for enterprise and adventure early in life. He first visited Louisiana in 1790, on an official mission to the Spanish government in New Orleans, at which time there were serious differences existing between the tobacco planters of Kentucky and Spanish authorities at New Orleans. He descended the Mississippi river by flatboat and returned to Kentucky the following year on horseback.

In 1794 he joined General Wayne's campaign against the Indians. In 1795 he settled in New Orleans, and in 1797 he married Amelia LeJeune.

In 1805 he was appointed territorial Clerk of Court of Opelousas, and in autumn of the same year he moved there with his family and located permanently.

In 1806 Governor Claiborne appointed him parish judge, which office he held until his resignation in 1842.

In 1815 he served at the Battle of Chalmette (New Orleans) under Jackson, as Lieutenant of a company of volunteers.

It was in his capacity as parish judge that he was best known in Western Louisiana. He died at his home near Opelousas July 24, 1851, and the excerpt following is from an obituary in the Opelousas Gazette:

"For a period of thirty-six years he discharged the arduous duties of his office with vigor of mind, a strength of judgement, and an honesty of purpose that commanded the entire confidence of his Parish, and the respect and esteem of all who knew him."

Judge King's plantation was situated on the road to Sunset, on what is the Mrs. Roy place. The old home was demolished some decades ago. It stood some distance from the road to the southeast of the Roy home. The railroad later passed very close to the old homestead. The building was a typical two-story plantation house, with a brick floor and weatherboarded upper story.

Later on, Judge King had a residence in town, because of regulations requiring that all live in the corporate limits. He then resided at what is now the Boagni home, on Grand St. The home was later acquired by Dr. Vincent Boagni, and considerable additional alterations have been made.

One of Judge King's cousins, William Rufus King, was vice president of the United States, elected on the Democratic ticket with Franklin Pierce in 1852. Shortly after the inauguration King went to Cuba for his health, and was administered the oath of office at Havana, March 4, 1853, by special act of Congress Mar. 2, 1853. He died in 1853 at his home in Alabama.

## 'The Governor's Mansion'



So called "Governor's Mansion" for many years by the residents of Opelousas, the same dates from the year 1863, when Baton Rouge was occupied by Union forces and the Capitol was moved for a short time to Opelousas. Capitol headquarters at the old LaCombe Hotel, which then stood between the New Drug Store, or "LaCombe Building," and the post office. At this time Allen was Governor of Louisiana and Homere Mouton was lieutenant governor. Charles Homere Mouton was married to Cellimene Dupre, daughter of Lastie Dupre, one of the wealthiest men in the section.

The story is told that when Homere Mouton married Cellimene they lived in Lafayette, which was his home. But Cellimene was one of the favorite children of Lastie Dupre, and he missed her very much. So he built a law office for Homere Mouton in Opelousas, across the street from the court house square on Landry street, where it still stands under a great live oak—a small red brick building, now the law office of Morton Thompson, and owned by attorney A. Veazie Pavy.

He also built the home above for the young couple, one of the few local examples of Greek Revival construction in this area. It stands on the corner of Liberty and Grolee, and is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. George Voittier.

The house must have been built about 1850. Cellimene Dupre was born in 1831 and died in 1864, after giving birth to eight children. Following her death Homere Mouton married Emerite Olivier, and had eight children. After his second marriage he went back to

Lafayette to live.

When the Governor Mouton house was built it must have been one of the most imposing homes in the town. It was surmounted by a cupola, or "belvedere," and was called some "the Belvedere House," because of the unusual superstructure. The cupola reached by means of a beautiful circular staircase that stood on the back gallery.

Of classic design, the house has a traditional pediment supported by four Corinthian columns, with wings on either side of the main section. Interior walls are now paneled they were once plastered. The ceilings are 14 1/2 feet high. All doors and windows have beautiful moldings, and several pair of magnificent folding and sliding doors recently been removed. Of the original mantles only one remains in what was once a ballroom—a handsome black marble mantle.

The front gallery was originally entered by stairs that ran across the full width of the Greek-styled portico. Porcelain doorknobs, silver-plated keyhole and hardware other fine details add to this distinguished home. All rooms are large and well proportioned.

So when Opelousas was Capitol, that was the Governor's Mansion, where Governor Allen stayed with his friend, Homere Mouton, and held court for a short while, it fitting residence for the occasion, and has held the name to this day. (Daily World Photo by Deville).



# Thank You,

## St. Landry Parish

It's Been An  
Enjoyable  
18 Years  
Serving You . .



The Choicest Product  
Of The Brewers' Art

In 1937 we became the Falstaff distributor for this area . . . and thus began our pleasant associations with you — our customers.

From a small beginning, with 2 employees, your acceptance of Premium Quality FALSTAFF Beer has enabled us to grow to our present organization of 13 employees, three trucks and improved service facilities.

For the past 5 years you have made Falstaff the top selling beer in this area. For this and the 18 years of your excellent patronage, we are extremely grateful.

We look forward to many future years of serving you smooth and mellow Premium Quality FALSTAFF Beer — The choicest product of the Brewers' Art.



Mrs. Genene  
Hornsby,  
Secretary



Earl Christman, Raymond Richard, Theo Pitre, Leon "Chink" Mayer, Alphonse Leger, Ben Christman. Not shown: Allen Christman.

Clifton Kennerson, George Lewis, Jr., John Taylor, Willie Louis. Not shown: Lawrence Thomas.



**R. B. CHRISTMAN & CO., INC.**  
136 W. Vine      Opelousas, La.      Phone 3737





# The Fabulous Lastie Dupre



FIRST BANK in St. Landry Parish, built by Lastie Dupre is now used for a part-time potato house by the present owners. Here, Mrs. Lessie D. Mistic opens the window of the old bank. (Daily World Photo by Deviller).

Lastie Dupre—a name that for generations conjured thoughts of mountains of gold coins—was a fabulous figure in St. Landry Parish. Descended from an Acadian exile, Laurent Dupre, Sr. and the daughter of an Italian nobleman, Marie Josephine Gradengo, his illustrious father was Governor Jacques Dupre and his mother was Theodiste Roy. Lastie was born March 20, 1795, and died Aug. 15, 1886. He married Marie Tonton Bernard, and had seven children.

He lived on "the Prairie", in a simple pioneer's home, a one story frame dwelling having a long gallery across the front. It was of post adobe construction, with plastered interior and gallery front. Recently the home was razed and reconstructed.

Standing in the front yard is the first bank building in St. Landry Parish, a small brick structure with walls fifteen to eighteen inches thick, and a stout iron door. A single window is barred and has an iron shutter. Inside is a small room, and to one wall was once fastened an iron vault that has been removed. Counter sunk into the wall are great iron rods that held the vault in place.

During the Civil War jayhawkers tried to force the door and shot at the shutter in an attempt to break in, but the building was too stout for their efforts. Dents made by the jayhawkers bullets are visible on the heavy shutter.

The ceiling is boarded with wide cypress planks heavily reinforced. Original roof was of slate, but is now shingled.

It was said of Lastie Dupre that he buried

his gold in layers in the dirt floor before he installed the vault, and when he dug up his gold it took a week to dig, wash and count all that was buried. He was keeper for the planters nearby, who would bring their sacks of gold to his bank for safekeeping, and during his later years as he grew blind, he would let them go into the bank and take out their gold themselves.

One of his nephews, the late Judge Gilbert L. Dupre once said of his uncle, "Uncle Lastie was a very honest man, but he was rich; he could afford to be honest!" He was so honest that another's dishonesty never occurred to him, and no money was ever taken by mistake or intent from Lastie Dupre's bank.

Many tales have been told about this fabulously wealthy man. It was told that he once owned all of Allen Parish, and the lands extending from St. Landry to that area. At the end of every year he would count his money, and dividing it, would give each of his children an equal share.

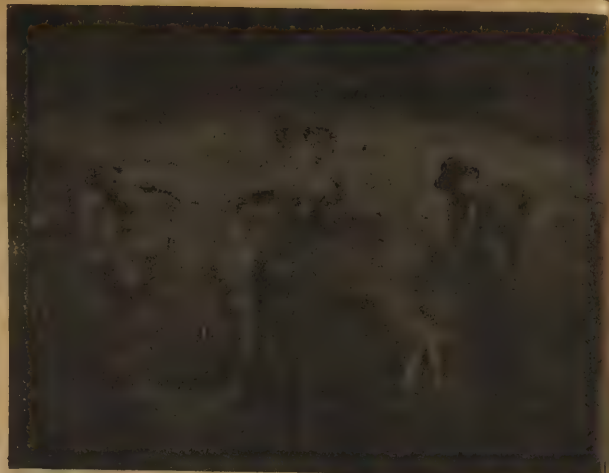
The imposing Greek Revival "raised cottage" that he built for his daughter Celine still stands in Opelousas, although the old Lastie Dupre home is now gone.

His home site is now the residence of Mrs. Fremont Dupre and her daughter Mrs. Lessie Dupre Mistic, who have lived there for some years past. They cherish the old homestead, and use the famous bank for a part-time potato house.

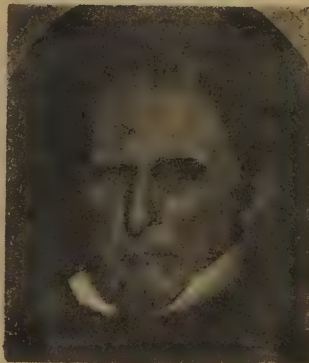
The home is in Prairie Ronde, near Gradengo's Island, not far from The Clover Farm Dairy.



BULLET DENTS made by jayhawkers who tried to break into the bank vault on the front yard of Lastie Dupre's place are pointed out by Mrs. Fremont Dupre, present owner of the property. (Daily World Photo by Deville).



"JACK COMEAU'S TELEPHONE" is how some Opelousas was captioned a picture of four Opelousas boys of the 1880s posing for fun with a donkey. The lender did not identify them, and it's not known which is the late Jack Comeau, who member of a pioneer St. Landry parish family and a life-long and respected member of the Opelousas community.



JUDGE GEORGE KING - Ex-ty judicial officer of Imperial St. Landry Parish. His life history can be found elsewhere in this issue.

## TAKE NOTICE

Call to see Myer & Alexander  
WASHINGTON.

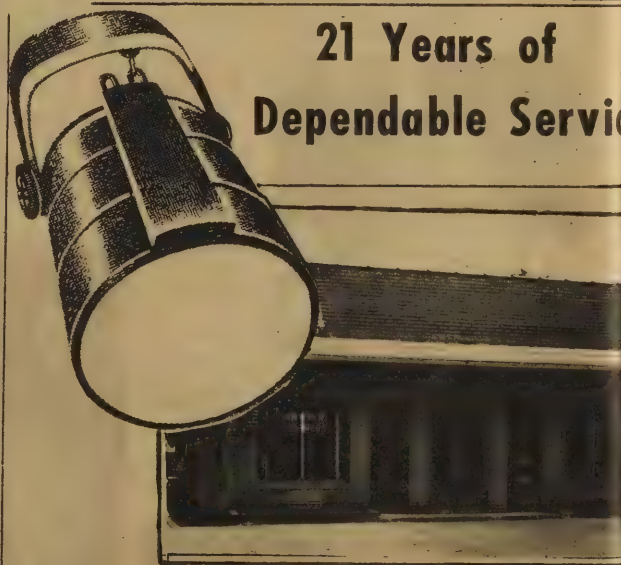
Wholesale & Retail Establishment  
BARGAINS.

M. & A. are now receiving by every Boat from the Northern markets, a heavy supply of every description of Merchandise, embracing Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Ladies fine Dresses.

ALSO—A large supply of jewelry in latest fashion, embracing Diamond Gold and Silver Watches, from the makers in England. Ladies and Gentlemen's Gold Chains, Gold Spectacles, etc.

We kindly invite the Ladies and Gentlemen to give us a call. We offer at Wholesale or Retail, at small advance.

Washington, (La.) October 16th 1888



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OPELOUSAS, LA.

Established June 20, 1934



# Ava Maria' Plantation



AVA MARIA PLANTATION - THE OLD "HALFWAY" HOUSE - ONCE HOME OF GRAND LOUIS FONTENOT; LATER RESIDENCE OF HOLLIER FAMILY, HENRY COMEAU FAMILY. (Illustration is 1945 oil painting by Ruth Robertson Fontenot).

own to the citizens of St. Landry parish many years as the "Halfway House" because of the fact that it lay about halfway between Washington and Opelousas, the old home originally called the "Ave Maria" Plantation. Tracing its history back in the old records of the St. Landry parish court house we find that it was recorded in detail at the time of the death of the fabulous "Grand Louis" Fontenot and his wife, Marie Joseph Fontenot. It was their home at the time of their death in 1820 (apparently both died about the same time - probably from one of those periodic cholera epidemics that swept Louisiana at that time).

Ave Maria Plantation at the time of Louis Fontenot's ownership was a tract of land 160 arpens situated in the aforesaid Parish of St. Landry and lying in the Prairie of the Arch adjacent on one side to the land of Joseph Gradneigo and on the other to Jean "Le Strapes". It was appraised with its improvements and appurtenances at \$20,000 - which was a considerable amount in 1820. "Grand Louis" Fontenot has been described in several Louisiana histories as a man of fabulous wealth, owning great stretches of land and large herds of cattle. He spoke French, English, and Indian - and could read and write in both French and English, which was a rare in this part of Louisiana. He was a member of the first territorial Legislature of the state, but resigned with many other legislators because of dissatisfaction with the "creole" politicians.

From old maps and other evidence it may be assumed that Fontenot once lived in "the old Prairie", and from dates of purchase records it can be seen that he lived at Ave Maria Plantation only about four years before his death. Whether he built the plantation house or whether it was built by one of the owners preceding his purchase (possibly the Barron family) we do not know, but it is reasonable to assume from the value placed on the house in 1820 that the "big house" was standing at that time.

Some of the lovely old homes of this parish have been neglected for several decades and are now abandoned and unoccupied. Its present owner, Roger Comseau, removed the great roof and upper part of the old home and remodeled it into a new dwelling that bears only "half" a resemblance to the old landmark that most of us remember.

One year before alteration of the house the writer made detailed floor plans and a sketch of the old home, and a small sketch of the new house that we have reproduced. The new house had a particularly nice roof line, with elegant dormers. The lower floor was built on the exterior. Its style was typical of the early plantation houses of this part of Louisiana - lower floor of plastered brick and upper floor weatherboarded.

The cypress posts supported the roof over the square brick plastered columns and the open gallery. An outside staircase led from the front gallery led to the second floor in the rear was a carriage entrance. The auction sale that took place following the death of Grand Louis Fontenot and his heirs of the household items were sold at public sale, as well as the lands, cattle, tools, slaves, and whatever property he owned - this was the custom at the time. An inventory made for the estate, and at the public sale, we can see what went into the sale of this kind. Every small article included in the sale.

A particular tract of land that we describe as Ave Maria Plantation were sold to Joseph Gradneigo. The whole estate was valued at \$70,030. Of the things that were sold we have listed a few at random in order to convey to you an idea of the interesting items that were sold. The following are from the inven-

- Inventory at their appraised values:
- One perogue - \$5.00
  - One sideboard - \$120.00
  - One House clock - \$40.00
  - One lit de repos, or settee - \$5.00
  - One set of large mahogany dining tables - \$60.00
  - Two oxcarts - \$38.00
  - One cabriolet and harness - \$400.00
  - 60 lbs. of tallow - \$9.00
  - One Spanish saddle - \$6.00
  - One muslin mosquito net - \$8.00
  - One double barrel fusil - \$40.00
  - One double barrel short rifle - \$15.00
  - Three American Horses - \$250.00
  - Two dozen silver spoons and forks - \$168.00
  - Two deer skins - \$25.00
  - Three buffalo hides - \$5.00
  - One pair of leg-irons and a piece of lead - \$2.00
  - One can of gin - \$5.00
  - 7 bottles of Malaga wine - \$5.25.

In this estate there were a hundred and forty slaves listed separately. Actually there were several more than this as some of the women and small children were sold together. It was uncommon for a mother to be separated from her children until they were about twelve or thirteen. The name and age of each slave was given, and his appraised value. The highest price was placed on a "negro man named Andre aged twenty years" - \$1500.00.

After the death of Louis Fontenot the Ave Maria plantation changed hands many times - From the Gradneigo's it went to Leonard Menso, and then to Hypolite Chretien, who sold to Charles Olivier in 1838. Olivier sold to Antoine King in 1840. It passed to his widow, Magdalene Shibley, in 1844, and she sold to Clement Hollier in 1859. Later it was owned by Clement Hollier Jr.

The Hollier family owned Ave Maria plantation for about fifty years, then it was sold to Henry Comseau, who lived there a number of years.

Has to later generations it was known as the Hollier place, and the Comseau place, as these families lived in it for a long time. Descendants of many families can call this their ancestral home - if we can assume that we all of the people who owned it lived there. We are certain that it was the last residence of Grand Louis Fontenot, whose daughters married prominent citizens of the times - General Garrigues de Flaueac married Marie Louise; Benoit Van Hille married Caroline; another daughter married a DeBaillon - all prominent men of St. Landry. Fontenot had only one son - Louis Fontenot, Jr. who married Brizette Gradneigo, by her first marriage - when Fontenot married her she was the widow of Laurent Dupre.

Clement Hollier has many descendants, and many of the older living members of the Hollier family were born in the lovely old-home - children of Clement Hollier, Jr.

Ave Maria Plantation, halfway house of the Prairie of the Church, holds many memories of the past.

AN ADVERTISEMENT  
From The Opelousas Courier, Dec. 31, 1853

"OYSTERS! OYSTERS!  
The undersigned will always have on hand at the Rail Road Exchange, Opelousas, during the present season, fresh Oysters from Vermilion Bay. He solicits a share of public patronage.

"PIERRE CESSAC (alias CADET)"  
(Note: There was no railroad here then).

ELBERT GANTT was collector of parish and railroad taxes in St. Landry parish in 1854.

# Dunbar's

"Our aims when we opened were to give the people of Opelousas and St. Landry parish quality merchandise and dependable personal service. We are proud to have had a part in the progress made by St. Landry parish. To our many friends and customers we have made in the past 8 years of business we say 'thanks'."

- Art Supplies ● Stationery ● Books
- Greeting Cards ● Cameras
- Projectors ● Photo Finishing
- Developing Supplies

## 1947 Dunbar's 1955

The Only Complete Camera and Book Shop in Opelousas



Home of Dunbar Camera & Book Shop and Opelousas Insurance Agency. Dunbar's is located on main floor, Opelousas Insurance occupies part of second floor.

## OPELOUSAS INSURANCE AGENCY

134 W. Bellevue St.

P. O. Box 830 Phone 2016  
Ed H. Estorge 1919-1953)  
Margaret L. Estorge  
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Continuous insurance service to the people of Opelousas and St. Landry Parish since 1919. Our office has been located in one of the oldest buildings in Opelousas since 1933.

For Complete Insurance Information See

## Opelousas Insurance Agency



12  
 Charles  
 e Villier  
 e Elizabeth  
 collens

San mil huit cent quatre et le trentième du mois de janvier de la présente année  
 sabbat de dimanche Barriere notre desservant de cette paroisse. Et de ce jour  
 déclare qu'il me Conste que San mil huit cent onze Et le deuxième du mois de  
 me Louis Buhot alors Curé de cette paroisse après la publication des Banns  
 les formalités de droit sans qu'il se soit rencontré aucun empêchement légal  
 ni civil, a marié solennellement et en présence des témoins sous le  
 me Charles Villier natif de cette paroisse, mineur d'âge et fils légitime de  
 Louis Chevalier de Villier natif du fort de Chartres des Illinois et de Dame  
 Genevieve Fontenot native de la Nouvelle Orleans et habitant de cette paroisse. Et  
 de Elizabeth Collens mineure d'âge et fille légitime de M<sup>r</sup> Luke Collens  
 de la Virginie et de Dame Courtableau native ainsi que de la D<sup>me</sup> et habitant de cette  
 paroisse, et qu'après avoir interrogé par parole de present et ayent  
 obtenu leur consentement il leur a imparti la benediction nuptiale  
 suivant les us et coutumes de notre sainte Eglise Romaine et ce en  
 présence de M<sup>r</sup> Louis Tardiac, Bebe Collens, de l'Amour d'ici pere et  
 de M<sup>r</sup> L. Chevalier de Villier pere de la jeune, et tous habitants de ce  
 qui ont signé avec moy. Mich<sup>l</sup> Bernard. D<sup>me</sup> Z. Courtableau. Prêtre desservant

*Charles de Villier*

TWO PROMINENT early St. Landry parish families were joined by the wedding above, recorded in the St. Landry Catholic Church marriage book No. 1. They are Charles DeVillier, "(translated) native of this parish and a minor and legitimate son of Louis Chevalier DeVillier, native of the Fort of Chartres of Illinois, and Marie Genevieve Fontenot. . . and Elizabeth Collins, legitimate daughter of Luke Collins of Virginia

and Dame Zoe Courtableau, native ancient inhabitant of this post." This was on 1811. Father Mich. Bernard Barriere made the recording, and Father Louis performed the ceremony. A witness was one "Yves D'Avy," whose signature is in brown area at lower right.



Owned and Operated by  
 Mr. and Mrs. J. Howard Lafleur



1946

1956

Opelousas' Only Complete  
 Juvenile Shopping Center

featuring such Nationally  
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- CHIPS & TWIGS
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OPELOUSAS, LA.

PHONE 6316



# Early Days of St. Landry Described by Martin

considerable data on St. Landry parish and Opelousas Country is available from the old and comprehensive "History of Louisiana" by Francois Xavier Martin, covering in the earliest days to the beginning of the "Between the States" in 1861. The book was published in New Orleans in 1882 and copies are rare.

Judge M. White of Opelousas has allowed the Daily World the use of his volume of Judge Martin's work, and there follows herewith excerpts. The first is from the opening part, entitled "A Topographical View of the State of Louisiana," describing the state, geographically, as of 1812. Writes Judge Martin: "The settlements of Opelousas are separated from those of Red River by a ridge of low and sterile hills. These are succeeded by fertile prairies, which continue without any important interruption, as far as the sea. They are almost entirely destitute of trees, excepting the water courses; so much so that when a cluster of trees is accidentally met with, it is called an island."

"The facility these prairies offer in raising stock had induced the original settlers of Opelousas and Attakapas to prefer the pastoral to the agricultural life. Those who followed them were invited by rich spots of land on the water courses to the cultivation of indigo and various cotton, besides corn, rice and provisions."

"The town, near the parochial church of Opelousas, dedicated to St. Landry, has no advantage of standing upon navigable water and this circumstance has contributed to check its growth. It has a branch of the bank."

"A few miles below it, is a convent of the nuns of which devotes themselves to the education of young persons of their sex. This establishment is a new one, and entirely the property of a lady of the neighborhood. The upper part of the settlements of Attakapas, which lie between Opelousas and the bayou, are very little from the former. Emigrants from the other states, having settled in the land near the sea, have given them the name to the culture of the sugar cane, and with great success."

"There are two towns in the Attakapas-- Martinsville and Franklin, on the river which rises in the Opelousas. The latter, though not considerable, has a weekly market. (Editor's note: Still edited and published by members of the same Bienvenu family and a branch of the state bank, a church and other public buildings of the parish. The other is yet an embryo.)"

"The Spaniards made an abortive attempt to establish a town, called New Iberia, about ten miles below St. Martinsville."

"A French corporation was chartered by the king in 1717. The company had learned from the Spanish experience, Judge Martin says, that little could be realized by trade in a thinly populated province. "The culture of the soil would be best promoted by large grants to powerful and wealthy individuals in the kingdom," the king decided."

"When these were made, among them one on the west side of the Mississippi opposite to the mouth of the Atchafalaya, was granted to M. Duverney, to Paris Duverney."

"The first accession of population which Louisiana received in this manner consisted of Frenchmen, led by Dubuisson, to occupy the territory to Paris Duverney. They arrived in the month of April."

"In the mid-1750s (Judge Martin's book was published at this juncture) the French lost the territory to the British."

"In the fall of Canada," he wrote, "a number of the colonists, unwilling to live under the dominion of the British, sought the warm climate of the Opelousas. The spotless banner still waved; most of the settlers in the neighborhood of the Atchafalaya (this was the early settlements of the Opelousas) who arrived at New Orleans and

settled above the "German coast." "Others of a more roving disposition crossed the lakes that separate the right bank of the Mississippi from the western prairies and began the settlements of Attakapas, Opelousas and Avoyelles."

"A hurricane struck the state on Aug. 24, 1775, and it was a year of severe floods, Judge Martin reported."

"This year the Mississippi rose to a greater height than was remembered by the oldest inhabitants. In the Attakapas and Opelousas, the inundation was extreme. The few spots which the water did not reach were covered with deer."

"In the year 1785, the Spanish took "an accurate census, by order of Galvez." That year the population of Opelousas was 1,211, of Pointe Coupee 1,521 and of New Iberia 125, while the entire population of "Lower Louisiana" was 27,046, and that of Lower and Upper Louisiana and West Florida was 32,114 (considerably less than the City of Lafayette today)."

"In reporting, in this chapter, on population, Judge Martin wrote:

"According to an arrangement between the courts of France and Spain, the province (Louisiana) received this year a very considerable accession of population, by the arrival of a number of Acadian families, who were supported by the French king, and came over to join their friends who had migrated to Louisiana, as we have already mentioned, in 1755. They settled mostly along both sides of the Mississippi river, near Plaquemines; but a number of families went to increase the settlement on Terre-aux-Boeufs, on the bayou Lafourche, and in the districts of Attakapas and Opelousas."

"By the year 1788 the population of Opelousas had reached 1,985; that of Pointe Coupee 2,004, that of New Iberia 190, and all of Louisiana and West Florida 42,611."

"The increase in Iberville, Mansbach, Lafourche, Opelousas and Attakapas, the parts of the province in which these people (the Acadians) settled, presents an increase of fifty-one per cent. The number of Acadian emigrants may in this way be reckoned at about 3,500."

"On January 1, 1792, Don Francisco Luis Hector, Baron de Carondelet became governor of Louisiana and West Florida. He had a militia trained, and in a report to the king at Madrid late that year, Martin wrote that "it appeared" that among the forces: "The legion of the Mississippi, consisting of the militia of Baton Rouge, Galvez, Pointe Coupee, Feliciana, Attakapas and Opelousas, had two companies of grenadiers, ten of fusiliers and four of dragoons."

"On July 7, 1799, the Spanish issued a set of regulations regarding the grant of land to settlers, containing the following provision: "In the posts of Opelousas and Attakapas, the greatest quantity of land that can be conceded, shall be one league front by the same quantity in depth; and when forth arpents cannot be obtained in depth, a half league may be granted; and, for a general rule, it is established that, to obtain, in said posts, a half league in front by the same quantity in depth, the petitioner must be owner of one hundred head of cattle, some horses and sheep, and two slaves, and also in proportion for a larger tract, without the power, however, of exceeding the quantity before mentioned."

"Louisiana passed from Spanish hands to French on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 1803, after 34 years and a few months of Spanish rule. The French had, in the same treaty, sold the territory to the United States, and it was formally presented to Governor Claiborne in ceremonies the 20th."

"The United States took a population census in 1803 and found: Opelousas, 2,454; Attakapas, 1,447; Baton



Rouge, 1,513; total, 49,473.

"The Indian population had greatly dwindled by that year, Judge Martin reported. He listed the census findings for Indians (not included above) and they included: "The Alibamons had a village of about one hundred persons, on the bayou Courtableau in the district of Opelousas."

"The Spanish accounts rendered at the end of 1802 showed that among expenses was a total of \$600 for salaries for the commandants of eight military posts including that at Opelousas."

"Shortly after the United States acquired Louisiana the Opelousas militia found itself called out. The Spanish had sent troop reinforcements along the Sabine west of Natchitoches, and Judge Martin wrote that:

"On the rise of the legislature Claiborne had ordered parts of the militia of the counties of Opelousas and Rapides, to Natchitoches." Subsequently, however, the Spanish moved out. But the militia remained called out for a time on another matter, however -- the Aaron Burr conspiracy to divide the young United States. But Burr was subsequently captured."

"The new legislature of Louisiana, wrote Martin, "adjourned towards the end of April, after having passed several very important acts. The country courts were abolished; a court was established in each parish. . . . It having been found that annual sessions of the superior court out of New Orleans, were inconvenient, semi-annual ones were directed to be held at Lafourche, Pointe Coupee, Alexandria, Opelousas and Attakapas."

"The number of members of the house of representatives was fixed at twenty-five; six of these were to represent the county of Orleans; the countries of German Coast, Acadie, Lafourche, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Opelousas and Attakapas, were to send two members each; and one was to come from each of those of Concordia, Washita and Natchitoches. The territory was divided into nineteen parishes."

"The population of the Opelousas area in 1807 was reported as 5,048; Pointe Coupee, 4,539; Attakapas, 7,369, and total for the state, 76,556."

"In 1814, when the British were making final

CIVIC LEADERS of Opelousas in 1896 included this group.



FERRIOL PERRODIN, long-time district attorney of early St. Landry Parish.



EARLY DAYS of public education in St. Landry are typified in this careful photograph of the school board members, faculty and students of Opelousas high school taken in the spring of 1895. Standing at top left are Judge E. T. Lewis and Laurent Dupre; the man is unidentified; fourth from left, Gilbert L. Dupre. Women standing are Mrs. Effie Ealer, Mrs. R. A. Mayer, the third from left is unidentified, Gabrielle Perrodin, and Hilda Mayer. Fourth from left on bottom row is Edith Dupre, and third from left is Belle Dupre. Last is Rosie Dupre (Mrs. E. B. Dubuisson).



ST. LANDRY HIGH SCHOOL, taken in 1896 by Threlkeld. The old building still stands, now on Academy street, used only at night for adult education classes.





VIEW OF "MISS MAG" HAYES' school in Opelousas.



1892 STUDENT BODY of "Miss Mag" Hayes' school in Opelousas. Many residents prominent today and in past years are in this picture.

# Jackson's Signature Here

Act entant to any bank which is removed from sale  
 By act of congress in by order of the president  
 or which may have been appropriated for any  
 purpose whatsoever  
 Sect. 5th. And he it further  
 enacts that the act shall be and remain in force  
 for one year from and after its passage  
 Approved May 29th 1830

Andrew Jackson

## Loi du Congrès

Acte pour autoriser les registres des terres Bureau  
 Terris, à la Louisiane à recevoir des déclarations  
 de terres, en certains cas, et à en donner des certificats  
 aux acheteurs.

Il est déclaré par le Sénat et le Congrès  
 des représentants du Etat Unis d'Amérique, après les  
 Congrès, que dans tous les cas où des individus ont acheté  
 des terres des Etats Unis dans l'Etat de la Louisiane  
 Et en ont payé le montant total, ou ont manqué à  
 omis de le déclarer le Registre du Bureau Terris  
 du district dans lequel la terre a été achetée  
 devra sur présentation du reçu original du receveur  
 du dit District, fait par l'acheteur primitif  
 de la terre ou ses héritiers, en faire une copie, et pour  
 au dit acheteur un certificat signifiant l'époque  
 où la terre fut achetée, et sur ce certificat il  
 sera inscrite une patente, comme dans les autres cas.  
 Bien entendu, cependant, que si dans le délai  
 intermédiaire, entre l'achat et la présentation  
 du dit reçu aucune des dites terres a été propagée et

ANDREW JACKSON'S signature adorns this document on file in the archives of the St. Landry parish clerk of court. The above is the third page of the four-sheet document (slightly reduced in size), which is in English through President Jackson's signature, followed by a summary of the law, in French, for the benefit of Louisianians.

The document is an act of Congress "to grant pre-emption rights to settlers on public lands."

Passed by both the Senate and House, the act provided that every "settler of the public lands prior to the passage of this act (signed May 29, 1830), and is now in possession, and

cultivated any part thereof in the year 1829" could register with the land office of the district in which the lands lie any number of acres up to 160 acres, or a quarter section, upon paying to the United States "the then minimum price of said lands..." If two or more persons settled in a section, then the first two could divide it between them, if by a north-south or east-west line the properties of each can be included in a half section. Proof of settlement had to satisfy the district land register.  
 The act was good for one year from its passage.

preparations to storm New Orleans, Judge Martin wrote at length of the patriotism of the people of all tongues and belief of Louisiana to their new nation, the United States. And he quoted at length from an eloquent report:

"As early as the twenty-second of November, Louaillier, one of the members of the House of representatives for the county of Opelousas, whose name will be frequently mentioned in the sequel of the work, in a report which he made as chairman of the committee of ways and means, had drawn the attention of the legislature to the necessity of their making suitable provision for the defense of the country."

Martin quoted Louaillier's eloquent plea for emergency readiness, and at several junctures in his report on the Battle of New Orleans mentioned Louaillier's having been responsible for raising funds for various emergency purposes, and the like.

He raised thousands to have farm hands sent. He directed that \$6,000 be sent to provide clothing and equipment for the Kentucky and Tennessee militia, and the ladies of New Orleans took the purchased blankets and woolen clothes and made 1,200 coats, 1127 pairs of "pantaloon," and 800 shirts in less than a week.

"Louaillier," wrote Martin, "the member of the house of representatives for the county of Opelousas, a native of France, had been an efficient member of the legislature, and had been remarked for his constant and steady efforts in bringing forth the energies of the state for its defense, and in providing and distributing assistance for its needy defenders."

Louaillier got in a hassle with General Jackson following the battle, over an unfortunate order Jackson issued, ordering all French subjects to leave the vicinity of New Orleans within three days. Jackson went into a rage at Louaillier's letter to a New Orleans newspaper protesting the order, had the Opelousas arrested and court martialled. But the court martial would not convict him.

Opelousas, St. Landry Parish, was incorporated in 1821.  
 In 1830 "the great rafts, which forbid navigation of the Atchafalaya up to this time, were now being brought to the attention of the general government."

Washington, St. Landry Parish, was incorporated in 1835.  
 Cheneyville, Rapides parish, was incorporated in 1836.

In 1840 the legislature appropriated funds to remove the huge log raft in Red river. And 1840 "was memorable for an extraordinary rise of the Mississippi." Judge Martin quoted a contemporary writer's description:

"Never had the river worn so terrific an aspect since 1782, when the Atakapas and Opelousas were partly covered by its waters. It was now swollen to within a few inches of the highest levees, and in several places flowed over them and inundated the country. The crevasses were numerous and some of them of great width. The lands of Lafourche and Concordia were completely under water. The



AARON JACOBS, as he was depicted in the "St. Landry Trade Review," printed in December 1896 by Leonce Sandoz at his Courier newspaper shop, Editors were Benedict Burr and a Mr. Hamilton. He is the only living civic leader today of the scores depicted in this review. The review said of Jacobs "another exemplification of the enterprise that characterizes the rising generation of St. Landry's citizens. Mr. Jacobs was born January 18, 1873..."

Red River, driven back by the increase of the Mississippi, inundated its cotton lands."

In 1841 "the work of opening the mouth of the Atchafalaya at the Mississippi was undertaken."

The town of "St. Charles of Grand Core was incorporated in 1842.

A road around the great raft in Red River was authorized in 1843.

In 1858 "state bonds to the amount of 500 were issued to the Baton Rouge, Grand Tete & Opelousas Railroad."

"Ville Platte, St. Landry Parish," was incorporated in 1858, So was Breaux Bridge, Martin Parish.

On January 26, 1861, Louisiana seceded from the union, and here Judge Martin his history, saying "this amallist here concludes his task, because the annals and reconstruction, and the changes with thereby, have no attractions for his special session at which Louisiana was drawn from the union were W. Burton, Cook, L. J. Dupre, E. L. Swayze and Taylor. All were present. Alexander M. of Lafayette, former governor, was president of the session.



EARLY St. Landry Parish filling station at Opelousas, owned by the late Mel D. (standing, left).



# Old Opelousas Laws Seem Ridiculous

By VERA DUGAL

Early laws of older municipalities have a seeming ridiculous to their citizens in "modern" 20th Century. Certainly Opelousas, reputed to be the third oldest city in state --- but believed by many here to be oldest --- has its fair share of these seemingly ridiculous ordinances.

For example, back in 1876, it was illegal to have balls, dancing parties, fairs or public entertainments within the corporation limits of Opelousas without written permission from president of the board of police.

This permission could only be granted to the person wishing to entertain would be (at \$2.50 each) a sufficient number of citizens to act as special constables or police officers to keep "good order and decorum" at such public entertainment.

It was also ordained that "no spirituous liquors of any kind were to be sold or disposed of at such balls, fairs, or public entertainments." A public entertainment was defined as an entertainment where admission charged or where refreshments were served.

In 1893 it was made illegal to drive carts or wagons over the bridges of the town at a gait faster than an ordinary walk. It was explained that the upkeep of the large number of bridges in Opelousas entailed heavy expense on the corporation treasury and that such wagons "speeding" over these bridges were a nuisance.

Seven years later it was also made illegal to drive or ride a wheeled vehicle on the streets of Opelousas at a greater speed than six miles per hour. Penalty for violation of this law was \$2.50 or five days in jail, or both.

The fast pace of traffic evidently was a cause of worry to the early lawmakers of Opelousas. They also passed an ordinance making it illegal for a train to pass through the corporation limits at a greater speed than five miles per hour. It was also illegal for a train to block up the streets at crossings longer than five minutes except in case of accident or uncontrollable circumstances. Children did not escape the ordinance.

In 1902 it became unlawful for children under 16 to be on the streets after 7 p.m. between Oct. 1 and April 1, and after 8 p.m. between April 1 and Oct. 1. After these hours children had to be accompanied by parents or guardians or carry a written permission from the board of police. Three taps of the fire alarm bell in court house was to signal curfew. There was also had a curfew hour. It was made in 1900 that no stock were permitted to be kept in front of a house from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. This was especially aimed at milk cows, for all stock of these privileged damsels were prohibited from running at large at any time through the corporation limits.

Twenty-five years before, an ordinance had passed prohibiting goats and hogs from running at large. For wilfully permitting such animals to run at large there was a \$10 fine, doubled for a second offense. The animal were to be impounded and, if not claimed, sold at public auction the following Saturday.

Early lawmakers of Opelousas evidently intended that their town be neat --- or clean. Every home owner in the town was obliged to remove all grass and weeds growing on the sidewalks in front of his property. Violators of this "duty" were subject to fine not exceeding \$15 or imprisonment not exceeding 15 days, or both.

Another ordinance aimed at keeping the streets clean prohibited the washing of vehicles, horses or other animals on the sidewalks of the town.

It was also made unlawful to throw kitchen refuse into the streets. The ordinance prohibited such items as bottles, tin cans,

dead chickens, birds, animals or fish.

Firearms were unlawful, of course, but added to the list of "dangerous" weapons was the "nigger shooter." The ordinance explained that damage had been caused "by the ill and criminal use of the toys commonly known as nigger shooters", and their use was to be forbidden within the town limits.

In 1898 it was illegal to ride, drive or lead a horse or horses over the court house square or to hitch a horse to any post or tree in the yard. In 1900 an amendment added to this, "without permission from the Mayor or Marshal."

In 1903 an ordinance was adopted prohibiting all barber shops within the town limits from opening on Sundays. Another ordinance adopted at this time prohibited the leading, riding or driving of horses or other animals on or across the paved sidewalks.

One of the first ordinances passed prohibited wagons or other vehicles from being driven into or across any of the ditches running parallel with the sidewalks "unless at such places of crossing there be a suitable bridge."

It was also illegal for the proprietor of a business to erect any rack for hitching horses on the edge of ditches unless he should erect a bridge "so constructed as to allow the free flow of water and prevent the filling up of said ditch." The proprietor also had to keep these ditches free of trash and filth.

Barbed wire for fencing was declared a public nuisance in 1897 and deemed illegal. Use of barbed wire or failure to remove such wire already in existence brought a stiff penalty.

A committee of five was appointed in 1893 to have charge of the cemetery and academy lots. The committee consisting of Cullon, Shute, Littell, Ray and Thompson were authorized to establish rules and regulations for the digging of graves, sale of lots and opening of streets and walks in the cemetery.

It was also ordained illegal for persons to "deposit, or cause to be deposited on said Academy grounds or lots any dead body or carcass of any kind, or any broken crockery, glass, tin, iron, or other trash." Fine for depositing any dead body or carcass was \$5 or 48 hours in the parish jail, or both. Depositing of broken crockery, glass and other refuse brought the lesser penalty of \$2.50 or 24 hours in jail, or both.

A year later it was deemed necessary to pass an ordinance forbidding entrance in the Opelousas Protestant Cemetery and interfering with the sexton while he was engaged in supervising or performing other duties of his office. It was also forbidden to intrude upon, use insulting, obscene or abusive language or epithets to any members of his family.

It was also ordained unlawful to climb over the wire fence inclosing the cemetery. This was punishable by a fine, imprisonment or labor. It was also declared illegal for anyone to "mischievously plunk flowers, etc. from around and about the graves and tombs of the dead, unless it be those who placed them there."

Another section of the ordinance provided that "whoever shall be found guilty by the mayor of opening tombs or in any manner disturbing or disfiguring a tomb, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon trial and conviction thereof shall be fined Ten Dollars, and in default of paying it, shall be imprisoned ten days, or condemned to work ten days on the streets of Opelousas."

It was also prohibited for omnibuses or other public hack drivers from approaching any nearer to the main track of the M.P. RR upon the arrival of trains other than the outer eastern and outer western switch or house track running parallel with the main track. This ordinance did not apply to private vehicles. Five years later, in 1906, an amendment was added stating in addition it was unlawful for drivers of these vehicles to leave

their vehicles from the time of the arrival until the departure of the passenger trains.

An ordinance was adopted in 1902 prohibiting "any person or persons to carry on, or organize in any gambling business, or any game of chance on the streets or in any place exposed to the public gaze, within the said town of Opelousas."

It was further ordained that "it shall be unlawful for any persons known as Fakers to pursue or follow their unlawful calling and business of swindling and taking advantage of innocent or unsuspecting persons on the streets of said town."

A few years earlier, in 1899, it was made illegal to engage in the gambling games of craps or dice for money or representative of money or any other consideration whatever.

Yellow fever in the city of New Orleans and the town of Bunkie caused Opelousas officials in 1905 to declare a quarantine against New Orleans and Bunkie, or any other city, town or village which was, or which might have become infected with yellow fever. Persons or baggage from these corporations were not allowed to enter Opelousas.



VENTRE HOME in Opelousas. (Daily World Photo by Deville.)

It was unlawful for Opelousas citizen to take any person from the quarantined area into their homes, and every practicing physician was required to report any case of yellow fever which he discovered.

And so the ordinances go on and on. Some of them seem ridiculous to us, but to the forefathers of Opelousas they were very important --- and also very necessary. We may wonder at some of them perhaps, but then, what will the citizens of Opelousas a few hundred years from now think of some of our "modern" laws?



SUGAR FACTORY on Augusta Plantation at Barbuck, in northern St. Landry, silent since 1946, stands today as a relic of the Old South. The plantation dates to Spanish grants. It was formerly a part of St. Peter's Plantation. Augusta Plantation was owned and operated by August Hamilton de Lesseps from about 1900 to 1905. The plantation got its name from his wife, who was Augusta Story. Upon August's death the plantation was operated by an investment company, with his son, Hamilton de Lesseps, as president.

Hamilton converted the old syrup mill into a sugar refinery and continued operations until 1910. Augusta then went into the hands of the Haas Investment Co., with Dr. W. D. Haas of Bunkie at the head. The Augusta sugar factory ceased operations in 1946. Sam Haas is now president of the Haas Investment Co., still owners of Augusta. Other members are W. D. Haas Jr., Mrs. Roy Harrison and Mrs. Franklin Mikell. (Daily World Photo by Bourdier).

## Opelousas' Newest, Finest and Most Complete Music Store



- Complete line of band instruments and accessories
- Authorized dealer for Fender Guitars and amplifiers and Gulbransen Pianos
- Records ● Sheet Music
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### TREIBEL'S MUSIC SHOP

Phone 4134 226 W. Landry Opelousas



Opelousas ICE AND BOTTLING WORKS, first ice plant here, photographed in 1896. Established in 1893 by the late Andrew Moresi Sr., who died two years ago and produced 10 tons of ice per day.

(Not a photo)



*Laws  
Resolutions & Ordinances  
of the  
Board of Police of the Town of Opelousas*

*Resolution relative to Clerk's Office.*

1828  
14<sup>th</sup> April Resolved by the Board of Police of the Town of Opelousas that the Clerk of the Board purchase annually the necessary Books & Stationary for the Use of the Board, to an amount not exceeding Twenty Dollars, provided that the amount of such purchases shall always be subject to the regulations of said Board, and that the Clerk shall from time to time submit his Accounts therefor.

Resolved and approved by the Board of Police of the Town of Opelousas this 14<sup>th</sup> Day of April 1828.

Attest Chas. Thieneman Clerk, Signed Valentine King President.

*Resolution relative to the Wards in the Town of Opelousas.*

OLDEST ORDINANCE BOOK for Opelousas that could be found by the staff of the Daily World began, as above, on April 14, 1828. There was an older government here, referred to several times in this book, but no records could be located. Note that the ordinance was

written at left in English; at right in French, according to custom at the time. Note that the president of the board of police, Valentine King, signed his first name "Valentin" on the English side, but "Valentin" on the French side. He was president until April

## Early Opelousas Councils Had Problems

Problems with butchers, with sanitation, with yellow fever, with bridges and with early organization of government beset Opelousas town officials in the early 1800s.

The town was officially chartered in 1821. But the earliest recorded activities of the "Board of Police of the Town of Opelousas" that were made available to us were in a book entitled "Laws, Resolutions & Ordinances of the Board of Police of the Town of Opelousas," beginning with a meeting of the board on April 14, 1828.

The book is today in possession of Aaron Jacobs, secretary of the Association of Commerce.

There had been a town government prior to this time, as previous tax laws were referred to in the book. But apparently this must have been a revised or revamped government.

Early Opelousas records -- with the exception of this book -- were burned many years ago. They had been stored in a barn and were lost when the barn burned, according to former City Attorney Alex L. Andrus.

The large, leather-bound book at hand provides highly interesting, sometimes amusing, insight into problems here one and one-quarter centuries ago.

The laws of the community were written neatly, with a fine Spencerian hand, in English on each left-hand page and the same topic in French on each right-hand page. The hand-writing of laws and ordinances was continued from the initial entry by "Chas. Thieneman, Secretary," on April 14, 1828, until a final penned entry by "Jos. D. Richard, Clerk," on Aug. 24, 1827.

Thereafter, the clerks pasted in newspaper clippings.

The very first resolution adopted by the Board of Police authorized the town clerk to buy books and stationary for the use of the Board, to an amount not exceeding Twenty Dollars. . . . or, as reported on the right hand page, "a l'usage de son Bureau; bien entendu que la somme depensee pour cet objet ne depasse jamais Vingt Plastres. . . ."

Valentine King was president of the board, and signed each item, along with the clerk. When he signed in English he used the first name of his first name. When he signed on the French side of the book he omitted the final

### WARDS CREATED

The second thing the Board of Police did after arranging for office supplies was create ward lines. . . . the Wards or Districts in the Town of Opelousas shall hereafter be as follows, to wit:

"1. The First ward shall comprize all that part north of North Street and including North Street.

"2. The Second shall comprize all that part between North and Bellevue Streets and including Bellevue Street.

"3. The Third shall comprize all that part between Landry and Vine Streets and including Vine Street.

"5. The Fifth shall comprize all that part which lies South of Vine Street."

Having done that, the board then appointed a supervisor for each district, in order: Francois Neda, Andre Lastrapes, Saml. E. Bell, Donathan Harris and Valentine King.

On April 19, 1828, the board met again and, at the request of the supervisor from the fifth ward (Mr. King) they authorized the latter "to cause a bridge to be built at the southeast corner of his premises, provided the same shall not cost more than Twenty Dollars."

### ABOLISH POLL TAX

The board continued the "law of last year" fixing taxes and revenues, but abolished the "Capitation or Poll Tax."

### GUARD ROOM

That same day, the board voted to discontinue paying rent "of the house belonging to Aubespin on Union Street for the use of the Patrol," and directed the constable to so notify Aubespin.

The board fixed it as the duty of the town constable to keep in repair the small bridges and ditches of the town, and, further, "to remove or cause to be removed all nuisances within the limits of the said town." They gave him an annual expense allowance of \$25.

Mr. King evidently couldn't get his bridge built within the \$20 allowance of April 19, for the board met June 14, 1828, and allowed him \$5 more to complete it, and also to haul up to \$10 worth of dirt to put at the bridge and on the "road about it."

### BUTCHER LAW

An ordinance was adopted two days later prohibiting butchers or others vending meats in the town market from selling or offering

to sell tainted meat, and directing the constable to seize such meat and destroy it. The fine was \$10 for each such piece of meat.

On July 5, 1828 the board adopted an ordinance fixing its meeting place as Chas. Thieneman's office in Court Street, and levied a fine of \$5 against any member missing a meeting.

Mr. King's bridge cost the town \$24, for on the same day they authorized King to pay the sum to Davide Arkinson for having built it.

The board made a contract with the Editor of the Opelousas Gazette, Charles Thieneman, also its clerk, on Aug. 2, 1828, to continue printing the laws and ordinances for the year beginning July 12, 1828, for the compensation of \$40 per year.

### BUYS FIRE ENGINE

The Opelousas board contributed \$300 toward the purchase of a fire engine, turning the money over to "Fr. (Francois) Neda, Esq.," who was "authorized by the citizens to receive the contributions."

The board agreed with "many citizens," who had been taking up a collection, that a bridge should be built over Bayou Tesson on Bellevue Street. They added \$75 of town money to the fund and agreed to take bids Sept. 1.

They also on Aug. 21, 1828, authorized the first ward supervisor to repair North Street between Union Street and the street immediately east of it (Oak St., today). "on the most reasonable terms which he may be able to effect." And they paid Dominique Meurio \$25 each for building five bridges: One at South and Court Street, two at North and Court Street, and two at "the intersection of Landry and the street running between the premises of Jos. A. Moore and Reynolds."

They ordered the constable to take bids and repair the "bridge in Landry Street over the Bayou Tesson on or before the First of December next, said repairs to consist of a new covering of cypress, and posts and handrails of the same materials."

### FIRE COMPANY FORMED, BUT . . .

On Oct. 6, 1828 the Board of Police of Opelousas issued orders for forming a fire company, after taking note that the citizens of the town had purchased and received a fire engine.

Apparently, however, the board made the rules too strict, for they repealed this or-

dinance on Dec. 6 in every respect

title and "preamble," and rewrote it.

This first fire company ordinance authorized the president to appoint a captain

company to be organized. Other provisions

Every free male inhabitant between

of 15 and 50 years "shall be bound

in the fire engine company." The ordi-

was ordered to make a list of such

turn them over to the captain, "who

it shall be to summon all the in-

subject to serve." He was to organi-

into a company, train them, and ha-

every 15 days or oftener.

Men failing to attend were to be

for every such failure. The captain

ted with all necessary power and au-

regulate his said company. . . . and at

meeting he shall cause to be electe-

tenant and all other subaltern offic-

In case of a fire it was ruled the

bound to serve, "as well as all stran-

assemble "with all haste at the plac-

flagration."

The board also passed an ordina-

hibiting cooking or baking in any

delapidated furnace or oven," as a

vention measure.

They advertised for bids to be op-

17, 1828, for building a bridge "ove-

lee on Laurent street, which runs be-

premises of Edward Taylor and W-

son."

NEW FIRE COMPANY LAW

On Dec. 6 the Opelousas board

their fire company ordinance and

company voluntary, composed of

and 40 "free, white male inhabitant

lousas."

The company was empowered to

itself, choose its own officers, ma-

rules, take an oath of service over

the ordinance, and take charge of

gine. The company was given ac-

"wells and watering places" near

necessary by violence."

All male inhabitants between

years, however, were required to

the scene of a fire and to comp-

orders of the captain and offic-

company, with a \$25 fine for viol-

company was charged with keepin-

in a safe place and in repair, for

board would spend up to \$35 and



Lois  
Résolutions & Ordonnances  
du  
Bureau de Police de la Ville des Opelousas

Résolution prise relative au Bureau du Greffier

1888. Résolu par le Bureau de Police de la Ville des Opelousas que le Greffier du dit Bureau soit, et par la présente est autorisé à acheter, annuellement, Les Livres, Plumes, Encre, Papier, et en général tous les objets à l'usage de son Bureau. Bien entendu que la somme dépensée pour cet objet ne dépasse jamais Vingt Dollars, et que cette somme soit toujours sujette à l'Examen du Bureau, et que le Greffier présente des Comptes, de temps en temps, relatif aux Achats qu'il aura fait pour son bureau.

Résolu par le Bureau de Police de la Ville des Opelousas le 14 Avril 1828.  
Attesté: Chas. Thineman Greffier. Signé: Valentin King Président.

... again, in the year 1834-35. The book skips from April 1851 to March 1864, at which time one F. A. King was president, a position he held through April 1873. At the reorganizational meeting on that date--he had been re-elected to his seat--he was not chosen

president, and he resigned from the board. The custom of writing ordinances in both English was continued only through November 20, 1832, then dropped, and only English used thereafter.

um of \$150 was given the company to buy equipment.

And the owners of every building in town had to keep on the premises "two good leather fire buckets (equal in size to those now pertaining to the fire engine)," with next April 1 as the deadline.

CHARITABLE FUNDS

The Opelousas board of police allocated at its first meeting in 1829, on March 9, the sum of \$50 annually "for the relief of the poor and for the funeral charges of persons dying... without means..." The constable was charged with investigating such expenses.

CHURCH STREET CREATED

On March 9, 1829, the town board created Church street; by an ordinance directing "that the street leading into the Town of Opelousas, at its northern extremity and passing between the church and Chas. Garzigues Flaujac, shall be known and called by the name of 'Church Street'." The street was to extend from the "northern limit of the town to the southwest corner of the premises of Pierre Wartelle." The board advertised for bids for making the street.

On April 13, 1829, the following supervisors of the five districts were named: Francois Neda, John Chaule, John Jenkins, Wm. Moore and V. King.

On April 1, 1829, the treasurer submitted the year's accounts, and the town had a balance of \$116.83 1/2, not including "an outstanding warrant of \$70."

CENSUS TAKEN

The board directed the town assessor, at the next assessment, to make also a "census or numbering of the people." It directed that the census roll be divided as follows:

- 1. Free white males over 45 years of age;
- 2. Free white males over 21 and under 45;
- 3. Free white males under 16. Females ---1.
- Free white heads of families;
- 2. Under paternal authority. Plus --Free male persons of colour over 16; free females of colour. Slaves, males over 16; males under 16; females over and females under 16.

Trades, occupations and professions were to be listed. The assessor was to be paid \$2 for every 100 persons. (We never have learned the outcome).

The constable was authorized May 4, 1829, to "hire two able bodied men slaves, at the most reasonable terms, together with a cart and team," to repair streets.

The work involved in creating Church street cost \$100, paid to Mammel Galban, apparently the low bidder.

DIG WATER WELLS

The Opelousas board ordered two of its members, Neda and Chaule, to employ workmen to dig three public wells at the following places; in Main Street at the corner of Neda and Miramond, adjoining Mrs. Neda's Banket; in Main Street between the corner of King and Neda, adjoining the banket of A. King, and in Court Street at the corner of the public square opposite M. Moore's store.

Butchers were apparently showing favoritism in Opelousas in the year 1829. On Sept. 2 the town board passed "a law" requiring that butchers in the town market sell meat to customers "in the same order in which the respective purchases may present themselves and offering to pay for the same in money." And it forbid them the right to refuse to sell any piece of meat not actually delivered to another "under the pretext that the said piece is reserved for another," or any other "pretext." The fine provided was \$25.

FEAR OF DISEASE RAMPANT

"Dangerous and malignant diseases" were rampant in some parts of the state, and on Sept. 12, 1829, the Opelousas Board of Police enacted a drastic ordinance forbidding between Aug. 1 and Nov. 1 of each year the importing into the town of any "goods, wares or merchandise of any description" from New Orleans, the "Coast of Mississippi, or any other places, where dangerous and malignant diseases prevail," unless the owners let a licensed physician examine the goods. Such owners or those charged with the goods must "cause the steamboat, or the vessel or craft, or the wagon, cart, carriage or other vehicle in which said goods... may have been transported... and also the said goods... to be examined by some regularly licensed physician residing in the Parish of St. Landry."

The fine for violations was set at \$25 for each "bale, barrel, hogthead, box, trunk bag, keg, crate, cask or package, or for each piece."

Furthermore, any person coming from New Orleans or the Mississippi coast, along with their wearing apparel, bedding and furniture, had to be examined by a physician of St. Landry within six hours of arrival. If the physician considered them dangerous, the constable was to remove them and their goods "beyond the limits of the said town."

Furthermore, should a resident of the town be struck with such a disease, the president and one board member were given the po-

wer, upon medical advice, to have such persons removed from the town, along with any of their belongings considered dangerous.

The board ordered 100 copies of the ordinance printed in both French and English and posted about the town, and delivered to every "keeper of a tavern or boarding house" and such other people as the board might name.

On Sept. 12, 1829, the board raised the pay of the town constable to \$50 per year. On Oct. 8, 1829, the board changed its domicile to the parish court house. Members present at this meeting were Valentin(e) King, president; Francois Neda, John Chaule and John Jenkins.

At this same meeting the council fired its clerk, Charles Thineman (also the editor of the Opelousas Gazette). It was noted that the president, Mr. King, had been writing the minutes himself for two months. The board on Dec. 12, 1829, paid ex-clerk Thineman \$139 it owed him, and on April 13, 1830, another \$20. The new clerk was Edward W. Taylor.

TAXES ARE RAISED

Annual taxes in Opelousas were raised on April 7, 1830, as follows:

- 1-On every wholesale or commission merchant or trader, \$25.
- 2-On every retailer, including wines and spirituous liquors sold in greater quantity than one-quarter of a gallon, \$25.
- 3-On every tavern keeper or keeper of any other house of public entertainment, \$25.
- 4-On every "grog-shop, keeper of a tippling house, or retailer of spirituous liquors, or retailer of wine, beer, ale, cider or fermented or intoxicating liquor, when sold in greater quantity than one-quarter gallon," \$75.
- 5-On every "owner or keeper of a billiard table used for a lucrative purpose," \$75.
- 6-On every Pedler or Hawker, or person selling or causing to be sold in any manner whatever goods of any description in the streets or public places, articles generally sold in Market excepted," \$25.
- 7-On every "showman, keeper of a circus, or keeper of a theatre, or such like," \$25.

Licenses for the above were due and payable on May 1 each year, but there was a scale set up reducing amounts for shorter periods, ranging from four-fifths for nine months to one-tenth for one day. Cash payment was required for periods shorter than six months, but a one-fourth down payment and a note for the balance could be furnished for longer periods.

People violating this law were to be fined

\$50 and their goods seized until the fine be paid.

After raising taxes on April 7, 1830, the board met April 9, 1831, and raised salaries to the following sums, per year:

Clerk, \$75; treasurer, \$25; constable \$100; plus 50 per cent of money received from the stable," 5 per cent on taxes collected and 7 per cent of the "market money on sale of meats." The ordinance exempted the "Opelousas Thespian Corps" from paying a tax for a performance scheduled that night.

Meantime, the administration had changed. Valentin(e) King had been board president at the meeting of Dec. 12, 1829, but at the next meeting, April 15, 1830, Henderson Taylor was president and E.W. Taylor clerk.

The presidency changed hands again and by April 11, 1831, P. Labiche was president, but E.W. Taylor still clerk.

PROPERTY TAX ENACTED

On April 11, 1831, the Opelousas board enacted a property tax, a tax on slaves, and a tax per head on any man who did not pay a property tax. The tax rates:

- 25 cents per \$100 of value of real property;
- 25 cents for every slave, and \$1.50 for every "free male person" above the age of 21 years who did not pay a tax for real estate."

They tightened up, too, on the "Opelousas Thespian Society" by requiring that this theatrical group be exempt from taxation only "on condition that they give the profits of one presentation per annum to the treasurer of the Town of Opelousas to be applied by the Board of Police thereof for the benefit of the poor of said town."

SLAVES WORTH \$300

The board raised the tax on slaves on April 9, 1832, at which time it had still another president, Guy H. Bell. The tax on slaves was raised to the same as on property, 2 1/2 cents per \$100 in value, and the board "averaged" all slaves and considered them worth \$300 each.

Town officials' pay was raised again, at the same time, as follows, per year:

Clerk \$75; assessor, \$25; treasurer, 2 1/2 per cent "of all sums received by him as such"; constable, \$100; and "to the person who now is or may hereafter be appointed to collect the market dues and take an account of the brands, 50 per cent on the amount received for the stalls and 5 per cent on the amount received for vending meat."

To insure that town officials do their duties the board levied a fine of \$1 minimum and \$5



maximum on any official, including a board member, for every "failure or neglect" of duty.

SLAVES AND LIQUOR

An ordinance entitled 'relative to the police of slaves within the Town of Opelousas' was adopted July 9, 1832, but it really covered more ground than that.

First of all, it empowered the board president to appoint one or more "proper persons as special officers of patrol, to act on Sundays (the clerk spelled it Sondays) and Holy Days, and on such other days as may be deemed expedient. They shall aid and assist the town constable in the discharge of his duties."

They, along with the council, were specifically charged with enforcing ordinances "relative to slaves," and especially a legislative act on March 16, 1830, entitled "An act to amend the Black Code." This was "an act more effectually to prevent slaves from obtaining spirituous and intoxicating liquors without the consent of their masters."

The constable and special patrol were empowered and directed "to stop all slaves coming into said town and to demand from them the written permission required by law which if they cannot produce, they shall be required to leave the said town forthwith." And any slave or slaves found in town selling, trading or buying any property whatsoever, or buying any "spirituous or intoxicating liquor" without written permission required by law "shall receive the corporal punishment ordained by law," and must forfeit the property to the town "for use of the poor therein."

A supplementary ordinance adopted Oct. 27, 1832, divided the patrols into squads, provided for filling vacancies in them, requiring that patrols be made once a week and at such times also as especially ordered out, and requiring written reports from squad leaders as to "occurrences, if any."

FRENCH OMITTED

It is interesting to note that the final ordinance penned in French, as well as English, was the last signed by "P. Lagiche," board president, on April 11, 1831. The next president, Guy H. Bell, omitted the double-writing in two languages, from the time of the first meeting of his regime on April 9, 1832, and the practice was never resumed, with but one exception, the ordinance reported immediately below, on "filth and causes of sickness."

"FILTH AND CAUSES OF SICKNESS"

An ordinance "relative to nuisances, sources of filth and causes of sickness" was adopted Nov. 20, 1832 by the police board of Opelousas.

It required that:

"House offal" (garbage) be deposited in "such vessels as will not contain liquid," placed out of the weather, and emptied "in a proper place" not less than twice a week, on pain of a \$10 fine.

Persons were forbidden to throw into ditches, streets, yards, courts, enclosures, public place or vacant lots, or houses, shops or galleries, or side walks or steps, any: "Shavings, hair, weeds, manure, shells, broken glass, or any animal or vegetable substance whatever, or any kind of matter or thing whatever, in a putrid state," or anything that smelled badly, or wounded or sick or dead animals, or anything at all offensive. Such persons faced a \$20 fine, except that slaves would get 25 lashes.

All property owners and occupants were required to keep their properties and bordering ditches clean and "sink holes" filled up to permit water to drain off. Nobody could bring into town or sell therein any tainted or noxious foods, on pain of a \$10 fine for every offense, or, for slaves, 25 lashes.

It further ordered that every store, tavern, grog-shop, billiard room and "house of public amusement" in town be shut up every night at 8 o'clock and be kept shut during the night, and "all kinds of games shall cease in the said places. . . ." on pain of a \$25 fine.

KITES, CRACKERS, OXEN

An Opelousas ordinance adopted Dec. 20, 1832, forbid "flying of kites or such like things, also the letting off of any kind of squib or cracker." It required, further, that persons driving vehicles drawn by oxen "shall be bound to be on foot at the head or side of the oxen continually."

And persons were forbidden to drive vehicles in town drawn by animals "unbroke to harness," nor gentle such animals to harness in town. And all vehicles stopped on the streets must be "so placed as to leave a free passage."

During most of 1833 and early 1834 Francois Neda was board president. Only one resolution, paying the clerk, was passed during his term. And he was succeeded by Valentine King.

GROLEE, CHERRY STREETS NAMED

"The street immediately north of North Street and parallel with it shall be called Grolee Street," the board ordained on March 19, 1834. And "the street immediately south of South Street" running "from Union Street to the Bayou Tesson," was named Cherry Street.

An ordinance was enacted July 14, 1834, requiring that all Opelousas "stores and retailing shops" be closed at 2 p.m. on Sundays, and that "all slaves belonging to the country shall leave the town" at 2 p.m. on Sundays. The constable was instructed to ring the town bell at that hour.

There were no further ordinances adopted until April 10, 1837, a lapse of almost three years, when the board re-adopted its tax law except that it: Doubled the tax on grog-shops and tipping houses, to \$50 annually, and levied on "each and every billiard table, exclusive of the bar," a tax of \$100. The value of slaves was increased, those under 12 years of age being valued at \$200; those above at \$600.

Jonathan Harris was president of the board at this time, and Guy H. Bell, one-time president, was clerk.

CEMETERY PURCHASE

On April 10, 1837, the board of Opelousas voted to name a two-man committee to locate "four arpens" of land for a public burying ground, to "include as far as practicable the graves now existing," with full-power to pass a sale, as offered by the police jury of the parish three days earlier.

PEACE DISTURBANCE FINES

Fines and 24-hour to 48-hour imprisonment for a long list of peace disturbances, ranging from public cursing to annoying others to staggering from intoxication were ordained on July 8, 1837. The fines, between limits of \$10 and \$25 and imprisonment in the "public jail" were to be levied against persons in public places who shall:

"Curse or swear or use abusive language; or use any immodest or indecent or obscene language, gestures or signs; or behave or appear in an immodest, indecent or obscene manner or garb; or act in a disorderly manner, or interrupt or annoy any person, or disturb the peace and quiet of the citizens, or be found to stagger or unable to walk from intoxication or its effects, or ride or drive through the streets or public places when intoxicated."

A supplementary ordinance, adopted Sept. 9, 1837, required the council and every patrol in town to arrest "all vagabonds or others disturbing the public peace," and bring them immediately before a magistrate or, if at night, to the parish jail. All slaves found in town without permission shall, "besides the stripes to be inflicted on his person," be locked in the parish jail until the owner pays his fees.

TOWN PRINTS OWN MONEY

On Oct. 13, 1837, the Police Board of the Town of Opelousas ordered the printing of \$5,000 worth of bills, to "serve the purpose of change," in six different denominations. The bills were to be issued "on the faith and credit of the Corporation of the Town of Opelousas." The committee appointed to have the bills "struck off" and to be deposited at the "Office of Discount and Deposit of the Bank of Louisiana at Opelousas." There, they would be issued by the cashier "as the exigencies of the community may require."

The board ordered the following numbers of bills printed:

- 500 of the denomination of \$3.
500 of \$2.
1,300 of \$1.
1,200 of 50 cents.
1,200 of 25 cents.
2,400 of 12 1/2 cents.

The 1838 annual tax law was adopted as previously outlined and amended, with the exception that there was added a tax of 25 cents on every \$100 of the assessed value of every "four wheel or two wheel carriage (waggon, carts and drays excepted)." In addition, the tax of \$100 on every "billiard table used for a lucrative purpose" was increased an additional \$25 "if with a bar."

FIRST BRICK SIDEWALKS

The town board on June 11, 1838, ordered that brick sidewalks be laid along the sides of four streets. The paving was to be laid by the owners of the lot "in front of whose property any footpath may be." Sidewalks were thus to be laid:

"On each side of Main Street from Grolee to Vine Street, on each side of Bellevue and Landry Streets from Main to Court Street, and the square number eleven on Court Street."

Property owners were given until Oct. 1 to lay the walks.

The town taxes for 1839 were essentially the same as before, except that the board: Raised the additional tax for a billiard table with bar to \$50 from \$25; the tax for, any show or exhibition other than a theatre, menagerie or circus (who paid \$25), \$5 for every 24 hours, due in cash and in advance. It also added the requirement that every separate business place owned by the same owner owned the tax.

The signature of the board president of 1838 cannot be made out, it appears somewhat like "Litmons Trist," but could be any one of many variations. The president in 1839 was C.S. Swayze. The signature of the president in 1840 was also difficult to decipher, but appeared to be "Geo. Nesof." During all this period, from 1837 until 1851, Guy H. Bell was clerk.

TOWN HAS GARBAGE WAGON

Opelousas, by July 20, 1840, had a "scavenger tumbrel or cart" (which we would today call a garbage wagon). The board of police adopted a new ordinance on that date "relative to the cleaning" of the town.

This required that all "sweepings, rubbish, dirt, or filth," plus garbage (most picturesquely described in the ordinance) be kept in "such vessels as will not contain liquid," out of the weather and "so as to prevent spontaneous combustion or the emission of a foul or offensive smell."

Occupants must bring such vessels into

the street and empty them without delay into the scavenger tumbrel or cart, whenever the same shall stop opposite to their respective rooms, houses or other buildings, yards, or lots of enclosed grounds."

Individual owners were required to remove all "dung, manure, chips, shavings and dead animals of the horse or cow kind, and feculent matter, at their own expense, to the place appointed by the board."

The contractor for cleaning the town was required to keep a "good and sufficient scavenger tumbrel or cart, a good horse or mule and a competent driver." He was to "cause the same to ply through the whole extent of the said town, three times a week from the 1st day of June to the 1st day of November, and twice a week during the balance of the year."

The driver was required to stop two minutes, if necessary, at each property, at the gate or entry. He was required to receive and put into his cart the dirt, filth, sweepings and kitchen offal, but was strictly forbidden to accept "on any pretext" anything from the list of dung, manure, etc.

He was also required to sweep the streets and all of his street sweepings were to be "placed in one heap." All of his collections were to be carried to such places as the town officials would order.

The tumbrel or cart was to be equipped with a bell, "so fixed as to ring while cleaning the streets."

The town tax rates were re-adopted for 1841, changes being that the rate for a billiard table with a bar to be \$75 extra, and bars were raised to \$500.

NO SLAVE BEATINGS

The town's police patrol was forbidden, by ordinance of June 19, 1841, to "inflict corporal punishment on any slave by them arrested."

Robert Taylor was president of the board through April 1841, and George W. Addison was president as of June 14, 1841, and continued so at least through the meeting of Jan. 10, 1842.

HOGS ON STREETS OUTLAWED

Hogs running at large in Opelousas "shall be deemed a nuisance," according to an ordinance adopted Sept. 2, 1841. Owners of such hogs were liable to a fine of \$1 for each hog. He could escape the fine, however, by abandoning the said hog or hogs to the town constable, who could sell them at auction and apply the proceeds toward, first, the payment of costs, and then into the town treasury.

If the owners of such hogs were unknown, the constable should impound them, immediately advertise "in one of the public papers, to be inserted once in both languages," describing the animals and advising the owner to "come forward, and pay the fine and costs, and take his property away."

Hogs unclaimed after 10 days would be sold at auction. A sow and her pigs, if under six weeks old, were "to be considered as one animal."

An accompanying resolution allowed the town constable to demand \$1 from a hog owner if the animal were claimed within six days after it was taken up, and an additional 12 1/2 cents per head for each day over six. The limit he could charge was \$2.

Furthermore, by another resolution the constable was instructed to "shoot, or otherwise kill" all hogs at large within:

From the north side of Grolee Street to the south side of Cherry Street, and from the Bayou Tesson to the east side of Oak Street.

CEMETERY REGULATIONS

The appointment of a sexton for the "burying grounds" of Opelousas was ordained May 21, 1842. He was to keep the grounds in repair, dig graves when required, and keep a register of "the persons interred, stating the name, age, place of birth and date of the decease."

Nobody could be buried without notifying the sexton, who must then have the grave ready within six hours, "if so much daylight remained." Graves must be dug at least six feet deep.

The sexton was authorized to charge \$5 for digging a grave, and half price for a slave's grave, "in consideration whereof, the sexton shall be bound to bury all paupers free of charge."

The size of each burial plot was set at six feet by eight feet, for which the charge by the town, in addition to the sexton's fee, was \$5, and half price for slaves.

The sexton was directed to lay off a portion of the grave yard "to be allotted to strangers, and a portion to be allotted to persons of color."

President of the board from the meeting of May 14, 1842, through the meeting of April 11, 1844, was G. (it might be 'F') Cahabin. The same tax law was re-adopted for 1844.

HOG LAW REPEALED

"The hog 'nuisance' law must have become a nuisance to the town board of police, for on April 11, 1844, the board curtly "hereby repealed" it.

TAX LAW CHANGED

The tax law in Opelousas for the year 1846 was changed in a number of respects. Here's what the board levied, in its own words:

- 1-On all real estate and property 25 cents on every \$100 worth of the assessed value.
2-On each and every slave, owned or hired in the said town, to be paid by the person or persons having such slave or slaves in his

her, or their possession or employ 25 cents each \$100 of the assessed value; also of 12 years of age or under to be valued at \$200, and all above the age of 12 year, value at \$400.

3-On each and every wholesale or commission merchant, or trader, and on every retailer of goods, wares or merchandise, including liquors when such liquor not sold in less quantities than one-quarter of a gallon, and not drunk on the premises.

4-On each and every four or two wheel carriage or vehicle (waggon, carts and are excepted) 25 cents on every \$100 assessed value.

5-On each and every billiard table for lucrative purposes and without \$75 and if with a bar, an additional \$25.

6-On each and every inn-keeper, keeper, or keeper of any other house of public entertainment, without a bar \$25 with a bar an additional sum of \$25.

7-On each and every grog-shop keeper, retailer of wine, beer, ale, liquor (whether fermented or intoxicating liquor, when in less quantity than one-quarter of a gallon, the sum of \$500.

8-On each and every keeper of a theatre or a menagerie or circus, the sum of \$20.

9-On each and every keeper of a show or exhibition other than a theatre, menagerie or circus, the sum of \$20 for every hour, to be paid in cash and in advance.

10-On each and every pedlar (saler) and pedlar the sum of \$25.

11-On each and every apothecary or druggist the sum of \$10.

12-On each and every jeweller (seller) the sum of \$10.

This law, contrary to others, required that taxes to be paid in cash when due. It continued the practice of levying a separate tax on every different "separate household" any of the above kept by a single person.

PROTECTS MARKET

The Opelousas board acted April 13, 1842, to protect its rental interests in the town-owned market, and probably also its own therein. The board passed an ordinance prohibiting anybody from offering for sale in Opelousas any meat or vegetables on the market before 10 a.m., nor after 4 p.m. unless the said meat or vegetable had first been offered for sale in the market up to that time. The fine was \$5 for every "contravention," plus the forfeiture of the constable of the articles offered for sale.

This must have caused a hardship, however, for on June 28 the council changed the law to read "for at least two hours previous to the hour of one in the afternoon of the same day." The board also prohibited anybody from offering meat or vegetables for sale in Opelousas at any time between sundown and daylight of the next day.

That didn't work, apparently, either. On April 10, 1848, the board established market hours "from the hour of daylight until the hour of noon, at which hour the market shall close and all selling therein shall cease until daylight of next day." And prohibited any sale at all of meat and vegetables out of the town-owned market.

President of the board from the meeting of April 17, 1846, through the meeting of June 28, 1847, was "Ervte. Debailion."

President at the next meeting, April 17, 1848, was Jack H. Sandoz.

SLAVE VALUES

The Opelousas tax law for 1849 was about the same as the previous law except that slaves were divided into three age categories, with a tax of 25 cents per \$100 value: Those under 12 years, worth \$200; 12 to 18 years, \$400; 18 to 50 years \$800. The tax year was also changed to conform to the calendar year.

The council on July 30, 1849, re-enacted an anti-hog ordinance. This one simply ordered the constable to kill, "by shooting or otherwise," all hogs, "without regard to age," found running at large. The constable was also to remove the carcass to a proper place. (Clerk Bell must have been somewhat absent-minded, for he laboriously penned this ordinance in full of them turned the page and penned it in identically, a second time.)

The Opelousas tax law for 1850 was adopted about as heretofore, except that the tax of 25 cents per \$100 of value was additionally levied on "all horses, mares, geldings and mules," as well as "all carriages or vehicles whatever, with two or four wheels," whether any of the above was "for pleasure use or hire."

R. Taylor had succeeded Jack H. Sandoz as board president by the meeting of April 16, 1850. Guy H. Bell remained clerk.

MEAT PRICE CEILING: FIVE CENTS

The board on May 27, 1850, placed a price ceiling of 5 cents per pound on "all fresh meat of the cow kind" offered for sale in market between June 1 and Oct. 31, and cents between Nov. 1 and May 31. The fine was \$10.

The board also fixed the following tax on meat sold at the market, and stall retail:

"A tax of \$1 on the meat or any part the meat offered for sale of each and every head of the cow kind, of two years old or upwards, and 75 cents if under that age. tax of 25 cents on each and every sheep, hog, and a tax of 25 cents per day for use of each and every stall."



BECOME NUISANCE

board of police on July 29, 1850, ordered the constable to kill cats within the town limits and carry the carcasses to a proper place.

K-PIVIES ORDERED

instruction of privies in Opelousas, meet rigid specifications, were ordered built Nov. 1, 1850, in all the lots in town...

The board took note on June 18, 1866, of frequent complaints coming to the knowledge of this board from time to time of large and tumultuous assemblages of freedmen...

The board, therefore, to the end of maintaining good order and of avoiding all and every distinction whatever, ordained: That hereafter no assemblage whatever...

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to take them up and notify their owners to remove them from town and prevent their return. Owners failing to do so, the animals were to be sold 10 days after such notice, at public auction every Saturday at 11 a.m.

The keeping of stallions "for service" within the town was at the same time outlawed, the council citing "violations of common decency" which it said "have become so obvious from scenes which have occurred here lately."

'BEAR SALOON' TAXED The council, also on May 29 '66, amended its tax ordinance to levy a license of \$15 on every "keeper of a bear saloon."

'TUMULTUOUS ASSEMBLAGES' OUTLAWED The board took note on June 18, 1866, of frequent complaints coming to the knowledge of this board from time to time of large and tumultuous assemblages of freedmen...

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the occupants of any adjoining lots or to the public.

GOOD FENCES REQUIRED

"In all cases where no agreement between the parties exists to the contrary, fences held in common... shall be made in the following manner:

"Posts of good material, and of sufficient length to be at the top even with the rest of the fence, shall be placed perpendicularly in and along the dividing line, having one end inserted in the ground at least 18 inches and at a distance from each other of not more than eight feet, across which distance laths of sufficient strength shall be firmly fastened to each post, one across near the bottom and one across near the top, to which laths shall be firmly nailed, good and approved cypress pickets, having one end inserted in the ground at least six inches and placed side by side so as to have as little space between the pickets as may be, the whole to be of good sound materials and to be done in such a manner as to make a good and substantial fence seven feet high."

It was declared unlawful to:

"1-RIDE OR DRIVE horses or cattle furiously through the streets, either for the purpose of gentling to the harness, saddle or otherwise.

"2-HITCH OR FASTEN any animal on or across a sidewalk.

"3-RIDE OR DRIVE any animal over or across a sidewalk, unless it be for the purpose of entering into or going out of an enclosed lot.

"4-STOP ANY VEHICLE or animals in the streets in such a position as to obstruct the free passage thereof.

"5-STOP ANY ANIMAL in any street without properly securing said animal in such a manner as to be safe.

"6-FLY A KITE or discharge any manner of fire works or firearms unless with the special permission of the president of the Board of Police.

"7-MAKE ANY FALSE alarm as of fire or of any other kind.

"8-INJURE WANTONLY in any manner any public or private property, wherever situated or for whatever purpose designed or used.

"9-EXHIBIT PUBLICLY any immodest or obscene works of any kind whatever."

Fines for all of the above ranged from \$5 to \$10.

CHOLERA IS BANNED

Asiatic Cholera was learned to exist in New Orleans and on Aug. 11, 1866, the Board of Police passed a resolution forbidding any persons coming from there "or any other district which may hereafter become infected with the same disease" to enter Opelousas until 10 days have elapsed since they were in such districts. Any such persons entering the town "shall be immediately removed."

No goods of any nature from infected districts could be brought into Opelousas until they had been aired and thoroughly ventilated for three days outside the town. The fine for violating this was \$50.

Persons living in Opelousas and going to infected districts were forbidden to return within 10 days from the time of exposure, "ministers of the Gospel, physicians and nurses excepted."

People in charge of "any public conveyance" who shall convey into Opelousas any person known to have been in a cholera-infected district was subject to a fine of \$100 for every such offense.

Nobody who died of cholera outside Opelousas could be brought into town. Should anybody in Opelousas die of cholera, the body must be "enveloped and buried as speedily as possible, and the apartment in which the death occurred shall be cleansed, fumigated and such other disinfecting agents used as may be designated by the Board of Health."

Practicing physicians of the town were named as a "committee of vigilance" to report any cases of cholera.

CHOLERA FEAR INTENSIFIES

Next, taking note that there was cholera in New York as well as New Orleans, the Opelousas Board of Police appointed itself as a Board of Health, directed itself to meet as such every Thursday and Saturday at the court house, and gave itself the authority to:

Enter and inspect any building or property in town and designate such things as they deem nuisances, sources of filth, causes of sickness or injurious to health. Order such things removed or destroyed. Order property to be "cleaned, washed, lined or whitewashed." Order cleaned or destroyed any "beds, bedding, clothing or other thing which, in their opinion, may contain infectious or contagious matter."

"Prevent the spread of any malignant, infectious, contagious or pestilential disease; and order where and in which manner persons attacked by such disease shall be kept."

The board further gave itself power to: Prevent introduction of disease into Opelousas by ordering the manner any person attacked by disease or coming in from a place or from aboard a boat from a place where disease existed shall be placed prior to entering the town; same for merchandise. To be vigilant in preventing the introduction of disease, carefully detecting and removing causes supposed to produce disease, and to attend to the speedy burial of all persons dying of any malignant disease.

To cause to be published in the Opelousas Courier, the official organ of said Board of Police, the death of all strangers arriving in Opelousas, with the names, apparent age, occupation and place of residence, and nativity of said disease."

Occupants of houses where people might be attacked by malignant disease, and doctors, as well, had six hours in which to report it to the board.

Anybody who interfered with the board in its above duties could be fined \$20.

'QUARANTINE TAX' PASSED

The Board of Police, on Aug. 13, 1866, levied a special tax of 25 cents per \$100 of property valuation "for the purpose of defraying the expenses of quarantine and other sanitary measures."

On Aug. 31, 1866, the board amended its Aug. 11 sickness ordinance to make fines more severe—up to \$100 — and to make inspection of goods more sure by requiring invoice presentations to its officers.

HOGS STILL NUISANCE

The board, on Oct. 3, 1866, faced up squarely to the hog nuisance. "All measures heretofore adopted... having proved unavailing in preventing the running at large of hogs in the streets and public grounds of said town, to the great destruction of streets and pavements," the board ordained that:

All hogs running at large in town were declared a nuisance and were "herby ordained to be the common property of any person who will destroy the same," provided that they didn't leave the dead hogs lying in town.

An ordinance "to increase the revenues of the Town of Opelousas," was adopted Jan. 17, 1867. The board added to its list of licensed businesses: "keeper of a bear saloon," and "keeper of a lumber yard," each to pay \$25 annually.

The board's new hog law, above, obviously failed to work. On Jan. 17, 1867, the board ordained that hogs running at large were to be seized by the constable and sold at auction, at his residence, every day at 11 a.m.

TAX TO BUILD MARKET

The board of police levied a citywide "ad valorem" tax of 20 cents for each \$100 assessment on all property "for the purpose of defraying the expenses of building a Market House." This was on Jan. 28, 1867, and undoubtedly was the beginning of construction of the public market at the corner of Market and Bellevue streets, whose walls today form the walls of the present City Hall.

SUNDAY CLOSING ORDERED

A Sunday-holiday closing was ordained May 27, 1867, for all businesses selling liquor except drug stores. The ordinance required that after first publication in the Opelousas Courier:

"All houses, shops and saloons in which vinous, spirituous or malt liquors are sold or otherwise disposed of shall be closed on each and every Sunday."

The ordinance also provide for closing of these places "on such other public days or parts thereof as the president of the said Board of Police may deem advisable in order to the more effectual maintenance of good order within the corporate limits of said town." The fine was to be a minimum of \$50 and maximum of \$100.

This order apparently stirred up the town, for 11 days later, on June 5, 1867, the board of police adopted another ordinance, going to great lengths to explain that the closing of all liquor-selling places of business on Sundays and holidays was done only to effect "good order," by preventing entirely the sale, barter, etc., of liquors.

It added that "it having become manifest that the provisions of said ordinance bear unequally and prejudicially upon certain classes of the trades people of said town," the new ordinance then provided that although the places did not have to be closed, they could not sell liquor on such days. Further, all places selling liquor in quantities less than one bottle must be closed.

Also the fine was increased to a flat \$100. "Informers" were to get half; the town treasury the other half.

YELLOW FEVER FEAR

On August 10, 1867, the threat of yellow fever, which the board said, in a resolution, existed in New Orleans, New Iberia and other parts of the state, struck fear into the community.

The board of police convened Aug. 10, 1867, and adopted a stern quarantine measure similar to its earlier quarantine when Asiatic cholera was feared. (This was prior to the medical discovery of the mosquito vector).

The resolution required: That persons coming from New Orleans or other "infested" districts could not enter Opelousas until 19 days had elapsed since they were in such districts. Fine, \$25.

That "no dry goods, merchandise, coffee inclusive, or any other objects supposed to convey or communicate said disease, coming from... an infested district shall be introduced or brought into the town of Opelousas..." Such goods would be seized and sold after 10 days, with the town to get the proceeds, and the guilty person fined \$50.

Persons living in Opelousas and going to an infested district could not return until 10 days after they had left the latter. Fine, \$20. Persons operating public conveyances who brought people here from infested district less than 10 days after they left such districts would be fined \$100.

Nobody who died of yellow fever outside Opelousas could be brought into town. Should anybody in Opelousas die of yellow fever, the body must be "enveloped and buried as speedily as possible, and the apartment in which the death occurred shall be cleansed, fumigated and such other disinfecting agents used as may be designated by the Board of Health."



Opelousas could be buried therein; persons dying in the town were to be quickly enveloped and buried and the premises properly fumigated and disinfected.

Physicians were required to report all yellow fever cases.

**YELLOW FEVER TAX**

On Aug. 24, 1867, the board of police levied a special "ad valorem" tax of 20 cents upon each \$100 of assessed property, "for the purpose of defraying the expenses of a quarantine and other sanitary measures."

The above tax ordinance was the last handwritten ordinance. From the next meeting, Monday, April 14, 1873, the clerks clipped the printed board proceedings and pasted them into the big book. The writer of this last penned ordinance was Clerk Jos. D. Richard, and F.A. King, president, signed it.

**LATOUR IS PRESIDENT**

The Board of Police elected April 7, 1873, consisted of H. Latour, whom the members elected president; L.B. Cuney, L. Lejeune, E. Vanhille, F.A. King, John Posey and Victor Lastrapes. The vote was four for Latour three for King.

The board named P. Leonce Hebrard its clerk. Laurent Dupre was named town attorney and John Posey treasurer.

J.W. Jackson got four votes to one for Leonce Sandoz, and one "blank" vote, and was named town printer. The board elected Octave Prud'homme constable with five votes to one for John T. Healey and none for the other nominee, S.M. Peters.

Annual salaries were fixed as follows: Clerk, \$200; treasurer, \$250; printer, \$400, not including posters and pamphlets; attorney \$100; constable \$750.

At the end of the meeting, King offered his resignation from the board, and it was accepted.

The town was in debt \$1,936.44 as of March 12, 1873. The clerk reported that warrants (checks) issued from Jan. 1 to March 12 came to \$11,801, of which \$10,498.16 had been paid, leaving \$1,302.84 to be cleared; and that since March 12, until the meeting date May 5, a total of \$633.60 had been issued.

The board then directed all tax and license payers "to come forward and pay . . . in 10 days."

**PISTOL GALLERY**

At this same meeting, Joseph Haas asked permission to "attach a pistol gallery to his coffee-house or beer saloon, without paying license therefor." The board granted the request on the condition that "no other firearms but those commonly known as the 'Monte-Christo pistols' shall be used."

On June 4, 1873, among many actions by the board, the group directed the clerk to inform H.K. Bodemuller that since he received the highest number of votes at the last election, after the elected members, it considered him "a proper person" to fill the vacancy created by F.A. King's resignation.

The board also ordered banisters put on the "upper bridge on Bayou Tesson."

They directed the constable to have a hole in Union street "properly filled up, and bridges repaired on Union street near the convent and on Landry street." W.A. Robertson was paid \$10 for "swearing members" among a list of various lawsuit fees.

**MARKET STREET EXTENDED**

A committee was appointed "to ascertain if there is a public street on the continuation of Market street, on the west of Dr. Thompson's property, and if so, to have the same opened."

On June 23, 1873 "the committee on Market street reported that there has been a street since 1829, and recommended that the same be now opened, and that Mr. H. Hayes be employed to stake out that portion of said street which is enclosed in Dr. Thompson's field after he shall gather the crop."

The board then "apportioned the town," allotting the following committees to each district:

"1st--From Orient street to Grolee st. to Messrs. Victor Lastrapes and Louis Lejeune.

"2nd --From Grolee street to Landry street, to Messrs. John Posey and L.B. Cuney.

"3rd --From Landry street to the southern boundary of the town, to Messrs. H. Latour and Edgar Vanhille."

They also ordained a special tax to be collected, along with the regular tax, of one quarter of one per cent on the assessed property of the town for the year 1873.

**DR. RAY, PRESIDENT**

By the meeting of May 11, 1874, the board consisted of: Dr. James Ray, president, Geo. W. Hudspeth, C.N. Ealer, C. Mayo, P.J. Lefebvre, C. Mornhinveg Sr. and A.B. Chachere. Still clerk, however, was Jos D. Richard.

Hogs were still a problem. At this meeting the board adopted an ordinance outlawing running at large of hogs, with a fine of \$10 for owners who permitted hogs to run, and doubled for each additional offense. The constable was directed to impound hogs found at large, to notify the owner to get them within 24 hours, otherwise to sell them on the following Saturday between 10 and 11 a.m.

**CONCEALED WEAPONS**

An ordinance forbidding the carrying of concealed weapons in Opelousas was enacted May 12, 1874. The ordinance provided a fine of \$5 or at least 24 hours imprisonment for "whoever shall carry a weapon or weapons concealed upon his person. . . . Such as Bow-knives, pistols, revolvers, dirks, brassknives,

knives, sling-shots, or any other dangerous weapon or weapons." The fine was doubled for second offenses.

In another ordinance the board of police fixed the payment to witness for prosecution and defense in cases of violations of ordinances at 10 cents "for each day or day or part of a day he or they may be detained in attendance."

A streets-sidewalks-gutters ordinance also adopted at this meeting required all property owners to keep these installations clean and open to passage; sidewalks in good repair; and all the rest of the many requirements which had been adopted several years earlier relative to peace and order in the community, from flying a kite up and down the list referred to earlier.

A new ordinance regulating the public market was also adopted, fixing stall rent at \$1 a day for the front or east stalls and 75 cents a day for the rear or west stalls. Nobody could rent stalls on both sides. Stall renters had to keep them clean.

**MEAT: 7 CENTS A POUND**

The price of meat was up, as well as stall rent. The board fixed a price ceiling of 7 cents a pound on cow meat sold between May 1 and Oct. 30, inclusive, and 10 cents the rest of the year.

Tainted meat could not be sold. Further, butchers had to show the constable hides of all animals slaughtered to be sold in the market, and he had to keep a bound record of the "kind, color, sex and brand." He collected 10 cents per hide for this duty.

Again, butchers were not allowed to show favoritism or reserve cuts of meat for anybody, but had to sell it to whoever came to buy.

Market hours were set 3 a.m. to 10 a.m., and nobody could retail meat "of the cow kind" except at the market.

On May 13, 1874, the president reported to the council that he had effected the sale of the lot of ground where the market house formerly was located and had paid the proceeds to the town treasurer.

The board also directed that all taxes, licenses, fines and forfeitures be paid in United States Treasury notes, currency or coins.

The board strengthened its health ordinances--there being, of course, no sewerage system--by directing the constable to order every owner or occupant of property in the town "immediately to disinfect all privies and cesspools upon his premises and to burn all loose trash, garbage, etc., thereon." If they didn't do so within 48 hours the constable was ordered to have it done, at the owner's expense, plus a fine of \$5.

Each member of the board was declared to be a "health officer."

The constable was, further ordered to "make a thorough inspection of all the back yards, privies, stables, etc., at least twice a month from this date until the 1st November next," and to bring into court people failing to comply with the ordinance.

**TIGHTER PEACE LAW**

An ordinance tightening up on public disturbances of the peace was adopted May 27, 1874. The constable was directed "to arrest and lodge in the parish jail all persons found lying about the streets, or across or on the sidewalks, or on the public square, or vacant lots, or any other place."

Same for anybody publicly exhibiting "any immodest or obscene words of any kind whatever, or shall used loud, indecent, obscene, profane or boisterous" in public, or "make an immodest or indecent exposure of the person, or commit a nuisance of any sort whatever."

The fine was \$2.50 to \$5 and \$10 for second offenders.

Peace disturbances must have continued, however, for on June 23, 1874, the board of police authorized its president, Dr. James Ray, to appoint additional constables if needed. The rate of pay for them was fixed at \$1.50 per day.

Additionally, the board asked that the sheriff of St. Landry parish and his duties cooperate with town officials in keeping the peace in Opelousas. Further, the board appointed a three-man committee to "wait upon the sheriff for the purpose of soliciting his cooperation." Members were the president and P.J. Lefebvre and C. Mayo.

The parish police jury on July 6, 1874, placed under control of town officials the "sidewalks, ditches and bridges around the Court House." And on July 13 the board ordained that nobody could cross these installations on horseback or in a buggy or other vehicle except at proper bridges.

The town council from time to time appropriated \$5 monthly charitable payments to various widows and other paupers. This occurred regularly throughout the ordinance book.

**LICENSE LIST GROWS**

Gradually, as more and more types of business firms were opened in Opelousas, the list of special licenses grew with the years. The list, with annual amounts, adopted Nov. 16, 1874, follows:

Keeper of a coffee house or beer saloon, grog shop, bar room or retailer of wines, fermented, malt or intoxicating liquors, sold in quantities less than a quarter of a gallon, \$75.

Merchant or grocer, \$25 and \$25 additional when liquors and wines are sold in less quantities than a quart. And \$75 additional where liquors and wines are consumed on the premises.

Keeper of a "billiard table or pigeon hole," \$25.

Circus or menagerie, \$50 per performance; all other public shows, \$5 to \$10, subject to decision of the president.

Keeper of a hotel or boarding house, \$15. Restaurant keeper selling wines with meals only, \$15. Keeper of an oyster saloon, selling only oysters, \$10.

Keeper of a feed or livery stable, \$15. Photographic gallery, \$5. Real estate or land agent, \$10. Notary public or auctioneer, \$10. Jewelry, \$10. Every person selling drugs or medicines, in a drug store or elsewhere, \$25. Peddler, \$20.

The following payments were approved: "Louis Hayes, fees as jailer, \$21.60; W.R. Cochran (no reason given) \$5; A.P. Williams for acting as commissioner of election, \$5. Laurent Dupre, balance due him as town attorney, \$12.50; T.S. Bailey, for services as special police officer, \$3.50.

T.B. Jackson, for witness fees, \$6.62; Remi A. Guidry, for fees as constable, \$2.90; E.P. Veazie, for fees as justice of the peace, \$24.90; W.L. Gill, for services as special police, \$2."

**GOATS GET OFFENSIVE**

Goats running at large had become a nuisance by Jan. 4, 1875, and the Opelousas board of police ordained that owners must keep them penned up. The fine was \$10 for every goat the owner permitted to run at large; double for a second offense. The constable was ordered to impound such goats, notify the owners, and, if unclaimed, sell them after a 24-hour delay, each Saturday between 10 and 11 a.m. Sale proceeds were not to relieve owners of the fine.

The constable was allowed fees of 50 cents a head for catching the goats and 25 cents a day for upkeep.

On Jan. 9, 1875, the council amended its tax ordinance to drop the "pigeon hole" part of the requirement that every "keeper of a billiard table or pigeon hole" must pay a \$25 annual license. They also paid C.B. Andrus \$13 for building a bridge.

The "Opelousas Journal" was the official journal in 1875.

Opelousas town fathers were apparently having trouble keeping up their ditches and sidewalks because of careless "wagon" drivers, and on March 27, 1875, they adopted an ordinance prohibiting drivers of wagons and other vehicles from:

Driving into or across ditches except where bridged, or "wilfully" allowing wheels of wagons or other vehicles to run into ditches along the streets. Fine, \$2.50 to \$5.

Furthermore, in addition to maintaining hitching racks in front of their places of business, owners now had to build across ditches in front of such racks bridges "so constructed as to allow the free flow of water. . . ." Further, they had to keep the ditches clean under the bridges.

**\$200 FOR PAUPERS**

At the same meeting the board resolved that for the year which began Feb. 1, 1875, the town would appropriate \$200 "and no more" for the "support of paupers," and that the money would be divided up pro rata between said paupers. They also added several names to the pauper list.

A schedule of fees to be paid justices of the peace, constables, witnesses and the coroner was adopted by the board of police on Oct. 25, 1875, as follows (those marked \* could not be read due to worm holes in the pasted clipping):

JUSTICES of the peace -- For issuing a warrant, 50 cents; each summons to a witness, 10 cents; taking a deposition and writing the same, 15 cents.

CONSTABLES --- For executing a warrant, 50 cents; for summoning a witness, 25 cents; for conveying a prisoner to jail, 50 cents.

WITNESSES -- For each day's attendance, 10 cents, and the town will not pay for more than four witnesses.

CORONER -- For each inquest held, \$15; for every viewing of the body where no inquest is held, \$5; For every burial at his expense.

For all other fees, including swearing and qualifying the jury, administering oaths, turning process verbal and summoning witnesses, \$5.

The board re-adopted the same license tax schedule on Nov. 22, 1875, as for the previous year, and also a tax of "one quarter of one per cent. . . on all real estate in the town of Opelousas, at its assessed value, and also on all moneys at interest, and on all capital employed in trade, or other objects subject to be taxed. . . ."

A committee was appointed Friday, Feb. 18, 1876, by the Opelousas board of police to "confer with a committee appointed by the Police Jury of the Parish of St. Landry, for the purpose of enclosing the court house square. Committeemen appointed were Dr. James Ray, board president, and Felix King and George Pulford.

In the municipal election of April 3, 1876, the following were elected to the board: Dr. James Ray, P.J. Lefebvre, Claudius Mayo, C.N. Ealer, Wm. G. Bell, Emile Donato and Leodore Skinner.

They organized on April 10, re-elected Dr. Ray president, and fixed the salaries of officers as follows per year: Constable, \$500; clerk, \$85; treasurer

\$75; printer, \$25; tax collector, \$500; collector; assessor, \$50.

The following other officers were elected:

Jos D. Richard, clerk; P.J. Lejeune, treasurer; Charles Thompson, constable, also assessor and tax collector.

The board read, received and "communications" from Leonce Sandoz, lisher of the Opelousas Courier, who voted to elect the Opelousas Jury seven votes to none, as its town attorney. Again, \$200 was appropriated for a new constable, assessor and tax collector to fill the vacancy created by the Charles Thompson.

They elected John T. Healey clerk, with four votes to two for Harrison one for Lynden Hayes and none for the two nominees, John McCormick and A. Steen. Healey was then unanimously tax collector, and the board dispersed an election for assessor and director Lefebvre to continue the assessment started.

The board reviewed and approved counts of the late Charles Thompson collector. They found that he had collected \$491.63 in taxes; \$2,065.75 in \$1839.75 in market dues, and that the town \$104.91, for a total of \$3,801.39. The town owed him \$153.00 in commission so the balance due his estate was \$3,648.39.

The town also paid Sheriff C.C. Jones \$8.80 for maintaining prisoners; Judge Hays \$2 in justice of the peace fees; Hays \$5 for surveying the court house fence. The board agreed on July 21, 1876, to advance W.R. Megnin, contractor for the court house fence, a total of \$600 paid in weekly installments as "judgment" by the chairman of the joint police jury committee.

The board also ordered paid: Clerk District Court James O. Chachere \$10 for swearing in its members; Hays \$10 for leveling the court house grounds, and L. Dupre, for services as notary public and auctioneer.

The board on July 21, 1876, adopted a tax settlement proposition by E. Phillips. The latter asked that he allow him 40 cents on the dollar for \$100 in vouchers due him, credit \$89.10 present taxes owed, and the balance to be paid in installments as "judgment" of licenses or taxes for 1877.

**'NIGGER SHOOTERS' OUTLAWED**

Use of "Nigger shooters" by child Opelousas was outlawed Sept. 11, 1876, by the board of police. The official ordinance in part:

"Whereas . . . children have caused serious injury to milch cows of the town neighborhood, and did other damages to life and criminal use of the toys commonly known as Nigger Shooters. . . ."

"Therefore be it resolved that, the constable is hereby empowered and authorized to prevent any children from using aforesaid Nigger Shooters. . . . and if children do persist in using them that shall be taken away from them by the constable and destroyed."

The board also accepted an assessment list furnished by Dr. V. Boagni.

And it appointed a three-man committee to draft an ordinance prohibiting defacing and damaging sidewalks, drains, trees and shrubbery on the court house square. Committeemen were Charles Ealer, Wm. G. Bell and Emile Donato.

The committee had the ordinance adopted by Oct. 17, 1876, and it was adopted, made it a misdemeanor to deface or damage the fence. And only the fire companies, on duty, could use the large gate on the side of the square.

And ordinance once again prohibiting running without written permission of the board "balls, dancing parties, fairs, public entertainment," was adopted Oct. 1876. Persons, in applying, had to furnish list of "a sufficient number" of citizens act as constables, at their expense, and be under the control of the town constable. Owners of premises violating this law subject to fines of \$25 to \$50.

Fence contractor W.R. Megninly wrote board that he had completed the fence at the court house, and had done extra "in the way of gates and fenders," to amount of \$50, and he wanted his money. The board received a report from the committee, five accepting the work and R.H. Littell stating "I object to the work or pay extra."

Littell and Henry Garland and C.C. Donato represented the police jury in the fence and F.A. King, George Pulford and James Ray the city. The council agreed to pay Megninly.

The city tax and license ordinance re-adopted for 1877, with the change the collector could accept one-half of tax in "outstanding warrants of the town" the other half in U.S. currency.

The board, on March 31, 1877, ordered the court house fence coal tarred as soon as possible. It also added a license of \$1 per year on hacks and buggies, outside regular stables, used for public carriage and all such wagons \$5.

And "a petition of Messrs. E. Phillips, Sam Jacobs, M. Lavergne, Julien Cla-



...ers, praying that the town constable...
...to visit and disperse unruly...
...people, using the most obscene lan-...
...fighting, etc., was laid on the table...
...apparently, is as far as it got. For...
...board then ordered some bills paid and...
...home.

Oct. 9, 1877 the board ordered a com-
p Sunday closing law, exempting only
...bakers for the sole purpose of making
...selling bread, and keepers of public
...meats for the sale of fresh meats, fish,
...ables and fruit.
...ines for violations were \$50 to \$100, and
...emors were to get half.

COUNCIL ROOM
he board apparently got new quarters, for
his meeting it accepted "the liberal offer
...to them by the Police Jury, and that
...sum of \$52.50 be and is hereby appro-
...to defray half the expenses for build-
...the two rooms on the upper floor of the
...house."

he board also appropriated \$3.50 to pay
...on Isaac's "account for a lock and keys
...the new council room." It also author-
...its president to buy necessary furniture
...the new council room.

A special deputy constable was appointed
...e 5, 1877, and was dispensed with May
...1878, over the protests of a petitioning
...up of merchants.

...orities became clerk of the board of
...the Oct. 9, 1877 meeting, replacing
...D. Richard, who had held the post
...e March 23, 1864.

...other serious outbreak of yellow fever
...New Orleans caused the council to re-
...ish three times, beginning Aug. 3, 1878,
...yellow fever ordinance of previous years,
...or the heading QUARANTINE!!
...apparently still having trouble with drunks
...other peace disturbers, the board re-pub-
...ed Feb. 29, 1882, its long ordinance on
...subject.

EDERS ON BRIDGES
...king note that driving of carts and wagons
...e faster gait than an ordinary walk tears
...the bridges of the town. . . the board
...de such speeding over bridges illegal. The
...table was empowered to seize the vehi-
...cles or teams and impound them until the
...e was paid.

...the board of police was made up at this
...e of Dr. James Ray, president, and A.B.
...chere, L. Birotte, L.A. Sandoz, Felix
...sasier, B. Martin and Emile Pefferkorn.
...fter receiving two petitions, one contain-
...101 names and the other 110 names of
...prayers and citizens" of Opelousas, the
...rd on June 27, 1883, enacted two ordi-
...nces to provide that town prisoners would
...rk on streets and other public improve-
...nts.

...the ordinance provided that all violators
...existing ordinances, serving jail time
...of paying fines, "shall be compelled
...work on the public improvements of the
...m."

...The other defined vagrancy ("wandering
...and, begging," etc.) and provided that
...ants shall be required to work on public
...s 10 hours per day -- in lieu of fines,
... could be from \$2.50 to \$25. They would
...id \$1 per day as compensation until the
...e shall be extinguished."

...The petition signed by 101 citizens asked
...in order to relieve the town of the ex-
...ise of keeping parties in jail who violate
...ances and are unable to pay the fines
...posed, and to keep the streets in better
...r," the laws be amended to make them
...on the streets.

...The petition was:
...E. Estorge, Elie McDaniel, W.A. Robert-
...Wm. R. Cochran, Laurent Dupre, C.M.
...mpson, C. Roos, Jos. Eloch, P.J. Le-
...e, F. Delarue, J. Roos, D. Roos, Ad-
...ard, J. Dantin, E. Latreite, E.B. Thayer,
...Halphen, J.C. Gibbs, R.H. Littell, G.W.
...peth, Chas. W. DuRoy, A.H. Mouton,
...E. Lewis, M. Green, A.M. Lacombe, M.A.
...icis, Theodore Simms, Arthur Dejean,
...ny Dejean, P. Del Buono, Jos. V. Richard,
...Pheophile Hollier, A. Perrodin, J. Per-
...in, Jno. Mornhinveq, Conrad Brand, W.S.
...e, Jos. Lassalle, Joseph Ducharme, S.
...ub, J.M. White, Geo. Pulford, R. Morn-
...ing, S. Isaac, J. Jagou, Louis Pucheu, Jas.
...Groves Jr., Jas. A. Groves Sr. C. Diet-
...Ant. Dietlein.

...S. V. Roy, J. Meters & Co., Aphonse
...R. Chachere, Theodore Chachere,
...N. Ealer, L. Benjamin & Son, C.L.
...amin, C. Mayo, J.B.A. Fontenot, R.
...emuller, E.W. Roy, A. Garrigues, W.M.
...mpson, W.M. Price, C.B. Andrus, F.F.
...rodin, F. Bolland, C. Mornhinveq Jr.,
...Mizzi, Geo. Lastrapes, A.V. Lastrapes,
...Henry McGaffey, C.L. Hayes, L.H. Tansey,
...McKinley, B.F. Meginley, Joseph A.
...B. Martel, A.J. Perrault, S. Finberg,
...Perrault, John N. Ogden, D.P.C. Hill,
...rtin Budd, Turner Sanders, John Estorge,
...s Desmarais, Geo. C. Pulford, Henry
...s, J.S. Perkins, Alex Andrus, Camp-
...McNeil, W.A. Sandoz, W.O. Posey,
...Morris, Jacques Donato, Charles Wil-
...son, Henry Thomas, Leodore Skidner and
...eph Sarraille.

...those on the other petition, containing
...names asking that "vagrants and tramps"
...be fined and compelled to work out their
...s on the streets, included the following:
...ens, with an effort made here to elimi-
...nate duplications from the above list:

E.P. Veazie, Jules L. Chachere, C.C.
Duson, L. Berball, Octave Fontenot, F.E.
Baily, T.B. Brooks, A.J. Berclier, J.M.
Hayes, Gus E. Fontenot, F.A. King, Theo
Hollier, J.C. Cappel, Jas. A. Groves Jr.,
O.M. Boagni, L. Pasquier, Victor Lastrapes,
Felix Touriac, A. Perry.

Thomas Yancey, Andrew Damas, Robert
Scott, Thompson & McDaniel, L.B. Cuny,
Solomon Bloch, Alex Lejeune, A. Donato,
Jules Gil, Jos. A. Gil, W.A. Bonnet, J.L.
Cahanin, Robert Chachere, Gaston A. Guldry,
W.M. Johnston, Edward Jones, J.B. Sandoz,
Saint M. Peters, N.E. Dolhonde, Geo. W.
Moriarty, Theo Lachapelle, Kenneth Ballilio
and Laurent Dupre. The rest were on the
first list.

Somebody subsequently pasted into the
book, alongside the vagrancy ordinance,
a clipping reporting "An Important Deci-
sion" by the state supreme court in Decem-
ber 1883. The clipping reported that the City
of Monroe, La., had passed a similar vag-
rancy law, and that it was attacked by the
"keeper of a disorderly house," who was
fined under its terms. He claimed that the
legislature could not order punishment with-
out trial by jury, and second, that the or-
dinance was contrary to the constitutional
provision against involuntary servitude and
slavery.

But the lost and the ordinance was upheld
on the grounds that had the laws been legis-
lative they would have been unconstitutional,
but that municipal ordinances were not so
covered.

(It is to be wondered whether the clipping
would have been pasted in the book -- in
the face of those many names of leading
citizens on the petition -- had the Monro-
e ordinance been thrown out.)

At any rate, the two ordinances were put
up to a public vote, and the results were 64
for, none against. Election commissioners
were Bernard Martin, J.L. Chachere and Jo-
seph A. Gil.

TAXES ARE CHANGED
The Opelousas tax structure was consid-
erably changed by the town's tax and license
law for 1885, adopted Nov. 24, 1884. For the
first time, the amounts of the licenses were
based upon the gross business done by the
various categories. (How the town got these
figures accurately, there being at that time
no state or federal income tax forms or
other such sources upon which to draw, is an
interesting query).

The annual license at this time was applied
to every business, trade, profession or voca-
tion. The categories and taxes:

Any "business of selling," whether whole-
sale or retail, at auction or otherwise, was
taxed \$1 per \$1,000 of gross, beginning with
\$75 for \$75,000 gross or more and scaling
down by \$5,000, to \$5,000 paying \$5 in taxes.
That is, \$50,000 gross paid \$50; \$15,000
paid \$15, etc.

If any type of distilled, spirituous, vinu-
ous, malt or other kind of liquor were also
sold by the bottle, in quantities of more than
one pint, the fee was to be doubled. Less than
a pint in quantities, quadrupled, with a mini-
mum of \$50.

"Circus, menagerie, or other traveling
show, exhibition or performance," paid,
depending upon the total number of the company,
at the rate of \$5 for every person. A show
with 30 people, including owners, paid \$150;
20; \$100, and down to two, \$10.

In any place (a long, long list of types)
where anything was sold to be drunk or eaten
on the premises, the scale started with a
gross of \$5,000, tax \$175, down to \$1,000, tax
\$15; less \$10 tax, with a \$50 minimum on
places that sold liquors, etc., in less than
pints.

Any "individual or company carrying on
the business or profession of attorney-at-law,
physician, editor, dentist, oculist, broker,
insurance agent, or other business, keeping
cabs or carriages, or horse for hire," was to
pay on gross receipts \$20 for gross of \$4,000
or more; \$10 on \$2,000 or more, and \$5
on less than \$2,000.

Drummers selling by sample or other-
wise, \$10, and street hawkers, etc., \$5.
The law scaled down for parts of a year,
from four-fifths of the tax for nine months
down to two-fifths for three months.

MARKET STREET EXTENDED AGAIN

The Opelousas board of police appointed a
committee composed of A.B. Chachere, L.A.
Sandoz and C. Mayo "to wait upon Mr. J.W.
Jackson and ascertain from him the terms
on which Market street may be opened through
his property."

AIDS FIRE COMPANY

For the first time, Opelousas' city govern-
ment on Nov. 24, 1884, came to the aid of a
local fire company with maintenance funds.
(They had once helped buy the first local fire
engine.)

A committee from Steam Fire Co. No. 1
presented a plea for funds, and the board
granted them \$100. The plea by the com-
mittee -- composed of R.M. Littell, L.A.
Sandoz and H.E. Estorge -- stated in part:
"Whereas this company has been using its
best efforts . . . for several years passed, to
secure to the town of Opelousas, suitable fire
protection, and

"Whereas nearly two years ago we secur-
ed one of the best and most approved steam
fire engines to be had, . . . and

"Whereas our resources have been heavily
taxed to meet the several payments on same,
as well as the current expenses incident on



ST. LANDRY COTTON OIL MILL, as it stood in 1896.

The St. Landry Cotton Oil Mill Co. was es-
tablished in Opelousas in 1894, a pioneer in-
dustry in the development of the parish. At
the time of its erection, it handled seventy-five
tons of seed a day (the capacity has since been
more than doubled) and in 1895 the company
purchased 10,000 tons of seed from the farm-
ers of the section, establishing a permanent
market for one of our staple products.
It was built by J. R. Norman, who was the
first president. Other officers were P. L.
Asher, secretary; Isaac Roos, treasurer, and
T. S. Isaacs manager of the seed department.
It was the only one of its kind in the then great
parish, and stood on the present site (loc-
ation of the old Franklin College) on twenty
acres of land, occupying about five and a half
acres adjacent to the Southern Pacific lines.
For some years it prospered, then Mr.
Norman lost it, to regain it a short time later.
Other owners who followed in successive
attempts to operate at a profit and all of whom
lost out were Isaac Roos, Ned Boagni, Dr. J.
A. Haas, and Yves Andrepont.

On May 1, 1902 the present owner of the
oil mill, Jesse P. Barnett came to Opelousas,

moving a compress that had been in Missis-
sippi. He remained in Opelousas, working at
the compress, and in 1919 he purchased the
then abandoned oil mill, which had been in
disuse for several years after the many un-
successful attempts to put it operating on a
profitable basis.

With energy and hard work, combined with
knowledge of the cotton industry and a good
business sense, Mr. Barnett succeeded in put-
ting the oil mill in operation, and has since
increased in size and capacity to double the
original volume.

One of the large oil mills of Louisiana, it
is the largest industry in Opelousas. A gin
and refinery were later additions to the or-
iginal mill, many parts of which are still
being used.

Mr. Barnett is a native of Carrsville, Ky.
He married Marie Poulet of this city, and has
four children - Lillian (Mrs. Alan Minor
Hynson) Jesse Rosa (Mrs. William Jarrell),
J. P. Jr. (who married Norma Budd), and
Miriam (Mrs. James Doherty). J. P. Jr.,
Bill Jarrell, and Jim Doherty are all working
in the family industry.

Postmaster, Century Ago

The Opelousas postmaster of 100 years
ago -- one Theodore Chachere -- made the
handsome sum of exactly \$318.40 for his
year's work in 1855, and the net revenue he
turned over to the postoffice department was
\$290.22.

That made him the highest paid postmaster
in St. Landry parish, according to a Post of-
fice Directory dated 1856, thus apparently
covering the year 1855, or 100 years ago.

H. H. Spiller, antique shop proprietor of
Cheneyville, owns the book and sent in a copy
of the table showing the postmaster's name

and the compensation and net revenue figures
for the dozen post offices in St. Landry.
The list includes Ville Platte, which in that
period was in St. Landry parish. Evangeline
parish was later created from a portion of
then "Imperial St. Landry."

Spiller also reports that the book shows that
Louisiana in 1856 had 46 "parishes" and
"West Baton Rouge COUNTY," which, he
writes, is "a new one on me."

Here is the table from the federal postoffice
guide dated 1856:

Table with 4 columns: Town, Postmaster, Postmaster's Compensation, Net Revenue To Department. Rows include Arnaville, Ballew's Ferry, Barry's Landing, Bayou Boeuf, Bayou Chicot (C. H.), Big Cane, Grand Coteau, Leonville, Opelousas, Plaquemine Brulee, Ville Platte, Washington.

running the engine and maintaining the ap-
paratus in good order, and
"Whereas the Board of Police of this
town, under whose jurisdiction the main-
tenance of an efficient fire department
properly belongs, has never been called upon
to come to our assistance. . ."

The company asked simply for aid in
the expense of maintaining the equip-
ment in "efficient working order," and
nothing for payment on the purchase
price.

At this meeting there was a new admin-
istration. C.M. Thompson was president,
and members were Jos. LaSalle, Victor
Lastrapes, Emile Pefferkorn, Henry E. Es-
torge, George Pulford and Moses Green. C.
Mayo was clerk.

Another tax category was added on Feb.
5, 1885. The board ordained that persons
giving "public balls, fairs, gatherings, or
entertainments where liquors, suppers, re-
freshments, etc., etc., are sold, or where
a fee or price of admission is charged,
shall pay. . . a license tax of not less than
\$2.50 and not more than \$5, at the discretion
of the president of the board."

Victor Lastrapes, a member of the board,
was paid \$19.05 at that meeting for "black-
smithing."

CRAP SHOOTING OUTLAWED

"The playing of craps" was outlawed in
Opelousas in the second to last proceedings
inserted in the old ordinance book. This

was Sept. 17, 1890. At this time, Robert
Chachere was board president, and members
were Geo. Pulford, E. Latreite, J.B. San-
doz, E.J. Clements and J.T. Stewart. The
clerk was W.R. Cochran.

The ordinance declared that "the playing
of craps" in Opelousas "is a nuisance and
dangerous to the peace and good order of
said town."

Therefore the board declared craps play-
ing "unlawful and prohibited." It placed the
fine at \$10 minimum and \$50 maximum for
"whosoever shall engage" in the game,
or five to 10 days in jail. The constable was
not only directed to take into custody per-
sons found playing craps, but was also di-
rected to obtain a warrant whenever he
suspected such a game being played, enter
the house and, if he found the game being
played, take everybody so engaged into cus-
tody.

The final ordinance entered into the old
book was placed therein by Clerk Cochran,
changing the public market rules so that
salt rent remained at \$1 per day, but in
addition, one person might rent "two stalls
or stands contiguous to each other."

Shortly afterwards the town got a new char-
ter under the Laurion Act -- under which it
still labors and, according to some authori-
ties should change. Ordinance books there-
after are on file in city hall (see story in
this issue on old ordinances of later date
by Vera Dugal).



# War, Turmoil the First Police Jury

By RUTH ROBERTSON FONTENOT

The records of the Police Jury constitute a history of the Parish in themselves. These documents go back to the first meeting of this governing body (July 16, 1811) which was set up under the direction of Claiborne in order to start the territorial areas in a new and democratic form of government.

Prior to this the commandants of the posts were in absolute authority, under final appeal only to the Crown, whether Spanish or French. Now a new system was being installed, and during these days began the sudden installation of democratic rule.

This was a period of unrest, for the French inhabitants now found themselves suddenly Americans. Not quite Americans, for they had not yet been submitted to the Union, but were still a territory. Their business had prior to this been conducted in French or Spanish; now they found themselves with a new language with which few of them were familiar. These "ancient inhabitants", as they were referred to by Claiborne, were confused by many things about the new government.

One of the situations that arose was in matters pertaining to courts of law, when they were faced for the first time with "unwritten law". The old French Code, based on Roman law, was a definite and written law, well defined. An "unwritten law" was barbaric.

Many of the customs of the French and Americans differed and naturally this led to misunderstandings. The Americans accused the native French of being ignorant and uneducated (because they couldn't speak English) and many celebrated speeches were made in Congress before it was finally decided to admit Louisiana into the Union as a state, and grant to the French and Spanish settlers their rights as citizens of the United States.

In the meantime the Spanish and the English were both menacing Louisiana. In 1812 when Louisiana was admitted to the Union the boundaries of the State were established, and new laws and government were replacing the old forms, continuing the work that was begun by Claiborne in 1804, after the Purchase.

## OPELOUSANS AT BATTLE OF N.O.

During the war of 1812 many of the French settlers fought at the battle of New Orleans, and established themselves as loyal citizens. Notable among these was General Garrigues de Flauijac, a former General of Napoleon's army, who had settled in Opelousas. At the time of the battle he was a member of the Legislature of the new state of Louisiana. He was pointed out by Andrew Jackson and commended for his gallant and honorable action. Also serving at the battle were Col. Dejean, Maj. Amos Webb, Jacques Dupre and many others.

In Gavarre's History of Louisiana is a paragraph dealing with this episode, as follows: "The General takes great pleasure in noticing the conduct of General Garriques de Flauijac, commanding one of the brigades of militia of this State, and member of the Senate. His brigade not being in the field, as soon as the invasion was known he repaired to the camp, and offered himself as a volunteer for the service of a piece of artillery, which he directed with the skill which was to be expected from an experienced artillery officer. Disdaining the exemption afforded by his seat in the Senate, he continued in this subordinate but honorable station, and by his example as well as his exertion, has rendered essential services to his country; Mr. Sebastian Hiriart, of the same body, set the same example, served a considerable time in the ranks of the volunteer battalion, and afterward as adjutant of the colored troops."

At the time of the Battle of New Orleans the State Legislature was in session. General Jackson and Governor Claiborne had been very anxious for the adjournment of the Legislature during the invasion, and had urged the members to adjourn their session until a more suitable time. The members deemed it advisable to remain in session in order that they might be at hand to take care of emergencies that might require legislative action.

On Dec. 14, 1814, Governor Claiborne, at the suggestion of General Jackson, put before the Legislature a communication from Commodore Patterson, announcing the arrival of great enemy forces, and another from General Jackson for him to have the entire State Militia ready.

Last but not least was a request from Jackson to suspend the Writ of Habeas Corpus for a limited time (not stated). This last message started warm debates in both houses of the Legislature. Could the Writ of Habeas Corpus be suspended? Judge Hall, who was presiding over the U. S. District Court was of the opinion that Congress alone had the right to suspend this writ, by which the Constitution of the United States protected the humblest citizen "as secure in his person as if covered with a shield of divine manufacture".

Wilkinson had disregarded writs of territorial judges in 1806, but had not dared disregard those of Hall.

After many arguments, both houses voted against the measure desired by Claiborne and Jackson.

## LOUAILLIER, LEADS

Louis Louailier of St. Landry Parish acted as chairman of a "Committee to whom was referred the consideration of suspending the Writ of Habeas Corpus, in order to enable Patterson to impress seamen" and he reported the recommended measure as inexpedient. The committee thought it was better to induce men to serve as seamen by raising the pay than to drag them aboard forcibly. The legislature placed a sum of \$6,000 at the disposal of the commander to be used as bounties.

As chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, Louailier had earnestly recommended the necessity of taxing the state for defensive preparations. He later sanctioned the loan of many thousands of dollars to provide for defense of the State.

During the following few months, after Jackson arrived and assumed his military command, Louailier co-operated to the utmost with the military and civil authorities.

This French aristocrat, who had settled in St. Landry Parish and resided in the "Opelousas," had married and become a permanent citizen. He was naturalized. A brilliant and highly educated man, he was one of the first members of the police jury of this parish, and was chosen to represent his parish at the state legislature. He was a member of the Senate.

Rumors began to spread that Jackson planned to destroy the city of New Orleans if he was forced to retreat through it before the advancing enemy, and this caused the Legislature to take actions that Jackson branded as "Treason". The halls of the assembly were closed by military authority. This was Dec. 28, 1814. Orders flew back and forth from Jackson to the Legislature.

Martial law was declared.

On Jan. 8, 1815 was fought the celebrated Battle of New Orleans (several weeks after ratification of peace).

Louisiana had been protected from an army of fifteen thousand, which had been driven away with a loss of over four thousand. Of the American forces, 55 were killed, 185 wounded, and 83 were missing. . . truth stranger than fiction.

Books have been written about this famous battle, describing the actions of all the companies but suffice it to say that it was certainly one of the most extraordinary in all history. The ordered British were defeated by a hastily recruited force. . . the celebrated Tennesseans and Kentuckians in their buckskins, Indians, French aristocrats, pirates, and free men of color, all fighting for the newest State in the Union.

It was said of the Baratarians under Lafitte that "on the 21st of September they were pirates and hellish banditti" and on the 21st of January they were "privately and gentlemen." These were the words with which Jackson had described them on those respective dates.

Following his great victory Jackson entered the city of New Orleans a conquering hero. Rumors soon circulated that a treaty of peace had been signed, but Jackson continued his military law. On Feb. 22, a Gazette of Charleston arrived bearing news of the Treaty of Ghent, and demands were made of Jackson that he disband the local militia companies. This was refused, and the French consul, Tousard, was reprimanded for the conduct of his "French" people in Louisiana. Following this was issued the General Order that all French subjects were to retire from N.O. into the interior, to a distance not nearer than Baton Rouge.

The people were given three days to leave, and after this those remaining in the city were to be registered and would be subject to the orders of Jackson. Murmurs and threats and general indignation followed this order.

At this time, Louailier wrote an address which was published in a New Orleans newspaper, denouncing Jackson for applying to "alien friends" measure which the President himself has only the right to adopt against "alien enemies."

## CLAPPED IN JAIL

On the next day, Mar. 4, Jackson ordered the arrest of Louailier, under the Second Section of the act of Congress for establishing rules and Articles of War. "In time of war,

all persons not citizens of, or owing allegiance to the United States, who shall lurk as spies in or about the fortifications or encampments of the armies of the States, or any of them, shall suffer death, according to the laws and usages of by sentence of a general court-martial."

On Sunday the 5th at noon at the Exchange Coffee House, Louailier was arrested by lawyer, Morel was with him, and was requested by Louailier to adopt legal means for relief. Morel immediately applied for a Writ of Habeas Corpus to Judge Martin, just been seated on the bench of the Supreme Court of the State. Martin refused.

Morel then applied to Judge Hall, the District Judge of the United States. It was not court was not in session, but, after deliberating, the judge ordered a writ in effect asking Morel in courtesy to notify Jackson of the order.

Judge Hall was arrested Sunday evening at 9 o'clock and put in the same cell barracks as Louailier.

Jackson then sent an officer and demanded that the clerk of the district court sign to him the petition of Louailier, on the back of which was Hall's order for issuing of Habeas Corpus. The clerk finally consented to show the paper to Jackson, threatened with an arrest when he demanded the return of the paper. Jackson gave up the paper. At this moment news arrived from Washington that the treaty had been ratified.

By midnight a great crowd had gathered at headquarters, excited by the news of the arrest of Louailier and Judge Hall, and of the official announcement of ratification.

Judge Hall sent word that he wished to make an affidavit for his release, and refused. A Mr. Dick, the district attorney of the U.S. court, came to Hall's assistance and applied to Judge Lewis for a Writ of Habeas Corpus. Lewis was then acting as in the Orleans Rifle Company. He laid down his rifle and issued the writ. Jackson ordered the arrest of Lewis and Dick. Lewis was released but Dick was sent to the barracks with Hall and Louailier.

On the 8th, Jackson disbanded the militia and issued a general order to offset the commotion that had arisen over his hasty arrests.

He thanked all of the patriots of Louisiana for the noble defense they had made, and charged them to guard against "designing" men.

Thus Jackson tried to pour oil on the troubled waters, but too late. The people demanded immediate release of Louailier and Judge Hall, and Dick.

Claiborne began to cool off in his friendship with Jackson.

## OPELOUSANS FREED

A court martial proceedings was now brought against Louailier, presided over by General Gaines. Seven charges were brought against him, all resting on the letter printed in the newspaper on the 3rd of March.

He was released of all charges by the court on March 9.

Jackson refused to release the prisoner, and issued another General Order. He ordered the idea of prosecuting Hall "for aiding, abetting, and exciting mutiny" in his camp putting him under guard, had him led out of town and released, forbidden to return. Ratification was regularly announced. On Mar. 13 New Orleansians were awakened by the sounds of cannons, heralding official news from the President of the peace and of Jackson to issue a pardon for all military offenses.

Louailier and Dick were released, the French Consul returned, Judge Hall returned and was acclaimed by the people as a "Magistrate with no fear but that of God".

On March 21, Dick proceeded against Jackson, moving for a rule to show cause why process of attachment should not issue against General Jackson for contempt of court. In his representation he gave an account of the entire proceedings of the arrest of Louailier, his appeal for protection under the writ, the arrest of the judge, intimidation of the clerk, and the rest of it.

The motion was granted, and the general presented an answer, denying the authority of the district attorney in presenting it and of the Court to punish him for contempt. He requested a trial by jury.

Other technical objections were added to this.

Then followed one of the celebrated cases in the annals of court procedure "The States vs. Andrew Jackson".

## GENERAL JACKSON FINED

The general was found guilty of contempt, and fined one thousand dollars and costs. He promptly paid, and was carried to the Coffee House by an admiring throng of his officers, many of whom were former soldiers under his command, including a number of "Baratarians", these latter having little affection for the courts of the land.

The president soon issued a proclamation declaring "free and full pardon" for foreigners and citizens who "forgetful of their duty, had co-operated in forming an establishment on the Island of Barataria, near the mouth of the River Mississippi, for the purpose of a clandestine and lawless trade."

So ended the war of 1812, and peace settled once more over the land.

The State of Louisiana began to emerge from all of this disturbance, and form its government.

Claiborne had weathered the storm of progress from a territorial to a State government through a short but eventful war with foreign powers. In spite of his youth he was to be an able Governor, setting an example for those who were to follow him in the FIRST POLICE JURY.

Original members of the Police Jury of St. Landry, when it was organized in 1818 given in the minutes of July 16 of that year. They were named as follows:

L. Louailier (of whom we have given a detailed account), Jacques Dupre (who as Governor 1830-31 succeeding as President of the Senate), William Moore, R. B. J. M. McClellan, Joseph Andrews, S. McIntire, Robert Taylor, L. Carriere, and St. Jelle, secretary pro tem.

The minutes are written in longhand, in French and in English. They contain a fascinating account of the history of this parish, as seen through the works of the governing body.

Works that occupied the Police Jury were many. It was resolved by the body that judication of any public works should be definitive but after ratification of the Police Jury.

They busied themselves with making the parish habitable, by building bridges over bayous at carefully chosen sites, by constructing roads, by erecting a jail and a house.

They organized a "Patrol of the Militia," with a "Patrol Master" for specified parishes. Committees were appointed to supervise the policing of cattle; the building of roads and bridges; estimation of taxable property; clearing of the Bayous and River "Chafalaya" make them more navigable; construction of the jail.

An interesting account is read through the records of the moving of the "G. Raft" in the Atchafalaya. This was one of the first major projects of the jury. It also removed obstructions in Bayous Courtableau and Carron, and Boeuf and F. It was urged that. . . "Steps be taken immediately for unmooring the raft in Courtableau, and obstructions in Courtableau and Carron be also removed."

Since there was no publication at the time it was decided "That these undertakings be let to the lowest bidder for three consecutive Sundays at the church door and that advertisements for the purpose be set up in the most public places."

The first crying shall take place the Sunday 8th of September and the second on the following Sunday at the church door after the Divine Office."

Noted in the minutes during these early years are many odd items that bring to life the days of our pioneer ancestors. Among these are the following: ". . . a bay stallion white forehead has for many years been dangerous to the neighborhood. . . he is reported that Michel Carriere is authorized to have said horse killed."

And ". . . horses or cattle kidnaped from any inhabitant of St. Landry Parish: . . . sons found guilty of this shall pay the sum of \$50.00 for every head. . ."

In another case it was advertised that the parish would pay a bounty of \$2.00 a head each wolf killed.

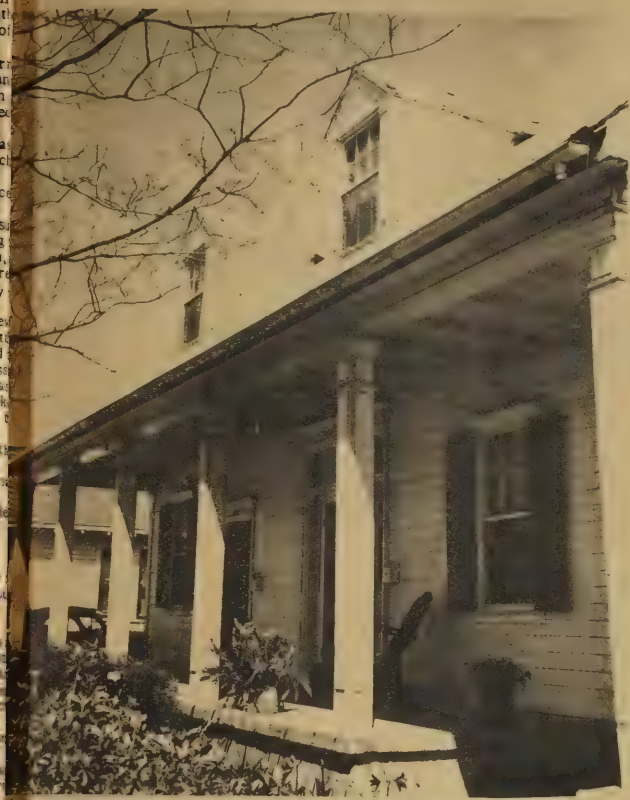
There is in the records a detailed account of the plan for the proposed jail, with specifications for walls sixteen inches thick "held fast by nails four inches long and proportionately stout". The windows had iron grates, and the door was of "cypress" four inches thick.

In June 1818 there is a list of early ordinances, the first noted in the records, were as follows:

- (1) An ordinance respecting the game called Banc.
- (2) An ordinance respecting the public jail.
- (3) An ordinance respecting the retailers of spirituous liquors, and keepers of billiard tables, and tavern keepers.
- (4) An ordinance respecting the parish funds.



# Ulysses Pitre Home



ON RAILROAD AVENUE is one of the fine old homes in Opelousas. Now the residence of Mrs. Ulysses Pitre, it is distinguished by unusually nice woodwork. It is a typical story-and-a-half dwelling, with an open gallery across the front. The central doorway is detailed with panelling and dados; the columns are also paneled. All of the exterior trim is master carpentry. The home is extremely well-kept and neat, a fine example of its type of construction. There are quite a number of homes in Opelousas of this type, but few are as well-cared-for as this lovely old place. A great many old homes like this are demolished, and replaced with inferior "modern" homes, which although new are not built of such enduring materials as this hardy old cypress, nor of such painstaking carpentry and craftsmanship. We hope it will not be too long now when the true beauty and quality of these nice old places will come to a more general public awareness, so that more of these historic landmarks will endure for future generations to live in and love.

5) An ordinance respecting wheels of fortune and roulette tables.  
 6) An ordinance respecting a tax on the parish.  
 7) An ordinance respecting certain roads and bridges.  
 8) An ordinance respecting the publication of the ordinances of the police jury. These were followed by later ordinances, many of them connected with regulation of the heights and construction of fences, the moving of cattle, the cutting of timber, and methods of policing the residents of the parish. The first judge noted in the records of the Police Jury was George King, parish judge. First sheriff noted in the minutes was C. Voorhies. Joseph Anderson was the first tax collector. Dr. Samuel Hamilton was the first coroner noted in the minutes. John Corkin was appointed to take a census of horses and cattle. Among the names of settlers noted at this time were the following: W. DeJean, Jacques Arnault, Joseph Andrus, John Thompson, Justice of Peace, Joaquin Ortega, Joseph Hanchett, John E. Hughes, Joseph Buller, Andre Deshotel, Silvester Bossier, Dominique Richard, David L. Todd. Verjun Fuselier, Charles D. Fuselier, Joseph Savoy, John D. Schmitt, Green Hudspeth, Lufroy Latolais, Francois Coulon DeVilliers, Bello Douato, Philip A. Delacaise, Bonaventure Martin, Jacob Bihm, Etienne Daigle, Simon Mark. Francois Richard, Daniel Zeringue, Dennis McDaniel, Joel West, Pierre Courville, Andre Nerault, Francois Stelly, D. Littell, physician, Benjamin Mudd, Louis Guillory, Louis Solleau, William Lyons, Philip Duplechain, Joseph Roy, Benjamin Smith, Pierre Joubert, Andre Hero, William Johnson, Jaques Lenelle, Baptiste David, Hillaire Bordelon. Patrol Masters at this time and the location in which they served were: Baptiste Castille - Prairie des Femmes; Michel Carriere - Prairie Fakatique and Chataigner; John Hayes - Prairie de la Piniere and Bayou Chicot; others were Joseph Grandenigo, Joseph Chretien, James Stelle, Adam Tete, Michel Prudhomme, Henry Lastrapes, Louis Troclair, Miguel Hernandez, Augustin Grandenigo, Albert Lavergne, Philippe Fontenot, Samuel Hamilton, Dan. J. Sutton, Andres Weaver, Jacob Harman. At the second meeting of the police jury a complete list of members (eleven) and their full names were given as follows: Louis Louailier, Robert Burleigh, Joseph Andrews, Samuel McIntire, Etienne de la Morandiere, Robert Taylor, William Moore, Louis Carriere, Louis Chachere, Jacques Dupre, and James Stelle, secretary pro tem. FIRST OFFICIALS Garrigues Flaageac, Joaquin Ortega, and Theophilus Elmer served on a committee to survey taxable property in the parish. Louis Chachere was appointed permanent secretary of the first police jury. Captains of Militia at this time were Gradnigo, Chretien, Coulon de Villiers, and Jehnson. Others were Resin Bowie, Herbert L'Amey, Sieur Charles Smith, William Jasit, Solomon Cole, and Charles D. Fuselier. On May 18, 1818, Dr. Theophilus Elmer was appointed physician to the public jail. Luke Lesapier, Esquire, was appointed attorney for the parish. Guy H. Bell was appointed clerk. New members came into the governing body as others resigned and among these were Benjamin A. Smith, Joseph Elijah Andrus, Gabriel Lyons, Joseph LaRose Fontenot, Elbert Gant, Alex B. Fontenot, Murtaugh Collins, Drauzin Breaux, Louis Solleau, and William Link. In 1818 James Stelle was authorized to have made a large map of the Parish, and a sum of \$20.00 was appropriated for this purpose. Among those mentioned in a list of early constables of the parish are Adrian Sonnier, Francis DeRouen, Azalin Courville, Cyprien Fruge, Hector Launey, Antoine Deshotel, Henry Young, Joseph Veneble, A. S. Winkler, Wm. B. Carroll and William Johnson. Another early doctor in the Parish was Dr. Vincent Boagni.

Found among the first decades of the nineteenth century were the names of Theodore DeValcour, H. Lowry, Y. D'Avy, A. Mamel, L. Roxas, W.R. McGaley, Michel Bihm, Louis Lejeune, Valery Roy, Thomas Sutes. Joseph D. Richard was newly appointed clerk of the jury, and as an example of fine Spencerian script, his calligraphy would be hard to beat. The early records are all hand-written, and many of the secretaries had fine and flourishing styles of penmanship. The ability to write was a thing of which our early settlers were justly proud, and nothing gives more proof of this than the meticulous care with which they formed their every word. Shaded lettering, curlicues, and ornamental capitals abounded in the old documents of the parish, and bring to life the gentlemen who set down so patiently the official business of Imperial St. Landry. Many incidents relative to the "War Between the States" are reflected in the minutes of the Police Jury, and other emergencies that arose in the parish.

**FIRST HEALTH BOARD**  
 Around the turn of the century, March 1, 1883, the Parish Board of Health was organized at a call meeting of the Police Jury. This was an emergency brought about by a case of smallpox at Whiteville, on Bayou Boeuf. Members of the jury attending this meeting were August Perrodin, D. Meche, S. Haas, Louis Young, and T. C. Chachere. Seven physicians attended, and formed the first Board of Health. Dr. R.H. Littell was president, and other doctors were James Ray, Louis Hadden, W.M. Thompson, V. Boagni, Felix Guilbeau, and D.L. Todd. Noted at a later meeting was an ordinance formulated by Dr. W.F. Clopton, relative to the cremation of animals found to have Charbon or Glanders. Penalty for failure to cremate infected animals was \$100.00 fine or three months in jail or both.

**EARLIEST FIRE COMPANY**  
 One of the earliest Volunteer Fire Departments in the State was organized in Opelousas, and was incorporated by act of Legislature in 1853, its members being exempt from militia and jury duty. Among its members have always been the prominent citizens of the town, who risked life and limb protecting the property and safety of the inhabitants of the town and its environs. Attention was also given to the cultural things of life, and in the towns of Opelousas and Washington were well-known Opera Houses, which had as guests many of the outstanding stars of music and drama of the day. In old publications of the parish are many advertisements for programs devoted to the arts, and at one time Opelousas had its own orchestra and a fine group of singers who put on light operettas for the amusement and edification of the local citizens. In those days as today there were festivals with queens, and they were regal indeed as old photographs of this era testify.

**FIRST STEAMBOATS**  
 The first steamboats that came into the parish were objects of awe and admiration, and by the third decade of the nineteenth century they were well-established and continued until their decline at the turn of the century. Waiting at the landing for steamboats was one of the occupations of the time, and many remarks have been made that playing poker and drinking Sazerac cocktails at Washington landing to while away the long wait led to the downfall of many a youth of the parish. The younger generation eagerly awaited the landing, for fresh oranges, grapes, and bananas were to be had. Oysters were brought by the barrel, kegs of wine, imported goods, silks and satins and fine brocades all made their way to the rich planters and merchants who had them on order. The steamboat captain was beloved by all, standing on the bridge giving orders as he twirled his handsome mustache. The plush interiors of the luxury steamers set a new trend in decoration, and a new style of architecture, "Steamboat Gothic," was the result. Many of the present "gingerbread houses" were inspired by admiration of a passing steamer.



**PACKAGE LIQUORS  
 and  
 MIXED DRINKS**



**CASS'**

"For Better Service"





PELOUSAS GOT DIAL TELEPHONES on Saturday, July 13, 1940, the first time the Southern Bell (earlier, the Cumberland) exchange had been moved in 40 years. These pictures, taken by the late James Bourdier and reproduced in the Clarion-News, show change-over ceremonies. Attorney Seth Lewis, top left, dialed the first local call. He had been president of the Kiwanis Club when that group began an intensive and ultimately successful drive to get the dial system. They got telephone subscribers to sign petitions. The late Mayor David Hollier, right, placed the first long distance call through the new system. Center is Manager Ivy Gashia. Below, Mrs. L. R. Delaney, standing, chief operator, supervises at the new board. Man on right is a technician. In 1900 Opelousas had 300 telephones. By 1920 there were 480; by 1936 there were 1,046, by 1946 there were 1,966, and there were 6,215 as of June 1 of this year. Gashia estimates there will be well over 6,500, by year's end, perhaps close to 7,000.



FIRST SWITCHBOARD in Opelousas, in the office of the Bertha Telephone Co., installed by Miss Isola Campbell, first operator. She was the late Mrs. A. S. J. Campbell. Bertha Telephone Co. was owned and installed by Allie Burton Pickett, of Wisconsin, married Vidalia Comeau and settled here. This photo of the early switchboard is a less collector's item. It offers an interesting contrast to the modern one in present photo. Note the old crank 'phone on the wall.

### Early Marriage

The first marriage in the earliest marriage book in the St. Landry Catholic church here is that of William Collins, son of Luke Collins and Sara Watt. He married Hortense LeSassier of New Orleans, daughter of Dr. Julian LeSassier, who was a captain of militia, and Maria Voisin.

This was not, of course, by many, many

years the first marriage in the parish. The first in the bound Marriage Book was in 1787. The priest was Joseph de Arazena.

Luke Collins was the son of Luke and Zoe Courtableau, she having a daughter of Jacques Courtableau, first mandant of the Poste de Opelousas, Marguerite Lekintrek. Jacques and Marguerite were married in Opelousas in 1765. Valentin, a missionary priest, then had been no church here then, at the moment.

Marguerite Lekintrek was the daughter of Joseph Lekintrek, a fur trader, or "de bois," who was among the very first to receive a permit, from the French authorities in New Orleans to trade in the Opelousas Country. These records are in the Opelousas Parish records.

Luke Collins died in 1801, the church records show.

At this time the dial equipment, switchboards, power room, operators' quarters and business office were newly housed in a one-story brick structure on Landry Street. At the present time, the business office is housed in a recently complete brick structure at Bellevue and Market, I. A. Gashia has served as local manager since June 1, 1937.

## Opelousas' Phone History

The first telephone exchange in Opelousas was installed in the late 1800's, the exact date not known at this time. It was the Bertha Telephone Co., brought to Opelousas by Allie Burton Pickett, of Wisconsin.

The first telephone operator was Isola Fontenot (the late Mrs. A. S. J. Campbell). There were about a hundred phones on this exchange. When Mr. Pickett went out to the old Cleophas Comeaux place (now the site of the St. Landry Parish Airport) to install one of his newfangled phones he met Mr. Comeau's attractive daughter, Vidalia, who later became his bride.

Several photographs of Mr. Pickett, the early exchange, and other old views that accompany this article are treasured possessions of their daughter, Mrs. Oswald Perkins, the former Hazel Pickett.

When Mr. Pickett came into Opelousas he



ALLIE BURTON PICKETT of Wisconsin, brought in to Opelousas the independent Bertha Company, first telephone service in the area. He married Vidalia Comeau "Miss Vidalia" and settled in Opelousas.

rode in the first automobile that was seen in these parts. ("Bee" Boagui owned the second one.)

In 1900 the Cumberland Telephone and Telegraph Co. was installed in Opelousas, with about three hundred telephones. It was located in the building now known as the Barnett Building, where Winsberg's Store is now situated, on the corner of Main and Landry.

First operator of the Cumberland exchange was Miss Kitten Thompson, who became Mrs. J. A. Shaw. Miss Isola Fontenot was relief operator. Joel Fontenot was night operator, and Fabian Chachere was messenger boy. A toll check stations were placed into service at Sunset, Washington, Beggs, Garland, Barbrech, and Whiteville.

V. H. Sibille of Sunset owned and operated an exchange at Ville Platte and Eunice, and service to various places in the Mamou Prairie and Church Point was connected to the service at Opelousas, as the years went by.

About July 1906 the Cumberland Co. acquired the Bertha Co., which then had very few customers and could no longer compete with the Cumberland Co. The few remaining Bertha customers were connected to the Cumberland exchange by jumper wires from the central office cable pole to their cable pole across the street, and they continued to operate in this manner until 1907, when the entire plant was reconstructed and the old independent plant dismantled.

At this time Henry Gallois was manager of Cumberland in Opelousas, and was transferred to New Iberia in 1907. He served almost half a century in the telephone company.

Walter Connerly replaced Gallois. Jim Sullivan was construction foreman in building the first plant, and Leon Prodel installed the switchboard equipment. Frank Baranco also served as manager for a number of years.

Cumberland Telephone Co. was merged with Southern Bell in Oct. 1925, and it was at this time that I. A. Gashia, now manager, began working with the Telephone Company, this year completing thirty years of service in this field.

In 1900 there were three hundred telephones connected to the Cumberland exchange. In 1920 there were 480 phones; in 1940 there were 1,396. Present number of phones connected to the Opelousas Exchange is about 6,200.

On July 13, 1940, Seth Lewis, prominent local attorney, placed the first local call on a newly installed Dial Service, and the late Mayor Dave Hollier placed the first long-dis-



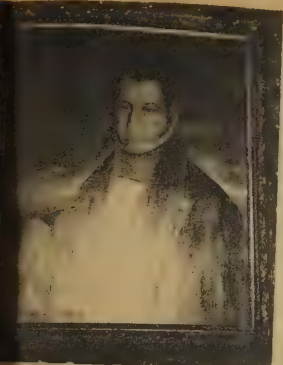
## Whittenberg Insurance Agency

GENERAL INSURANCE

P. O. Box 617

150 West Bellevue Street  
OPELOUSAS, LA.





AMONG THE HISTORICAL DATA that survives through the years are found many fine portraits, such as this one of Agricole Fuselier. Gabriel Fuselier de la Claire was second commander of the post of Opelousas and settled near what is now St. Martin's. He is thought to be the first settler of the district. In 1760 he purchased from the Attakapas chiefs, a tract of land west of the town, and built his home on this land. Most of these early settlers homes were simple, but furnished with the most elegant furniture, silver, crystal and china brought by them from France, or purchased later visits to their native country. Fuselier de la Claire was commander under French rule, and later under Spanish rule. In 1769 the tiny settlement was named Poste of Attakapas," and as a military Fuselier was its executive officer and commander for the entire Attakapas and Opelousas parishes. He served in this capacity until the French Revolution many refugees came to the Attakapas Poste, and there were so many French living here that it acquired the name "Petit Paris". The portrait of Agricole Fuselier hangs in the Thistlethwaite home in Opelousas, Mrs. Thistlethwaite being a descendant of the "ancient commandant".



Dr. Frank Shute and Dr. Theogene Chachere.

Two St. Landry doctors pose together - probably photographed in Dr. Shute's office. The late Dr. Frank Shute was the son of Dr. Ira Shute who came here from Kentucky to practice medicine. Dr. Frank Shute's son Greighton is presently engaged in the practice of medicine, and is a prominent surgeon. Dr. Theogene Chachere was the fifth child of Veillard Chachere. He served in the Confederate Army as Surgeon of Company F, 8th Louisiana Cavalry, and practiced medicine in St. Landry Parish for many years.

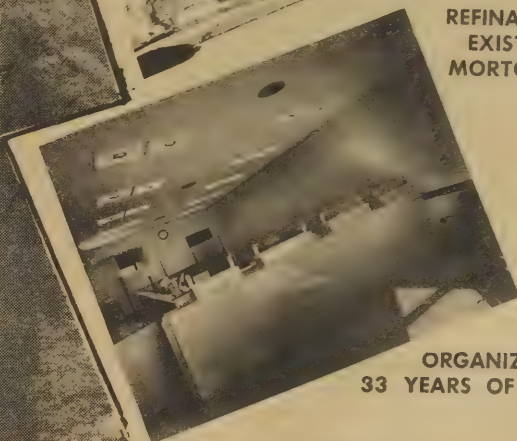
YELLOW FEVER

A terrible epidemic of yellow fever struck St. Landry parish in August, 1853. Washington was decimated, death was everywhere, and every resident who could fled from that town and also from Opelousas. Some 20 persons died in Opelousas, but in every case they had contracted the disease in Washington. It was also the worst yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans history, with the daily death toll reaching over 400 persons at times.

E. Gardner was "attorney and counsel at law" in Grand Coteau a century ago, when his practice there prior to 1852.



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114 W. Bellevue Opelousas Telephone 3436

QUALITY MEAT PRODUCTS SINCE 1923

LOUISIANA'S LARGEST Independent Meat Packing Plant



MOURET PACKING CO.

BEEF AND PORK PACKERS

U. S. GOVERNMENT INSPECTED

OPELOUSAS, LA.

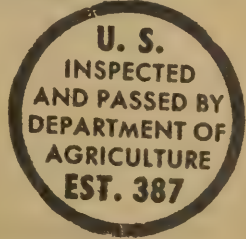
LOUISIANA'S ONLY U. S. GOVERNMENT INSPECTED PACKING PLANT SLAUGHTERING BOTH BEEF AND PORK.

Present management of Mouret's began when Albert Mouret took over his father's meat market in 1923, at the age of 14. In 1928 he began wholesaling, and by 1930 had closed the market and gone into the wholesale meat business on a full scale operation.

Six years later his brother, Harry, came to work for him and in 1941 became a partner.

In 1954 the business was incorporated and today it is the largest independent meat packing plant in Louisiana. A major factor of Mouret's has been its firm policy of -always first with high quality products under the most rigid inspection standards.

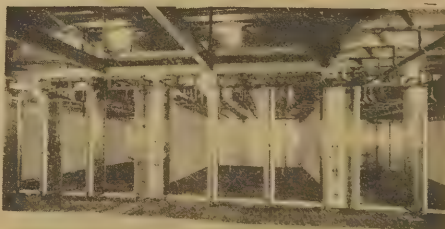
The firm now employs 140 people and maintains a fleet of 9 large trailers and 20 delivery trucks.



Only The BEST can bear this U. S. Inspection Stamp



First Smokehouse a 36" clay pipe. Capacity 50 lbs of meat at a time.



Above—Present stainless steel smokehouse with automatic controls, capacity 60,000 lbs at one time.

Below—Mouret's first trailer, made by Albert Mouret, and picture of building where slaughtering was first done.



Left — One of Mouret's fleet of nine refrigerated Tandem trailers being loaded with dressed cows being shipped to Chicago. Mouret's operate about thirty refrigerated trucks.

The present packing plant with a capacity of 1,000 cattle and 1,500 hogs weekly shows how much progress has been made in less than 32 years by Mouret's.

Mouret's is the only U. S. Inspected plant in Louisiana slaughtering pork and beef.



# Robin Home Bayou Teche



Listed in the earliest records of history of the Opelousas Poste is the name of the first doctor in St. Landry, and in the whole vast Opelousas territory.

His name was Francois Robin, and he was the pioneer Doctor for this entire territory. Called "Francisco" Robin by the Spanish authorities, he was a distinguished French physician, sent as official doctor for the Poste des Opelousas by the French rulers of the Louisiana territory. His was a large, widespread wilderness in which to begin his work of healing, but there were few people of his own race in that great expanse of swamp and prairie.

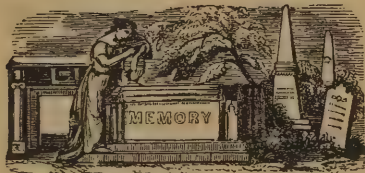
One of his descendants, Numa Robin, built this home near Leonville on Bayou Teche. It was made about 1830, and stands today in a good state, having been in continuous use since its erection. The large live oaks around it add much to the nice appearance of the home, which is presently resided in by the family of Gervis Taylor.

Owner of the plantation and home is Edgar Mouton, of Lafayette. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

Andrus	from Guidry	1780
Andrus	Barbours	1789
Andrus	Belley	1786
Andrus	Andrus	1804
Andrus	Sean of Celestion - Indians	1804
Andrus	Lappington	1803
Andrus	Lappington	1803
Andrus	Legue	1802
Andrus	Blanchell	1796
Andrus	Andrus	1797
Andrus	Lesmelle	1777
Andrus	Bourmepas	1795
Andrus	Tonlenol	1789
Andrus	Lamarthe	1799
Andrus	Figurant	1802
Andrus	Barbours	1802
Andrus	Delafosse	1802
Andrus	Guidry	1804
Andrus	Houder	1804
Andrus	McKay	1804
Andrus	Drossier	1778

Brancoigne	Beaulieu	1798
Boakler	Piler	1793
Boakler	Requingand	1798
Boakler	Beaulieu	1790
Boakler	Tonlen	1789
Boakler	Durocuppeau	1789
Boakler	Duplatis	1789
Boakler	Bill	1788
Boakler, Reid of Thompson	Stutes	1788
Bills	Forshall	1788
Boakler	Barre	1788
Boakler	Rehon	1788

FIRST PAGE OF LAND INDEX BOOK for the period 1765-1805. The book gives a list of the names of residents of this area during that period.



YOU are respectfully invited to attend the funeral of.

## WARREN ROSS MEGINLEY,

who died yesterday evening at five o'clock, aged 61 years, 3 months and 2 days.

The procession will leave the family residence this (Friday) evening at 4 o'clock for the Catholic Church of Opelousas, where the funeral rites will be solemnized.

IN BEHALF OF THE FAMILY.

Opelousas, Friday, Sept. 20, 1878.

**FUNERAL NOTICE** - Creole custom that still survives in Opelousas. A custom, peculiar to Louisiana Creole towns is that of posting funeral notices shortly after the death of a citizen of the town, or of the surrounding area. The above "Funeral Ticket," as they are sometimes called, gave notice of the death of one of Opelousas' pioneer architects - Warren McGinley (the spelling of the name was changed to avoid confusion). Warren Ross McGinley was married to Louisa Chachere, second child of Veillard Chachere and Heloise LaVergne.

Most of the funeral notices were made along the same pattern—with a black band, and a "suitable" cut (picture). In this particular picture there is the mourning widow - the grave - the weeping willow. They were posted on trees, lampposts, and other prominent places around the town, and a large number of notices was impaled in each place, so that members of the family might carry them home if they desired to keep one.

In most of our towns in Southwest Louisiana this unique custom has died out, but it still continues in Opelousas, and probably a few other old towns. To those of us who have grown up seeing them they are the normal procedure after a death, but others unfamiliar with this custom find it most extraordinary.

**ARE YOU GETTING FULL VALUE FOR YOUR INSURANCE DOLLARS?**

It won't cost a thing to talk to your STATE FARM AGENT... he may be able to give you better protection for your money...

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OPELOUSAS, LA.



# Grand Cotton Carnival

A grand and gala Cotton Carnival was staged in Opelousas for several years, the first being held Oct. 25, 1922. The late C. Willis Roy, prominent planter, was King Cotton I, and Miss Yvonne Dejean was the first queen.

Reported the New Orleans Item on their front page, with pictures, the next day, in part:

"OPELOUSAS, La., Oct. 25--Viva le roi! The king lives! Long may he reign over the fertile fields of fair Opelousas and Southwest Louisiana.

"Who says cotton is dead? Surely no one who stood in the crowded streets of the parish seat of Imperial St. Landry and watched the royal barge of King Cotton I roll by with His Majesty enthroned on billows of the product. . . .

"If the historic Ford Day of last July was counted a successful celebration, and it surely was, the first annual cotton carnival of this part of the state was just so many times a greater event.

"... Cotton is the king of the season, for never, in recent years, has the great staple of the Pelican state produced such a bountiful crop.

"In the future it will be said that while New Orleans has its Mardi Gras that Opelousas has its Cotton Carnival. Never in the history of Southwest Louisiana has such an elaborate pageant been planned or better executed.

"There were bands and floats, prancing horses and steaming Fords, handsome men and handsomer women--and pretty girls by the many hundreds.

"The day's festivities opened with the display of the agricultural horn of plenty in the court house square. Here everything that is grown in the parish was spread out for those who do not know the possibilities of St. Landry to inspect and marvel over. There was also a baby show.

King Cotton I and his "beautiful and gracious queen" led the parade, preceded by heralds on horseback, Agnes May Allen and

Sadie Smith. The king's pages were Misses Ethel Boagni, Romyne Dejean, Annie Budd, Katherine Lee Williams, Marie Beah Andreport.

The queen's ladies-in-waiting were Misses Marie Megninley, Coriene LaCombe, Lena Loeb, Carmen Voorhies and Evelyn Lewis. Her pages were Misses LaPerle Guilbeau, Georgia Shute and Marguerite Fontenot.

Other floats were: Prince Rice, Robert Fields, with Miss Myrtle Mornhinveg as princess, and as maids, Misses Adele Lawler, Rosalie Roos, Mammie Anding and Irma Mae Roos; butterflies, Katherine Dominique and Alice Evelyn Bordelon.

Duke Cane, Frankie Dietlein with Miss Rosa Hebrard, and, as attendants, Misses Helen Garland, Irene Hollier and Irma Castille; and Vernon Fontenot, Jerome Haas and Thomas Sandoz.

Horn of Plenty, with Vincent Boagni and Mrs. Oswald Perkins as prince and princess, and two butterflies, Elsie Stelly and Gerald Perkins, and these fairies, Georgia and Justine Boagni, Mamyne Comeau, Cleo Stelly, Maxine Comeau, Helen McKimney, Pat Garland, Lillian Barnett and Hilma O'Quin.

After this were state, parish and city officials in autos, "blaring bands," boys and girls' agricultural clubs, farm boys and girls, decorated agricultural and business floats, farm tractors, and all types of mobile agricultural implements.

Mayor A. J. Perrault gave the king the city's keys. An "appropriate pantomime" was enacted in front of the throne by 100 school girls; there was a competitive drill between Civil War veterans and National Guardsmen, and the day was ended with distribution of \$600 in premiums to visitors.

There was a grand-ball that night for "the bravest of the brave and the fairest of the surrounding countryside."

"Visitors were here from everywhere," the article continued.

"The Opelousas Cotton Carnival has attracted attention throughout the south, Monday night the powerful radio broadcasting station of the Atlanta Journal threw into the ether of the entire Southern states the news of the celebration." Other stations broadcasting news were in Kansas City and Fort Worth.

And "each and every visitor was presented with a miniature bale of cotton, every lint of which was grown in St. Landry."



"HORN OF PLENTY" was the title of the float on which the prince and princess presided, accompanied by a group of pages and fairies. Back row standing left to right: Pat Garland, Helen McKinney, Lillian Barnett, Mrs. Oswald Perkins, the princess, Mr. Vincent Boagni, prince, Elsie Stelly, Edna McKimney, Hilma O'Quin, Maxine Comeau. Kneeling front row: Georgia Boagni, Justine Boagni, Marynia Comeau, Cleo Stelly, Gerald Perkins.

## First Cotton Carnival Queen

STANDING BEFORE the Dejean home (now residence of Allen Dezauche) Miss Yvonne Dejean in her regal robes as Queen of the First Cotton Carnival of Opelousas, Oct. 25, 1922. The late Willis Roy was "King Cotton." Mrs. Martin Shevlin of Alexandria, Yvonne was previously married to James Saizan, of Opelousas.

Yvonne's royal train was a loan to her for the occasion by a cousin, Stephanie Levert of R. Martinsville and New Orleans. Miss Levert had worn the train in a New Orleans ball. Yvonne is the daughter of the late Armand Dejean and Mrs. Louise Megninley Dejean. Her husband is a prominent attorney of Alexandria, presently retired because of illness. He has two sons, James Saizan of LaRe and Martin Shevlin of Alexandria.

The "Palace" of the king and Queen of Cotton was the upper floor of Bordelon's Garage, where a large reception was held following the parade. Dignitaries from all over the state attended this first Cotton Carnival, and it was photographed by Seiznick News, and Pictures Corporations and released

under the banner of the First National Exchange. A Fox film had been taken a few months before of the "Ford Day" Parade (July, 1922).

Stanley Clisby Arthur, well-known New Orleans author and former newspaperman, wrote a long and glowing account of the days events, which was published in the Thursday Item following. Front page portraits of Miss Dejean and Mr. Roy accompanied the detailed write-up.

A complete list of floats and their occupants, extracted from Daily Clarion-Progress, is as follows:

Corn Float, Grand Marshal. Agnes Mae Allen and Sadie Smith, Heralds.

King's Float, Willis Roy, King; Leo Durio, Jester; Pages, Misses Ethel Boagni, Romyne Dejean, Annie Budd, Katherine Lee Williams, Marie Beah Andreport.

Queen's Float, Miss Yvonne Dejean, Queen; Ladies in Waiting, Misses Marie McGinley, Corinne LaCombe, Lena Loeb, Carmen Voorhies, Evelyn Lewis, Pages, Misses LaPerle Guilbeau, Georgia Shute, Marguerite Fontenot.

Corn Float, Wallace Phillips, count. Mrs. Wallace Phillips, countess Ladies-in-waiting, Miss Noemie Burr, Miss Annie Belle Richard, Irma Fontenot, Herald, Walter Wilson, Jr., Betty Jo Nolan, Herbert O'Quin.

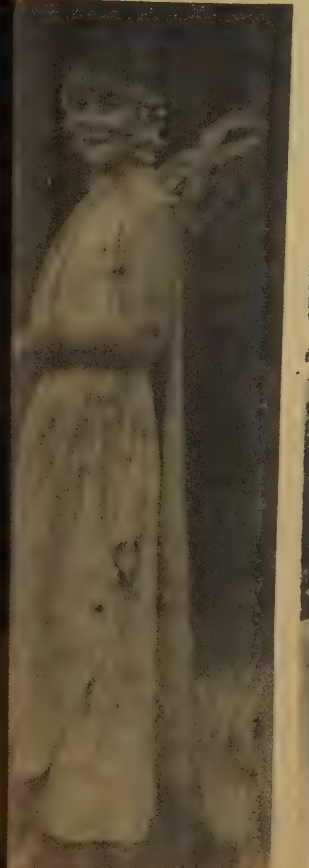
Cane Float, Frankie Dietlein, duke, Miss Rosa Hebrard, duchess, Attendants, Vernon Fontenot, Helen Garland, Irene Hollier, Irma Castille, Jerome Haas, Thomas Sandoz.

Rice Float, Robert Fields, prince, Miss Myrtle Mornhinveg, princess, Maids, Misses Adele Lawler, Rosalie Roos, Mammie Anding, Irma Mae Roos, Butterflies, Katherine Dominique, Alice Evelyn Bordelon.

Horn of Plenty, Mrs. Oswald Perkins, princess, Vincent Boagni, prince, Butterflies, Gerald Perkins, Elsie Stelly.

The Beauty Float--The following beauties rode on the float put in the parade by the Associated Rice Millers of America, featuring "Eat More Rice"! Miss Eloise Ortega, Washington; Miss Audrey White, Eunice; Miss Ida DuBoisblanc, Arnaudville; Miss Viola Barry, Grand Coteau; Miss Lois Daly, Sunset; Miss Ruth DeVilleirs, Opelousas; Miss Ada Joyce White, Melville; Miss Leola Clark, Leonville.

Many automobiles and other vehicles were also decorated for the event and rode in the



YVONNE DE JEAN  
First Cotton Carnival Queen. . .



C. WILLIS ROY, King Cotton I, for the first Cotton Carnival in 1922.

parade, and various awards were given for these.

The Cotton Carnival was staged by the Trade Extension Bureau.

Mayor A. J. Perrault presented King Cotton with the keys of the City. Harry W. Lewis was in charge of the parade.



**DUNBAR  
GAS & HARDWARE  
INC.**  
WASHINGTON ROAD P. O. BOX 88  
OPELOUSAS, LA.



# Opelousas- 'City of Banks'

FOR NEW ORLEANS,

The good safe Steamer,  
**SYDONIA.**

J. JOHNSTON MASTER.

**W**ILL leave Washington on Wednesday at 10 A. M., and returning here New Orleans on Saturdays at 12 M. The Sydonia was built expressly for this trade, is well adapted, being safe and comfortable, also well supplied with the late improvements for the protection of lives and property. Every exertion will be made by the officers to give satisfaction.

P. S.—Consignees will please notice that freights cannot possibly be delivered from the warehouses unless the cash is paid or bills receipted back to shippers for payment.

September 10th, 1872.



MRS. ELOISE MORROWS STEVENS remembers only vaguely the life at Morrow she knew as a child 90 years ago. She is the only surviving member of her generation of the Morrow family, the daughter of the original settler, Earnest Morrow. (Daily World Photo by Sue Eakin)

In the first decade of the twentieth century Opelousas boasted no less than five banks—The Opelousas National Bank, the Planters National Bank, the People's State Bank, the St. Landry State Bank, and the Union Bank and Trust Company.

Officers of the Opelousas National Bank were E. B. Dubuisson, president; C. F. Boagni, vice-president; A. Leon Dupre, cashier; P. D. Pavy, Assistant cashier. Directors were C. F. Boagni, E. B. Dubuisson, A. Leon Dupre, R. LeBourgeois, and Robert Sandoz.

The Planters National Bank had for its officers Robert Chachere, president; John P. Savant, first vice-president; A. W. Dejean, second vice-president; J. A. Perkins, cashier; A. A. Comeau, assistant cashier; R. L. Garland, attorney. Directors were Robert Chachere, Andrew Moresi, A. E. LaFleur, A. W. Dejean, John P. Savant, G. L. LaSalle, G. L. LaSalle, and J. A. Perkins.

The People's State Bank had the following officers—David Roos, president; Samuel Haas, vice-president; Leon S. Haas, second vice-president; Lawrence Larcade, cashier; N. M. Childs, assistant cashier. The board of directors was composed of David Roos, Samuel Haas, Leon S. Haas, J. A. Haas, and Lawrence Larcade.

The St. Landry State Bank listed as its officers J. A. Haas, president, L. T. Castille, cashier.

The Union Bank and Trust Company was headed by J. P. Saizan, president; Oscar Dardeau, vice-president; G. H. Cretin, second vice-president; J. J. Perrodin, cashier; George Bienvenu, assistant cashier; William J. Sandoz, trust officer.

Directors were Dr. J. P. Saizan, Oscar Dardeau, G. L. Cretin, Lionel Bienvenu, P. Alexis Sandoz, M. L. Swords, Embar Andrepont, Dr. G. Richard, William J. Sandoz, J. J. Perrodin, Joseph Benoit, and Dr. M. D. Lewis.

The St. Landry State Bank became the St. Landry Bank and Trust Co., and moved from its original location in the old "Barnett Building" which was built as a bank. It once sported a cupola, as can be seen in the accompanying photograph. For years it occupied the present site, until the old building was demolished and the new St. Landry Bank Building on the northwest corner of Main and Landry completed in this year of 1955.

The Planters National Bank became the Planters Trust and Savings Bank, and now occupies the building that was erected in 1912 to house the Union Bank and Trust Company. Plans are under way and construction has begun for a new Planters Bank on the site of the old James Hotel, across the street-corner of Court and Bellevue.

Prior to its erection, the Union Bank occupied the old Laurent Dupre (and Lucius J. Dupre) law office on Bellevue—also recently demolished and having on its site a group of office buildings. Photographs have been preserved that show the old bank when it first opened in this small brick building. The present Planters Bank building is substantially the same as the original Union Bank and Trust Co., although some alterations and additions have been made through the years.

Accompanying photographs of the old Peoples Bank show interesting interior views—the old bank was located in what is now Mornhinveg's Jewelry Store. Son of young employees of the old Peoples Bank is now President of the Planters Bank and Trust Co. . . Lawrence J. "Tico" Larcade, Sr.

# People's State Bank



THIS PHOTOGRAPH of the Peoples State Bank was taken Thursday Oct. 28, 1901, as the calendar on the wall testifies. (Magnifying glass courtesy of Murphy Pulfrey) Identified by Mr. "Teco" are the following employees of the bank 1, to r., L. J. Larcade Sr., Jim Dominique, J. J. Perrodin and Sidney Brown. The site is the present location of Mornhinveg's Jewelry store.



OUTSIDE VIEW of Peoples State Bank—Once occupying what is now Mornhinveg's Jewelry Store, the Peoples State Bank is shown above. Left to right are pictured L. Larcade (now president of the old Planters Bank), J. J. Perrodin, and Henry Dominique Larcade Sr.



CASHER'S VIEW of Peoples State Bank—The late J. J. "Jack" Perrodin, photographed behind the cage of the old Peoples State Bank, where he served as cashier, was for many years cashier of this bank, and later cashier of the Union Bank. He served as city clerk for a number of years before he retired.

# Birth of a Bank



FIRST OFFICE of the Union Bank and Trust Co. was this small brick building on Bellevue Street, once the law office of Lucius J. Dupre and his son Laurent Dupre. A large placard on the building announces that the Bank will open for business Jan. 1, 1911. Standing on the steps are Jean Jacques Perrodin (called "Jack") who was first cashier of the bank, and James Vidrine, his assistant. This building was used for a year during construction of the Union Bank Bldg. at Bellevue and Court sts., presently the home of the Planters Trust and Savings Bank, which will move this year into a new building now being constructed across Bellevue street from the present structure.



# Legendary Bowie's Youth

(Daily World Staff)

James Bowie, a "bravo" and a fearless American pioneer of legendary status, spent part of his youth and early manhood near Opelousas, in St. Landry parish. This information that follows comes from the biography **MES BOWIE -- LIFE OF A BRAVO** by Florian C. L. Douglas, generally recognized as the most authoritative account of Bowie's life. Douglas did extensive research into Bowie's life in preparation for the book. James Bowie was born in Cumberland county, Tenn., somewhere around the year 1783, sixth child of 10 born to Rezin and Elizabeth Bowie, pioneering Americans of sturdy Scotch Presbyterian stock. The first born, a girl, died in infancy, but the rest were reared.

In 1802, when little James was about 8 years of age, Rezin Bowie sold his Tennessee property and moved his family by boat to Louisiana.

Rezin settled his brood in Catahoula parish, as Douglas wrote, "old Rezin, not liking the land around Vidalia to his liking, decided to migrate southward into the Teche. He settling on a farm of good bottom land near Opelousas in the old parish of Imperial St. Landry.

"Here," continues the account, "was a fruitful and verdant country, a land of palmetto and moss-bearded oaks, where half population spoke the French of the Acadians and where rusty-backed alligators mired in the dark lagoons of the swamps into the streams that filtered into the bayous. Great fields of sugar cane stretched leagues across the lowlands (Editor's note: St. Landry was at that time, indeed, a great grower of sugar cane); while along the rivers and bayous the sawmills whirled, supplying the boatmen with timbers and lumber to float down to New Orleans or other cities of the lower regions.

"In this colorful atmosphere the Bowies grew toward young manhood, helping their father with the cane and with the mule-driven sugar presses, and hiring out to the millers to earn a little extra money in slack seasons."

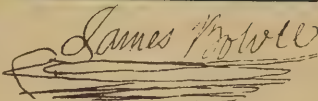
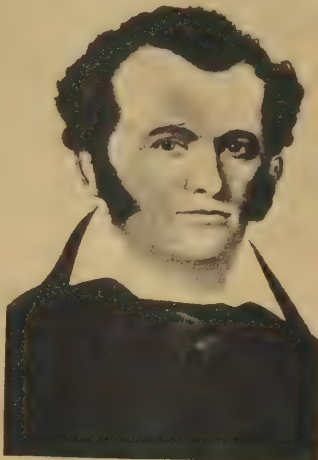
The family prospered well near Opelousas, raising tobacco and making syrup sugar. Mother Elve had it easier, too, Douglas says, that because she could now buy a variety of goods in the stores of Opelousas the family made a fine sight at church Sundays: the girls in their tight-bodiced, satined dresses; the young gentlemen in their blue, blue pantaloons, their broad-brimmed hats, silk vests and high stocks. Even the parish Cajuns were forced to agree the parish boasted no family more handsome and well turned out than the Bowies. The children, through contact with neighboring families, soon acquired both French and Spanish, and the older boys became conversant in these two tongues on their own."

Douglas recounts from family letters that his mother believed that young Jim loved his country more than the rest, even; he had the most imaginative mind and most inclinations. Jim and his brothers Rezin and John were "the brands" of the family, "never happy when galloping horseback around the prairie or engaging with other young men of the community in wrestling matches or other rough games."

Rezin was quiet and studious. David, the oldest, was sickly, and ultimately died and was buried in Opelousas. His wife Sarah, who had married an Opelousas merchant named John Davis, died in the childbed. Sister Mary married a planter named Abram Bird. In 1815, when Jim had just turned 20, his brothers John and Rezin planned a sawmill on Bayou Boeuf in Rapides parish, near Alexandria, Jim joined them and they pooled



THE BOWIE KNIFE.



**JAMES BOWIE**, who became a legendary colossus at the age of 33, moved to Louisiana with his family in 1802 at the age of 7, settling, after a short stay in Catahoula parish, on Bayou Teche near Opelousas in St. Landry parish. He and his two brothers built a sawmill in 1815 on Bayou Boeuf in Rapides parish, and Jim Bowie never returned here except for occasional short visits. They became something of a legend here for their playful wildness, and also in Rapides. The legend was to grow, as far as Jim Bowie was concerned, for the rest of his life, which ended at the Alamo by Mexican bayonets plunged into his pneumonia-ridden body while he fled, from which he directed the fighting.

Legend has it that his mother, then living with a daughter in Shreveport, made this comment when informed of the fall of the Alamo and her son's death:

"So James is dead?" Then, "I'll wager they found no bullet wounds in his back."

their money and started out on their own. Old Rezin bought two more slaves for their plantation, and off they went.

That, Douglas recounts, is the last that Opelousas and St. Landry saw of Jim Bowie except for occasional brief visits as long as his mother lived here.

The boys made names for themselves in Rapides as "those wild Bowies," and they prospered with their sawmill.

Three years later, during a business trip to New Orleans, Jim Bowie learned of the profits to be made by getting into the illegal traffic of smuggled slaves; the boys sold the sawmill and caught a schooner for Campeachy (Galveston), Tex. There they struck

# Ada Bodemuller Home

**WELL-PRESERVED** among the old residences in town is the Bodemuller home, residence of Miss Ada Bodemuller, and built by her father, E. A. Bodemuller, who was a son of Herman Bodemuller. It stands on N. Court st. in the same block as the very old Bodemuller home which was recently moved from the corner of North and Court.

**HERMAN BODEMULLER HOME**  
One of the oldest homes in Opelousas was recently moved from its site on the corner of North and Court. This was the Bodemuller home, owned and lived in by Herman Bodemuller and his descendants for almost a century.

Prior to this it was the residence of Judge E. North Cullom, one of the celebrated judges of St. Landry Parish.

Herman Bodemuller was a musician, and for many years was organist at the St. Landry Catholic Church. His son, Herman, was a pioneer printer of this town, and apparently the first "job printer" in the section. Before this time, all printed matter in the parish was handled by local newspapers, of which we have written elsewhere.

Bodemuller's printing shop has been in existence continuously since its establishment in 1891, being operated at the present time by Mr. and Mrs. Herschell McLeod. Mrs. McLeod is the former Lilybel Bodemuller.

Interesting to note is the fact that the Bodemuller home was removed in sections, as it was divided some years ago. The old and original structure was found to be of "briquete entre poteaux" construction, proving its early origin. Hand hewn cypress posts were erected, cross braced, and the space between filled with mud, brick-bats, and moss. This was covered at later dates with plaster, and still later with boards or wall-paper. Through the years many of these old houses have become so changed that it is hard to recognize the ancient core behind new facades and superstructures.

Tell-tale wooden pegging and square nails added to the evidence of the true age of this very old place. (Daily World Photo by Deville).



up a bargain with Jean LaFitte and got into the business of smuggling slaves into Louisiana.

The brothers made three slave-running trips, selling their blacks highly profitably to planters around Opelousas, and in LaFourche and Rapides districts. They invested their money in property, which brother James stayed to manage. Brother Rezin married a Natchitoches girl, and settled down, and brother Jim made the final slave-running trip --- and all 30 of the blacks ran away while encamped in the Trinity river bottoms.

At this juncture, in 1819, word reached the boys that their father had died in Opelousas and they hurried there. Jim persuaded his mother to dispose of the old St. Landry parish homestead and return with him to Arcadia, the home plantation of the brothers

below Alexandria. She did so, and that was the last of the Bowies in St. Landry parish.

From there, Jim Bowie went on to an adventurous life, culminating in his death in the Alamo.

(Editor's note: Neither biographer Douglas nor, apparently, any other until Mrs. Ruth Robertson Fontenot came across the entry in Marriage Book No. 1 of the St. Landry Catholic Church, while doing research for this edition, knew anything about the marriage here on Sept. 15, 1814, of one "James Rezin Bowie," native of Cumberland County, Tennessee, and a Miss Marguerite Neville, native of Nelson County, Kentucky. Stuck into the pages of the marriage book at the entry is a slip of paper signed by Rezin and Elve Bowie, and witnessed by James Neville and James Bowie, giving the young man permission to marry the girl).

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**LANDRY HIGH SCHOOL**, photographed May 11, 1900. At the time, it was located on West st. at the site of the present St. Landry Clinic. The building was later moved to Academy st. and became the Opelousas Negro High school. It was abandoned years ago when the present J. S. Clark school was built, except for adult education classes and various gatherings. Photograph was originally the property of Ludie Prados, and is now owned by Mrs. James Prados.



# James Bowie's First Marriage Recorded Here

Les publications faites, sur les Dimanches C...

Samelite

1871

September 15

There is to certify that we are agreed for our son Rezin Bowie to join in Holy matrimony with Miss Margarette Nevill given under our hands this day and so done in law.

Rezin Bowie

James Nevill

Elvie Bowie

James Bowie

21  
mes olezin  
owie  
t  
rquerette  
evill

l'an mil huit cent quatre-vingt et le quatorze de Septembre, j'ai Barriere pretre desservant cette paroisse de Landry des Opelousas faites par trois jours de Dimanches Consecutifs a la messe paro presentee aucun impediment civil ou canonique j'ai marié James Rezin Bowie natif du taveri Comte de Cumberland Bowie et de helve johis natifs de georgie et habitans de la paroisse de Landry ou les environs; le dit James Rezin Bowie depend du consentement de ses parents d'une part; avec d'autre part native du Kentucki Nelson Comte et fille legitime de Denis Brown originaire d'Irlande et habitans sur le Bayou Robert la dite Margarette Nevill d'autre part du consentement de ses parents d'autre part interrogés l'un et l'autre par paroles de present, et ayant obtenu leur consentement au dit mariage; je leur ay impartie la benediction nuptiale selon les us et coutumes de notre diteglise romaine, en presence de Don Joachim Jansonne James Nevill representant le pere de la femme et Vital Estillette habitans de cette paroisse qui ont signé avec moy de dit jour mois et an que dessus.

James Rezin Bowie

Charles Nevill

Baptiste Jansonne

JAMES R. BOWIE's marriage was recorded in Marriage Record Book No. 1, page 256 of the St. Landry Catholic Church here, as above. Loose sheet at top, in English, gives Bowie his parents' permission to be married. Record of ceremony, bottom, is in French. Translated, it reads: "In the year eighteen hundred and fourteen and on September fifteen, I, the undersigned Michel Bernard Barriere, priest in charge of this parish of St. Landry des Opelousas, after three publications of banns, published three consecutive Sundays at the parochial mass, and having heard of no impediment civil or canonical, I have solemnly married James Rezin Bowie, native of Tennessee, County of Cumberland, legitimate son of Rezin Bowie and Elvie Johns, native of Georgia and for several years living in this parish or its neighborhoods; the said James Rezin Bowie, major of age, proceeding with the consent of his parents, on the first part, with Miss Margaret Nevill, native of Kentucky, Nelson

County, legitimate daughter of Denys Nevil and Helen Brown, native of Ireland and on Bayou Robert, the said Margaret Nevill proceeding with the consent of her parents the other part. "After having interrogated them both and having obtained their mutual consent to marriage, I have imparted to them the nuptial blessing according to the rites of our Mother the Roman church, in the presence of Don Joachim Ortega, Jean Baptiste Jansonne, James Nevil, representing the parents of the bride, and Vital Estillette, all in this parish have signed with us this day, month and year as above." The book was signed by the couple, James Rezin Bowie and Margaret Bowie nee Nevill," and by James Nevill, Mary Nevill, Arthemise Montgomery, Baptiste Jansonne, Estillette, Joachim Ortega and Mig'l Bern'd Barrier, Priest.





ST. LANDRY PARK at Opelousas is one of relatively new landmarks. Only part is shown here. The swimming pool and bathhouse is mostly hidden by foreground trees, as is the well-lit playground. Barbeque area, with many illuminated pits, is in wooded area out of frame to lower right. Three diamonds are for the little league, for softball (with lights) and for baseball. Four surfaced tennis courts are lighted. White building is civic center, available for functions. (Daily World Photo by Bourdier).

### Early Newspaperwoman

One of the first newspaperwomen in the state and at the time probably the youngest, Gertrude P. Callahan, of Washington, Louisiana, a people she is better known as Mrs. Kirtley Lynch, prominent civic worker and newspaperwoman of Opelousas. Gertrude P. Callahan was emancipated in order to edit and own the Washington Enterprise, which was purchased for her by her father. Formerly owned by Leonce Sanctor of the Opelousas Courier, it was named originally by J. K. Sandoz in 1884 "The Argus," later as the Washington Enterprise. It was a 7-column newspaper and job

President of the Louisiana Press Association, and was nominated for president in 1904, but declined the honor as she was to marry Kirtley Lynch.

She was a delegate from Louisiana to the National Editorial Association when it met in Omaha, Neb., and was awarded a trip to Yellowstone Park.

About the time Miss Callahan was a budding journalist, her more mature contemporaries in this new field for women were two well-known New Orleans writers -- Dorothy Dix and Catherine Cole. There were very few professional women in journalism, or in any career except education.

So, Mrs. Lynch may be considered St. Landry parish's pioneer newspaperwoman.

Miss Callahan was a very successful writer. She served two terms as First Vice



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Mr. Avie Bordelon has been in business forty-three years. In 1912 he started in the hardware and implement business on the corner of Court and North streets. He added automobiles—Chevrolets—in 1925. In 1930 he sold all except the automobile business, which he still owns and operates—in the same location. The old building shown in picture was completely destroyed by fire in 1938. Only the cash and records were salvaged. The modern fireproof building shown was built the same year. It has 15,000 square feet of floor space for complete one-stop service with

some 30 employees.

Mr. Bordelon is still active in the business—after 43 years. He has as his partners his three sons and son-in-law:

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- Robert Edward Bordelon
- Francis Louis Bordelon
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# Old Garland Home

The history of the Garland family is closely entwined with that of the State, and particularly of Imperial St. Landry. The house, an ancient souvenir of the past, is a long, rambling structure that has grown through the years to accommodate a large family.

Giant live oaks shelter the open gallery, which is an astonishing 65 feet long. Huge pecans spread out in the back of the place, each tree with a name of its own. There is a twin cedar that reaches into the sky to an unbelievable height.

In a low spot in front of the home are tall cypress trees, and nearby are more oaks, pecans, and long hedgerows of bois d'Arc (burdock) trees. Lime trees come up by the hundreds from their ancient parents. Here indeed is a veritable park of old trees, sheltering the house from hot sun and sweeping wind.

The original small home and the thousands of acres surrounding it were part of a vast acreage belonging to Jean Henry Lastrapes, and his wife, Celeste Boisdure. In the American State Papers, there is recorded the Spanish Patent, issued in 1811, of this tract of land to Henry Lastrapes. Official records of the parish go back as far as 1805.

Jean Henri Lastrapes and Celeste Boisdure had a large family, one daughter being Celeste Genevieve Lastrapes. In the year 1826 she married Rice Garland, of Virginia. On the occasion of their marriage, her parents presented her with the home, and the acreage surrounding.

Rice Garland was a member of Congress, and became a Supreme Court Justice of the state of Louisiana. Their two children were Henry Lastrapes and Marie Celeste (who married a cousin, Alfred Lastrapes).

Henry Lastrapes Garland, born in 1826, died 1908, was one of the most unique and colorful personalities of St. Landry Parish history. In 1852 he married Julia Lawrence Bullard, daughter of the Hon. Henry Adams Bullard, of Massachusetts, and Sarah Kaiser.

Henry Adams Bullard was a Supreme Court Justice, Member of Congress, Secretary of State, and founder of the Louisiana Historical Society. His home stood on a bluff overlooking Cane River, at Natchitoches. Only the columns of this house remain, standing shrouded with ivy on the campus of Northwestern college, which is built on the site of the Bullard plantation.

"Captain Garland", as Henry L. Garland was always called, served in the Confederate Army, and carried his military title for the rest of his life. Many and interesting are stories told about him, and a whole book could be written around his picturesque character. He and his wife, Julia, who was called "Bammame", held a sort of perpetual open house at the old home under the oaks. Twenty for dinner was an every day occurrence - forty was hardly stretching it.

One instance to illustrate his unusual ways was the following: It has been mentioned at the beginning of the write-up that the old home was at the northwest corner of the city limits. This may sound ordinary, but in fact is most extraordinary! Captain Garland had a large part of his land incorporated, so that he could vote in city elections! He obtained no other benefits, and by many his place is presumed to be out of the city limits, extending as it does into open meadows and fields of no small dimensions.

He and his wife had seven children, two of whom died in infancy. The five who lived were: Marie Celeste, who married Laurent Dupre; Charles Francis, who married Annette Moore; Virginia Sarah, who married William Anderson, and after his death married Charles M. Thompson; Henry L., Jr., who married Blanche Harris, and is the only one of the children living; and Robert Lee Garland, who married Helen Hessian.



HENRY L. GARLAND

Since first the place was given to Celeste Lastrapes Garland it has been owned and occupied by members of the Garland family.

Here on the great porch was held the wedding reception of Marie Garland Dupre, and it was old Captain Garland who ordered the gallery enclosed in canvas for the occasion. A table extended the whole length of the gallery for the wedding feast. Champagne flowed like water, and twenty turkeys were roasted for the event. A spell of Indian summer had almost brought on a minor catastrophe (the wedding was Nov. 12, 1872) when the barrels of oysters that came specially from New Orleans by steamboat arrived unfit for use in the gargantuan stuffing for the turkeys. But old "Bammame", ever a resourceful housekeeper, sent out into the fields an emergency squad, who gathered mushrooms!

Henry Lastrapes Garland, Jr., who is now eighty-nine years of age, is a noted lawyer, having written "Garland's Code of Practice," which was used in Louisiana for many years. He is an antiquarian of note, and had a rare collection of old books in his shop in the Vieux Carre in New Orleans, now all installed in the old home. Extremely active for his age, Mr. Garland can put many a member of the younger generation to shame, for he thinks nothing of walking four or five miles every day.

The late Honorable R. Lee Garland, District Attorney of St. Landry Parish for forty years, was a most distinguished member of the Louisiana bar. Loved by all who knew him, he was renowned far and wide for his wit and humor.

The old house still stands solid and sound on hand-hewn timbers, resting on the faded brick pillars. The thick plaster walls have withstood the ravages of time, and the beaded ceilings are still supported by their heavy open beams. A home and a haven for hundreds of relatives and friends, the house has acquired a dignity of its own.

Once when one of the younger generation was at college in New Orleans, she met a girl whose entire family (a large one) had stayed there during the Civil War. Many similar instances are told of occasions when the home has been a shelter, and as with so many homes of its kind, it is a symbol of the old-time, famous, and somewhat passing Southern Hospitality.

# Judge Bullard's 1st Home



BUILT BY JUDGE HENRY ADAMS BULLARD near the site of the home of Louis Juchereau de St. Denis, founder of Natchitoches, was the Bullard mansion, of which only the columns remain standing on the campus of "Northeastern," once Louisiana State Normal College.

Judge Bullard moved to Opelousas, and his home became a Sacred Heart Convent. In 1865 the convent was closed, and in 1884 the property, then a 650-acre tract standing on a bluff over Cane River, was purchased by the state and converted to a college for teachers. Three columns remain of the original mansion, and the cornerstone of the convent building still remains, and a plaque nearby marks the site of St. Denis's house.

Judge Bullard's home in Opelousas stood north of the Van Sickle home on the Washington Road, in a grove of live oaks. The house was destroyed by fire, and only the oaks remain.

Henry Adams Bullard came to Louisiana shortly after the Louisiana Purchase. He was born in Pepperell, Mass., and educated at Harvard, descended on his mother's side from the distinguished Adams family. In 1808 he was graduated from Harvard, and was associated in Philadelphia with Brown and Ingersoll, prominent lawyers.

Young Bullard then left the Philadelphia bar and joined the staff at Toledo, who was at that time in Philadelphia seeking recruits. He was secretary and aid-de-camp to General Toledo, and remained with him until 1813, when the expedition broke up. He arrived in Natchitoches destitute.

He soon became a prominent member of the bar, and later married Sarah Kaiser who had come from Lexington, Ky. He served in the legislature and as district judge and was elected to Congress, and was appointed Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court to fill the vacancy of Judge Porter. He also served as Secretary of State. He was re-appointed to the Supreme Court, and at the time of his death was serving as a member of Congress.

He also was at one time professor of civil law at the University, and was founder and first President of the Louisiana Historical Society. He had at the time of his death begun a digest of all Louisiana statutes from



HENRY ADAMS BULLARD

1805. He died April 17, 1851. His portrait hangs in the halls of the preme Court building in New Orleans, and Cahibdo.

His daughter, Julia, married Captain Henry L. Garland, son of Judge Rice Garland and Celeste Genevieve Lastrapes.

The late Hon. R. Lee Garland, who served the Parish of St. Landry for many years, district attorney was one of their sons.

Still living is Henry L. Garland, retired member of the Louisiana bar, who resides at the family home. Other children of Captain Garland were Virginia ("Aunt G") Boutte Thompson, Marie Celeste (married Laurent Dupre) Charles (married Pam Moore).

They have many descendants, and of the Harry Garland son of Lee, is a practicing attorney; Garland Pavy and Edward James Dubuisson are members of the St. Landry bar at this time.



MRS. HENRY L. GARLAND, who was Sarah Lawrence Bullard, daughter of Judge Henry Adams Bullard and Sarah Maria Kaiser, photographed about 1900 with her faithful ex-slave, Fille, who was given to Mrs. Garland upon her marriage and remained with her until death. Home in background is the old Garland Plantation Home, which stands today on Garland's Lane, and is owned by her son, Henry (Uncle Yi) Garland.

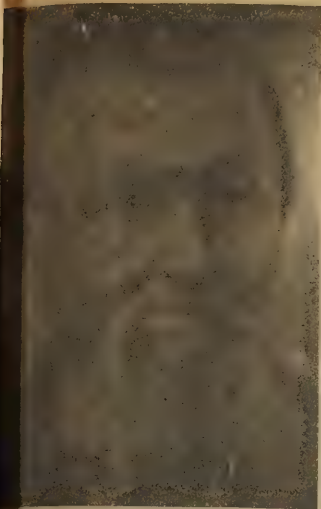


NOTE THE DERBY HATS on the hatter in this Emice barber shop of the old days, and the stiff collars that only the "Chinee" could launder right. Gentleman in chair at left is thought to be Josi Reed, a pioneer town marshal. (Photo Courtesy Bevan's Studio)



# The Rays - Doctor Family

# Old Debaillion Place



DR. JAMES RAY



DR. GEORGE HILL



DR. JAMES OVERTON RAY

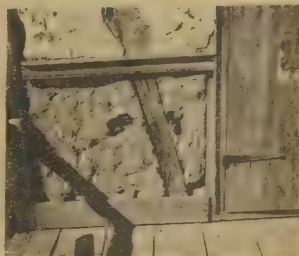


DR. WILLIAM H. RAY



This very old home is said to be the residence of old Judge Debaillion. It is situated just outside of Opelousas, not far off the Creswell road, and to the east. A narrow lane leads to it from behind the old Chachere house.

Falling into ruin, it was the home of a fine old French family. Because of the dilapidation of the house, its construction is readily apparent, for the plaster has broken away and exposed the "briqueete entre poteaux," or "poste adobe," to use both French and Spanish terminology. There seem to be no English words or phrases to describe this type of building, which we find here in homes that were built in the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century.



This is a raised house, built on high brick pillars, and under part of the ho lar - like enclosure with iron bars at the narrow windows. Many of the original batted doors and shutters remain, with heavy wrought-iron hardware. Open beams on the ceilings are beaded, and there is a nice chair-rail in the rooms. Some of the interior hardware is unusual in design, and is of brass. There is a stair leading up into the open attic. It is owned by a resident of Lafayette, and lived in by a tenant named William Singleton. (Daily World Photos by Deville).

# Dr. Ray's Home



THE DOCTORS who served St. Landry generations past, the Ray family was a prominent one. The history of the early settlers of St. Landry, and gives an account of Daniel Ray, who was a contemporary of Daniel Boone and other pioneers. James Ray, a General Ray, came to Louisiana from Louisville, Ky. His son, Dr. James Ray, born in 1827, studied at the University of Louisiana, and began the practice of medicine in Opelousas. In 1853 he built a home for his bride, Margaret Mitchell Hill, a daughter of Dr. George Hill (who was born in Ireland) and Affra Hoop of Virginia. Dr. Hill was one of the pioneer doctors of

St. Landry parish. The house that Dr. Ray built for his young wife is still standing on 578 W. Bellevue, 102 years old, and is the home of a direct descendant, his granddaughter, Margaret Mitchell Mornhinveg (Mrs. Arthur Comeau), who was named for her grandmother. Dr. James Overton Ray and Dr. William H. Ray were sons of old Dr. Ray, and both practiced medicine in Opelousas, continuing the family profession. They were well-known in the parish, Dr. James Ray serving as one of the original members of the Parish Board of Health. Children of the late Arthur Comeau and his wife are James Ray, Arthur Jr., Harold,



DIEFLEIN'S JEWELRY STORE was founded here in 1896 and was operated by Frank Dietlein Sr., center, for more than a half-century. Man at right is the late Felix Richard, store employee. At left is the late J. K. Roumain, Baton Rouge wholesale jeweler. Mr. Dietlein today still owns the property, now divided into a dry cleaning shop and a jewelry store, and at the age of 87 years is alert, healthy and keen of mind. He is a native Opelousan.

Catherine Maxine and Marynia (Mrs. S. H. Simpson of Shreveport).

Harold and his wife, the former Loretta Bordelon, and their child, Loretta Ray Comeau, reside at the family home with Mrs. Arthur Comeau, making six generations that have lived in the home since its hundred years of erection.

The gracious old home stands in a lovely setting of live oaks, around which are formal plantings of ferns and aspidistra, boxwood, roses and azaleas. The interior has fine mantels and woodwork, and is furnished with beautiful heirloom antiques.

Very few alterations have been made in the home, which is a landmark in the area.



CENTURY-OLD DR. RAY (Comeau) home here, another view, taken during one of the rare times in history when there has been snow on the ground in St. Landry parish.



# Historic Heirlooms in Home at Opelousas



**CHACHERE TABLE - PORTRAIT of Ellen Taylor Lewis**

A small writing table in the Watkins home has a story to tell - it belonged to one of the early Sheriffs of St. Landry Parish. . . Veilland Chachere.

Veilland Chachere was the son of Louis Chachere, who was the founder of the large and prominent Chachere family. Louis Chachere was one of the members of the original Police Jury. Veilland Chachere was one of the leading citizens of St. Landry during his lifetime, which was almost the span of a century. He was born in 1801, and died in 1895. When he was Sheriff of St. Landry, this was his table, and he had a lock fitted for the drawer in which he kept his gun. Mrs.

Watkins says that Veilland Chachere once lived in the "Saizan Home," on S. Court st., which was once a small brick house, since enlarged and built away from the interior core, to form a larger frame house. Many houses in Opelousas have a similar background - once a small house, and gradually added to and enlarged until the original part has long been obscured by remodeling.

The charming portrait is a small one, and could almost be called a miniature.

Ellen Taylor Lewis was the wife of William Lewis, who was a son of Judge Seth Lewis. They resided at what is now the McKinney home on E. Landry St. Tom H. Lewis, prominent member of the Louisiana and St. Landry bar, was a son of Ellen Taylor Lewis and William Lewis.



**GENERAL ROBIN'S sofa - Judge Lewis' portrait**

Among the interesting historic relics that belong to Mrs. Alex F. Watkins, Jr. (the former "Josie" Saizan) are a pair of rosewood sofas that belonged to General Robin, and were brought by him from France. These were long in the possession of the

## Souvenir of "Bloody" O'Reilly

REFLECTIONS from the past are a pair of huge mirrors once belonging to Governor O'Reilly. As may be remembered by most of us, "Bloody" O'Reilly, (Count Alexander O'Reilly) arrived in New Orleans in August 1769 with 2,000 soldiers, borne in 24 men o'war vessels. He took over New Orleans and Louisiana for the Spanish following the unsuccessful attempt of Ulloa to take over after the transfer to Spain.

Although his nickname was a reproach against his first act, which was the execution of six members of the October rebellion, O'Reilly made only a few minor changes in government, substituting the Cabildo for the Superior Council. He retained most of the French commandants at their existing posts. Spanish laws and language were adopted officially, but the French regime was kept almost intact.

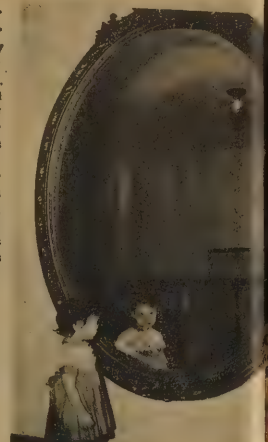
The mirrors that belonged to O'Reilly were bought by the late John Thistlethwaite for his bride, Charlotte Frere, and were hung in their plantation home near Washington. They now hang in the Thistlethwaite residence in Opelousas.

At the time of their purchase about three decades ago, an account of the historic sale was given in the Times Picayune. Stern's in New Orleans held a large auction of antiques and curios, many of New Orleans historical origin. Dealers and individual buyers came from all over the country, to bid on the curios that once belonged to Baroness Pontalba, Pierre Adolphus Ducros, Paul Morphy, Don Alexander O'Reilly and others.

It was stated that of all the collection,

late Mrs. Numa Robin, and were acquired by Mrs. Watkins' father, Dr. Joseph Philocles Saizan, who was a relative of the Robins.

Hanging above one of the sofas is a reproduction of a portrait of Judge Seth Lewis, who was an ancestor of Mrs. Watkins. Judge Lewis was the Territorial and later District Judge of St. Landry Parish, serving for twenty-seven years as Judge of the Fifth District. The original of this portrait hangs in the parish courthouse.



Opelousians would be most delighted that the two mirrors would remain in Louisiana. The mirrors first hung in the residence of O'Reilly on Esplanade Avenue later adorned an upstairs room at the old Gem Restaurant.

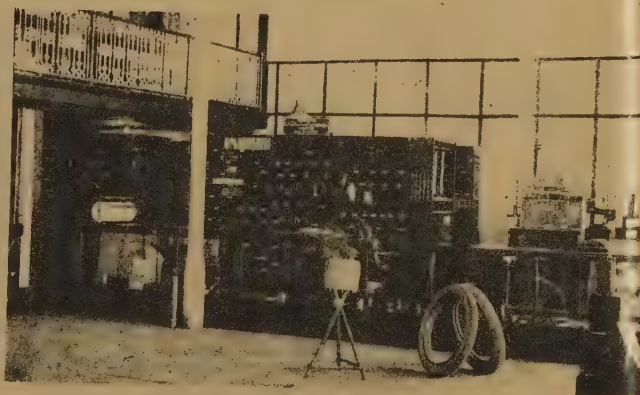
The room in which the mirrors placed is said to have been the spot where the first Cornus Canniganization was born.

The gilt-rimmed ovals were of immense square gilt frames, which cut down to the ovals when installed home here.

It is something to speculate of varied scenes these mirrors have witnessed through the centuries of their existence.

A new generation looks into the ovals--little Pauline Thistlethwaite, daughter of Hugh Thistlethwaite (a son and Charlotte) is now mirrored in the place where once O'Reilly apparated

## We Introduced The 'FORD' To Opelousas 39 YEARS AGO!



1916

Above: Bordelon's Garage, Main and North Street, first home of Bordelon Motor Company. Here the Ford automobile was introduced in Opelousas. Today, the building has been modernized and is occupied by St. Landry Supply Co.

PARTS DEPARTMENT of Bordelon Motor Company as seen in the 1920's.

## BORDELON MOTOR COMPANY - OPELOUSAS, LA.

**1955**  
**Bordelon Motor Co. Today**  
Same block as original location, but on Bellevue Street corner





# Chretien Point Plantation



OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL homes in Louisiana is the Chretien home, built by the Chretien in the early 1800's. A two-story brick structure, with a hipped roof and a gallery typical of the homes of the time, it is distinguished for a number of architectural details and refinements.

Across the facade are six round brick columns, which were at one time plastered. On the upper and lower galleries are beautifully finished doorways and windows, with louvered shutters that fold back in lovely pattern against the white plastered front. Fanlights above the windows give an elegant touch. The woodwork is finely carved and

wrought, with fluted pilasters, set-in panels, and handsome details of every sort. In the interior downstairs are brick floors, and leading to the main living quarters is a fine curving staircase, which served as a model for the staircase of "Tara" in "Gone With the Wind".

Jules Baguery who once made his home here and was a professional photographer, took a picture of the staircase at Chretien and sent it to Hollywood, where it was reproduced on the set of "Gone With the Wind".

The upper floor was the main living area, and here are fine mantels of classic design in Italian marble, recessed and paneled window frames, and the ceilings once were centered with lovely plaster rosettes and a frieze of ornamental molding - these, however, are "gone with the wind".

Down in one of the lower rooms is a wine-rack reaching from floor to ceiling, now used for books and magazines.

Still lovely in its surrounding live oaks with the graceful hanging moss, Chretien is a standing souvenir of French elegance.

It was the center of a large plantation, an original grant to Chretien in 1776.

Many stories are told of smuggling activities and pirate strongholds in nearby lands, and it was said that this neighborhood was once the inland hangout of Lafitte and his lieutenants.

Built to endure, Chretien has weathered years of neglect and countless changes of temperature and times; it stands as a silent memorial to that race of early settlers who built their homes solidly, and with pride of possession of things beautiful. Ghost from the past, it is quiet and restful in the shaded grove.

Quiet as the grave of Hypolite, still standing loftily in the ancient graveyard of Grand Coteau. (Daily World Photos by Deville).

## Josh Reed Eunice Peace Officer



IN THE DAYS WHEN just about everybody carried knives or pistols when they came to Eunice on Saturday nights, Josh Reed was "the law". Mr. Reed is one of the best remembered peace officers of the days "back when". (Bevan's Studio Photo)

## ST. LANDRY FROZEN FOOD LOCKERS

"The Taste Bank"

PHONE 2089

OPELOUSAS, LA.



### ST. LANDRY'S LEADING MEN'S AND BOY'S STORE

# Harry Tankel

Opelousas, La.



DOBBS  
HATS

HART,  
SCHAFFNER  
&  
MARX  
SUITS

MANHATTAN  
SHIRTS

FLORSHEIM  
SHOES

SWANK  
JEWELRY

WHERE STYLE &  
QUALITY MEET.



# Mrs Thomas Bowden-She Has Seen a Century Go By

Proving the hardness of her lineage, Mrs. Fannie C. Bowden - born Marie Fannie Christianman, Dec. 24, 1857—is today in spite of her great age an alert and active personality. She recalls days gone by with a vividness and clarity that is truly remarkable, and can bring to life by her memory generations that have passed.

She is descended from an old and aristocratic family—the Benguerels of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, whence came her grandfather, Abram Benguerel of Perroud. Abram was married to Jean Marie Tissot, and when he decided to come to America he requested from the authorities (the Governor of the Province was John Benguerel) a document attesting to his honesty, general character, reputation and parentage. This interesting document is preserved by Miss Fannie Bowden, and in the accompanying photograph a framed photostatic copy adorns the mantel below a portrait of Robert Benguerel, son of Abram and Jean Marie Benguerel. Mrs. Bowden stands before these interesting relics.

When Abram Benguerel came to America about 1777 he landed at New Orleans, and made his home there for some years. He died of yellow fever in one of the terrible epidemics that swept the city, and his wife and a daughter and two sons moved to Opelousas, where they soon became prominent citizens of the town. They built a brick house that stood on the block where the Bowden home is situated in the 400 block of E. Bellevue st., save that the house faced on Walnut.

George Benguerel married Leontine Boute, daughter of Leon Boute and Louise Chachere (who was a daughter of the famous Louis Chachere, or Louis de la Charette, who had escaped from the French Revolution and settled in Opelousas).

Robert was the first U. S. Registrar of Land Claims in this area, and later was in the employ of the firm of Dupre and Bloch. He was married to Louise VanHille, and they had no children.

Justine married a DeBaillon.

Malvina Benguerel was a daughter of George Benguerel, and she married Antoine Christianman, who was a son of Jacob Christianman and Margaret Burkhardt, who had come to this country from Dahn, Germany, and established themselves as merchants in Opelousas.

Other children of George Benguerel were Clementine, who married Theodore Chachere (Bob Chachere was their son); Natalie, who married Joseph D. Richard (early clerk of the police jury and town councils; Leon, who died young of typhoid fever.

Antoine Christianman and Malvina Benguerel had the following children:

Mary Anne, who married Christopher Dietlein (prominent merchant of St. Landry).

Marie Fannie Christianman, who married Thomas Bowden, and its the subject of this sketch; Palmire, who married Louis Dupuy; Justine who married Paul Manouvrier; Josephine who married a Chappuis of Rayne; Rosa, who married Alexandre Poulet; Abram; and the late Robert Benguerel, who married Marie Irma Rills. The later was the father of Allen and Earl Christianman, who have carried down the family name. Both of the latter have sons.

Allan Christianman is married to Josie Louise Chachere, and they have two children, Joseph Benguerel and Neil Rose. Robert Earl Christianman is married to Marian Belva Johnson, and his two sons are Robert Earl Christianman and Ronald Erick Christianman.

It may be seen from this tracing of the Benguerel and Christianman family that the Benguerel name has died, being carried on only as a first name in the Christianman family.

Both the Christianman and Benguerel families were pioneer merchants of this section—Jacob Christianman came to New Orleans about the year 1844, and was followed in a few months by his wife and children, who are said to have sailed on the British Schooner "Nancy Hawks" from LeHavre.

They lived in New Orleans for several years, coming to Opelousas by way of Natchitoches.

Jacob Christianman is thought to have had the first bakery in Opelousas. In later years the family had a large hardware store at the building erected, now in use as the "Delta" theatre. They sold the first gas appliances in Opelousas. Now owners of a part of the block on Landry St. opposite the courthouse, they own and operate the Waldorf Hotel, and the Falstaff Distributing Agency.

Around the middle of the nineteenth century there were a great number of settlers in this region of German and Alsatian descent, among them the Dietlein family (we have mentioned a number of times, and the Schuylers and the Burkhardts. Of the "Ancient inhabitants of the poste" there were also a number of German descent, as we have noted elsewhere.

Thus in St. Landry is a truly cosmopolitan and truly American polygot of nationalities mixed and become "Creoles."

In the early 1800's, Louise Benguerel built what is now the old "Jack Dupre" home on E. Bellevue across from the Methodist church (shortly after the death of her husband). The original Robert Benguerel house stood where

the Bowden house now stands. Lumber from the original house was used in construction of the present Bowden home.

The children of Mrs. Bowden and the late Mr. Bowden were Thomas, who has a son living, Walter; Locke, who died at the age of two; Fannie, who lives with her mother, and Robert, who died at 21.

Mrs. Bowden recalls many lovely old homes that were once standing in her neighborhood -- on King Street and South was the old Overton mansion, where great balls were held, and across the street was the lovely Moore place, residence of Judge Moore. The Overton family was long a prominent name in Louisiana, and later generations made their home in Alexandria, where members of the family are still practicing the profession of law.

The Thompson home stood where the South St. Elementary now stands. It was once the home of Charles Garland, who married Mable Moore.

## TRANSLATION OF OLD DOCUMENT

The following is a translation of the document obtained from authorities by the Abram Benguerel, on the occasion of his departure from Switzerland to America. At that time this section of Switzerland was a province of France. The translation was made by B. Colomb, and copied in script by Joann Abdalla, now Mrs. Nolan Moosa of Eunice.

"I, John Benguerel of the Province of Fontaineblon ancient councillor of the Bourgeoisie of Valangin and now Governor of the Province of Fontaineblon in the Valley of Ruth in the county of Souveraine of Neuchâtel make it known to all it may concern that the honorable Abram, son of the Sieur Ancien D'Eglise David Benguerel of Perroud and Fontaineblon being personally established before the said community and also before the general assembly to swear to his particular affairs has made it known that he desires to go out of the native country and wishes to have some letters, as to his origin, life, etc. and conduct to present to all whom he addresses.

"By this means he would assure himself of their good will and protection.

"After meditating with great consideration over this afore mentioned proposition and finding that it cannot for any reason be refused I, Governor, have asked for this subject all the rights of members who composed this community. They have deliberated and say unanimously that the said Abram Benguerel of Perroud is truly the son of Sir Ancien D'Eglise Benguerel of Perroud and Fontaineblon, one of our communities, and honorable Jean Marie, daughter of Robert Tissot, his wife joined in legitimate marriage, whatever coming from the marriage being legitimate.

"They also declare, the citizens of the community, that Sir Ancien D'Eglise David Benguerel of Perroud and his wife to come from good and ancient families, the members of which are always distinguished by their good morals and conduct being people of good morals and well to do. Saying besides that in behalf of said Abram Benguerel of Perroud that during all the time he has been among us he has been a wise, dignified and honest boy, having nothing else to say since his conduct and morals were always well regulated and nothing but good on everyone's eyes.

"Finally we wish that every child born to him through his legitimate marriage may profit by their advantages and reflect favorably on our community.

"Commending Benguerel of Perroud to the grace of God and all those with whom he comes in contact, I, Governor of this community have caused this document to be drawn up by a notary by a command of the assembly held at Fontaineblon 1777--in the presence of two witnesses."

Witnesses:

Sir Henry Buchenel de Fontaines

Sir Isacc Pierre de Chezard de St. Martin

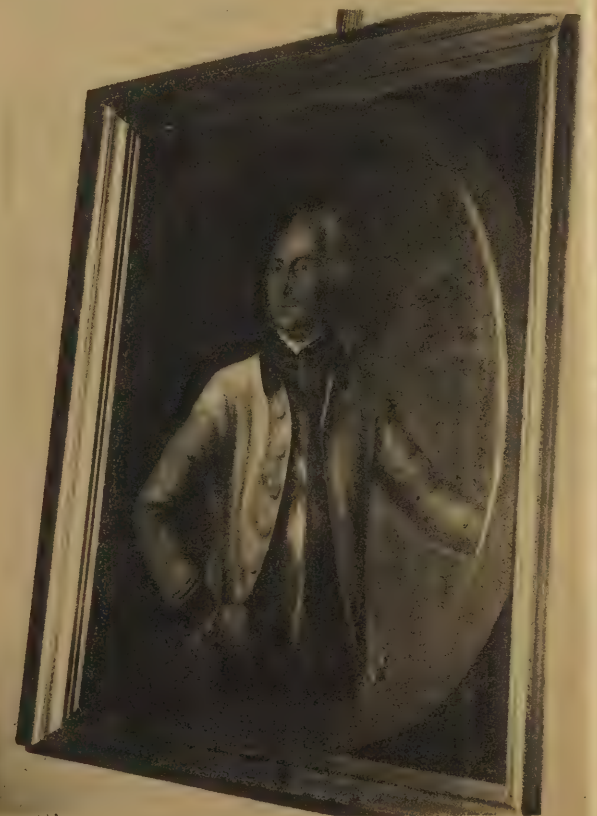
## AFTER 5 DAYS, RETURN TO OPELOUSAS BASE BALL ASSOCIATION



OPELOUSAS, LA.



MRS. FANNIE BOWDEN, 98 years of age now, and as chipper and lucid as a girl, stands before portrait of her father, Robert Benguerel, and framed document attesting to the character and good family of her grandfather, Abram Benguerel, who came to New Orleans from Switzerland about 1777. (Daily World Photo by Deville).



THIRD COMMANDANT, "civil et militaire des Postes des Opelousas et Attakapas" was Col. Commandant Alexandre Chevalier de Clouet. His portrait, above, hangs today in the home in Lafayette of Paul de Clouet, a direct descendant. His body is buried in the cemetery in St. Martinville, next to the church and next to Evangeline's monument. The de Clouet coat of arms is mounted in that church. First commandant was Jacques Courtableau; second was Fuselier de la Clair. (Daily World Photo by Deville).



# Jules Perrodin Vs. the U.S.

RECOUNTS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN ST. LANDRY GIVES DETAILS OF BATTLE OF BOURBEUX

"Gone With the Wind" novel reads of claims against the United States Perrodin, resident of St. Landry and merchant of Opelousas. This suit, filed against the U. S. by Perrodin in following the "War Between the States", re-opened in 1881 and from the Vol. No. of the French and American Claims Commission we draw the following story. A yellowed booklet was saved by descent of Jules Perrodin who live in the Mr. and Mrs. James Prados on Grolee.

Perrodin was a native of the town of Department of the Jura, France, and born March 25, 1820. He came to Opelousas in 1856, and settled here as a merchant, his store being an extension on Grolee, present Prados home. The street was another building that he owned, known for many years as Perrodin Hall, used as an opera house and dance and later purchased by J. B. Sandoz, and by him as a store. This two storied building was recently demolished to way for the new J. B. Sandoz, Inc.

Perrodin married Mina Lastrapes, daughter of Jacques Lastrapes and Felonise granddaughter of Jean Henri Lastrapes and Celeste Genevieve Boisdroe. They had two children, Rose and Jean Jacques. He married Louis Prados, of New Orleans, who resided in Opelousas until his death. Jacques married Marguerite Williams, who died a year after their marriage. Perrodin was once cashier of the Union Bank, and was later cashier of the Union Bank and Trust Co., and clerk of the city of Opelousas. He died July 11, 1951. His son, James Howard Prados, born Nov. 5, 1902, married Esther Binford of Anderson, Tex., and they have two daughters and a son. The Prados family were early Spanish settlers in New Orleans. Mrs. Prados also has an interesting family, being descended from the Arns and the Taylors. For many years Mr. Prados has been superintendent of the city light and water plant.

Reading through the yellow pages of the atlas case that involved some \$50,000 we trace the events that transpired when General Banks came through this section of State, and between the lines are tragedies that affected many in these parts.

Testimony was given by many witnesses, depositions were taken many years later. In brief the claims were made for sugar and cotton that Perrodin had bought in the year 1863 from various plantation owners. This produce was stored at the former owner's plantations, gins, and at warehouses in the vicinity. The 13th and 19th Army Corps under the commands of Generals Grover and McShiness, army of Major General Banks, seized, took possession of, and carried off the bales of cotton and barrels of sugar that Perrodin had bought.

Perrodin was a French citizen, and had never been naturalized. He was conscripted by the Confederate enrolling officer for the Parish of St. Landry, and enrolled in the 28th Regiment La. Vol. C. S. A., and upon this he took out a writ of habeas corpus before the court of the eighth judicial district, alleging that he was a French subject and therefore not liable to the conscript law. He was released and discharged by command of General E. Kirby Smith, of the Confederate Army.

Much ado was made over a former partner of Perrodin, his cousin Auguste Perrodin (their partnership was dissolved at the outbreak of the war when Auguste volunteered in the Confederate Army). Attempt was made by opposing counsel to show that Perrodin "did give aid and comfort" to the Confederates, while Perrodin maintained that he had kept a strict neutrality as befitted his position as a neutral French citizen.

The military governor of the parish of St. Landry during Federal occupation was Col. Thomas E. Chickering, of the 41st regiment of the Massachusetts volunteers (in his testimony later he described himself as maker of pianofortes his disposition was taken in 1870 in Boston).

His statements show that regiments under his command were engaged in gathering cotton, sugar, and other products of the country under orders from superior headquarters. These were shipped out of Washington and "Barre's Landing" (Port Barre) to New Orleans and from there a great deal of cotton was sent to Europe to be sold on the market.

Testimony was taken from other officers—Colonel Holabird, General Van Vliet, Captain W. W. McKim, General Melts—and letters from General Banks to Major General Halleck were also included in the evidence, letters from Robert T. Lincoln (then Secretary of War)—all of these trace the skirmishes, battles and other operations of the Union Forces in St. Landry Parish. On April 20th 1863, the main force occupied Opelousas, the cavalry supported by the regiment of infantry and a section of

artillery being thrown forward to Washington, on the Courtableau.

On the 22nd, Banks sent out Brig. Gen. Dwight with his brigade of Grover's division and detachments of artillery and cavalry to push forward through Washington to Alexandria, but he found the bridges over Bayou Cocodrie and Boeuf destroyed, and spent the next evening and night making a single bridge at the junction of the two bayous.

The steamer Ware was burned by the Confederates to keep her from falling into the Union hands, but they captured part of her cargo, which had been loaded on flatboats. The steamer Ellen was captured in a small bayou leading into the Courtableau. Gunboats captured Butte a LaRose, and the key to the Atchafalaya. "The opportunity for opening the Mississippi is in our hands."

That General Banks was sympathetic to the sufferings of the people whose territories he was occupying is evident from his letters to superior officers. He suggested a means of paying fifty per cent to all persons for their products and a means of conveying them to market, rather than outright confiscation, as was being practiced. He observed that a great deal of the produce was perishable, subject to destruction, and a great deal was hidden. He also stated that he was allowing no plundering or speculating (but also states that unscrupulous individual robbers following the trail of the army were taking their toll of money and jewelry).

Also included in letters from Banks is an announcement of his arrest of Governor Mouton, and his reasons for this arrest.

"He is a man of large influence and intelligence, and has wielded with an iron hand his power over the people in this part of the country; he was president of the convention that declared Louisiana to have separated from the Union; his influence is still important and at a time when the sentiments of the people were in transition from acquiescence in the Confederate Government and a recognition and renewal of their obligations to the Union, it seemed to me important that such a man should at least be quiet."

"I have ordered him therefore to be sent to New Orleans in the custody of the provost-marshal-general with instructions to the gentlemen to provide him with comfortable quarters, but not to allow general intercourse with the people of that city, where he will remain until further orders from the Government. This is the only arrest made, except for crime."

An account of the Battle of Bourbeaux, the only large scale battle fought hereabouts, was given in the testimony of two witnesses—Mrs. Constance Guidrey, widow of Thelismar Guidrey (at the time of the battle he was serving in the Confederate Army (and had been wounded at Shiloh.)—her testimony was given years later, and Augustin Dominique, who had been a slave at the Guidrey plantation and had stayed on as manager during the war.

Mrs. Guidrey testified that her husband had sold his cotton to Perrodin, in the seed and unginmed, and this was still on the plantation in out buildings.

Her account of the battle follows: "In the year 1863, in the month of October, the Federal troops, about forty thousand in number, camped near my plantation. On the 7th of November of said year the Battle of Bayou Bourdeaux was fought."

"The Federal army took possession of my house and premises, and converted the same for the sick and wounded and disabled into a hospital, and they used Mr. Perrodin's cotton aloft to make mattresses for their sick and wounded, and carried some of that cotton on other plantations around, where they also had wounded or disabled soldiers."

"I myself saw them loading the wagons and carrying off said cotton."

"I told the Federal officers, among whom was Lieut. Pollard, whom I knew, that said cotton belonged to a French citizen living in the town of Opelousas, La. whose name was Jules Perrodin. He replied that this French citizen would be better satisfied to know that his cotton was in their hands than in those of the rebels."

"My husband had been paid for his cotton by Mr. Perrodin. . . the number of wounded at the battle of Bayou Bourdeaux was very numerous. The battle was fought about a mile and a half from my house. I judge that there was about one hundred and fifty wounded Federal soldiers on my place at said time."

Testimony of Dominique was about the same, and he also added that General Grover, of the Federal Army, had his tent in the year near the steps of the dwelling house.

Antoinette Thiebaut, widow of W. A. Gibson of Washington, testified as to the sugar that was removed from the plantation of Colonel Wm. Offit, where it had been stored in the Fed-sugar-house. . . until the advent of the Federal troops, some time in the year 1864, when said sugar-house was burst open by the Federal troops, and all the sugar in the said sugar-house was taken away; what could not



OLD PERRODIN HOME LANDMARK -Pioneer Merchant Had Store Here - Once part of a pioneer store of Opelousas, built just before the Civil War, this old home is a landmark in the community. Connected with a celebrated claim against the United States, it contains many fine pieces of French furniture, and, preserved by the descendants of Jules Perrodin, are a set of account books that date back into the early records of the store. Parts of these are reproduced in the accompanying photographs.

When recent repairs were made on the old home, carpenters working on the roof found that the gutters were hewn by hand out of a single huge log about ten inches square that ran the entire length of the building. Original shutters and hardware add to the interest of the home, which also has an old kitchen at the side, entered by way of a herringbone-patterned brick walk. Construction of the kitchen because of its open beams attests the age of the place.

The home is at N. Main and Grolee. It was built prior to 1856—how much earlier is unknown. Jules Perrodin bought it in 1861. Mr. and Mrs. James Prados now live in it.

be taken away was destroyed."

A young colored boy testified that he had seen the men taking sugar, and had made candy for them every day!

Attorneys of the case were:

For the claimant—Ferral Perrodin, and Henry L. Garland, For the U. S. Government—E. T. Lewis and Lucius F. Suthon, Laurent Dupre was notary public and commissioner, and he took much of the testimony and many depositions. James O. Chachere was Clerk of the 13th Judicial District, in and for St. Landry; George W. Huidspet was District Judge. Other counsels also represented the French Republic.

This interesting case, which was decided

In favor of the claimant, Perrodin, is made up in the form of a booklet comprising 238 pages. From cover to cover it can be read, and because of the years that have passed and the changing times it gives as much pleasure to the reader as a planned novel.

As an echo from that memorable battle many years after all the sound and fury, dead and wounded, two young boys exploring the woods in the Bellevue Grant found to their excitement a great cannonball—a single monument to all the brave men who must have died at the Battle of Bourdeaux.

Ben Boagni and Randy Brown are still owners of this souvenir of the "War Between the States" in St. Landry.

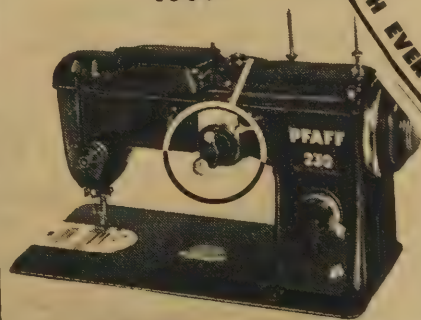
## 1955 PFAFF

AUTOMATIC 1862



93 YEARS IN THE MAKING AND WORTH EVERY MINUTE OF IT.

1955



Even threads itself

MAIN SEWING CENTER

255 N. Main—Remi S. Joubert, owner - Phone 3642



Dordelon.

con las devidas ceremonias una niña, hija legitima de Pedro Dordelon, y de Estreana y le puse por nombre Celeste, Fueron sus Padrinos Antonio Dordelon, y Augusta Coma que comite, y por vez vendad lo firmo tho dia, mes, y año para us signar.

38.

María Luisa Raiter.

El mismo dia, mes, y año bautice solemnemente una niña, hija legitima de Estreana, y Barbara Com, y le puse por nombre Estreana Luisa. Fueron sus Padrinos Raiter, y Estreana Luisa Stelly. Y para que comite lo firmo tho dia, mes, y año.

39.

María Estreana Estreana Raiter.

El mismo dia, mes, y año bautice una niña hija legitima de Estreana, y Estreana Luisa Stelly, y le puse por nombre Estreana Estreana. Fueron sus Padrinos Estreana, y Estreana Estreana Stelly. Y para que comite lo firmo tho dia.

40.

Lucas Sasiere.

Esta Fe de Bautismo pertenece al año de 1790.

40 Bis

Luc Sasser

Viernes veinte de Agosto de mil ochocientos y noventa bautice un Pavorito hijo legitimo de Estreana, y Sasiere, y Sasiere Colins, y le puse por nombre Lucas. Fueron sus padrinos Lucas Sasiere, y Sasiere Colins, y para que comite lo firmo el 20 de Agosto de 1790.

41.

Pedro Bertrand.

Sábado veinte y cinco de Diciembre de este presente año supli las Ceremonias del Bautizo en un Pavorito, hijo legitimo de Amalia Bertrand, y Anastasia Bertrand, y le puse por nombre Pedro. Fueron sus Padrinos Claudio Bertrand, y Anastasia Bertrand, y para que comite lo firmo.

1.

Agustin Fontenot

Jueves seis de Enero de este presente año supli las Ceremonias del Bautizo en un Pavorito hijo legitimo de Josef Fontenot, y Magdalena Raya, y le puse por nombre Agustin. Fueron sus Padrinos Felipe Fontenot, y Magdalena Raya, y para que comite lo firmo.

2.

Juan Bautista Wils.

El mismo dia, mes, y año supli las ceremonias de la Iglesia en la administracion al de un Pavorito, hijo legitimo de Jacques Ignace Wils, y Estreana Stelly, y le puse por nombre Juan Bautista. Fueron sus Padrinos Juan Bautista Stelly, y Estreana Stelly, y para que comite lo firmo.

3.

Eufrosina Brunet.

Viernes veinte y ocho de Enero supli las Ceremonias del Bautizo en una niña, hija legitima de M<sup>te</sup>. Fran<sup>co</sup> Brunet, y Estreana Brunet, y le puse por nombre Eufrosina. Fueron sus Padrinos Estreana Brunet, y Estreana Brunet, y para que comite lo firmo.

4.

Agustin Fontenot.

Domingo Treinta de Enero bautice con las devidas ceremonias, una niña legitima de Simon Fontenot, y Theresita de Estreana, y le puse por nombre Agustin. Fueron sus Padrinos Agustin Fontenot, y Fran<sup>co</sup> Fontenot, y para que comite lo firmo.

5.

David Neche.

El mismo dia, mes, y año bautice un niño hijo legitimo de Estreana Neche, y Estreana Neche, y le puse por nombre David. Fueron sus Padrinos Estreana Neche, y Estreana Neche, y para que comite lo firmo tho dia, mes, y año.

Año de 1791.

A PAGE from Baptismal RECORD Book No. 1 from the St. Landry Catholic church, from 1790 and 1791 was written in Spanish. Children baptised were Celeste Bordelon, María Luisa Raiter, Lucas Sasiere, Luc Sasser, Pedro Bertrand, Agustin Fontenot, Juan Bautista Wils, Eufrosina Brunet, Francisca Fontenot, David Neche. The priest was Pedro de Tamora. The fine penmanship was with a quill.



# Who Was Here, 1765-1805?

Who lived in St. Landry parish from 150 years ago? No better list could be compiled than that of the persons who bought and sold land in the territory of the Post of Opelousas during the years of the Spanish regime, 1765 to 1805.

Unfortunately, the list is on file, and also papers of the transactions. They may be found in the offices of the clerk of court. There are two index books, containing the same names, one being the index of those who sold lands, arranged alphabetically by names, and the other being those who bought lands from the above, arranged alphabetically.

### THE NAMES

of persons who acquired lands Situated in the Post of Opelousas

by Deeds made before the

COMMANDANTS

Under the Government of

SPAIN

Commencing with the Year 1765

and ending in the Year 1805

Are to be found Alphabetically

arranged in this book

1819

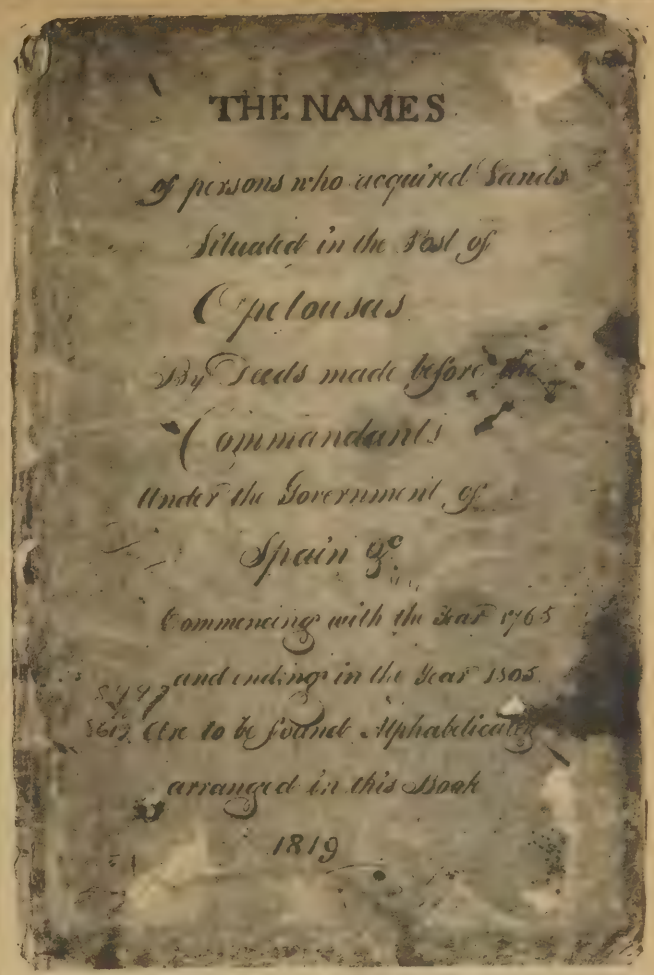
Using the above vendees index book, list herewith all of those who acquired property in territory of the Post of Opelousas during the Spanish regime:

YEAR	SELLER	YEAR
A		
	Guidry	1798
	Bertrand	1789
	Stelley	1786
	Andrus	1804
	Jean of Celestin (Indian)	1804
	Sappington	1803
	Sappington	1803
	Leger	1802
	Blanchett	1796
	Andrus	1797
	Lenelle	1777
	Bourrassas	1795
	Fontenot	1799
	Lamathe	1799
	Figurant	1802
	Bertrand	1802
	Delafosse	1802
	Guidry	1804
	Mouton	1804
	McKoy	1804
	Derosiers	1778
B		
	Beaulieu	1798
	Riter	1793
	Rogigny	1798
	Beaulieu	1790
	Frelon	1789
	Dourousseau	1798
	Duplessis	1789
	Rill	1788
	Snutes	1788
	Forstall	1788
	Barre	1788
	Robin	1788
	Waible	1788
	Lejeune	1788
	Hollier	1787
	Chevalier	1787
	Veillon	1786
	Baillio	1787
	Boisdore	1787
	Roman	1786
	Janice	1786
	Collingswood	1786
	Caratch	1785
	Declouet	1785
	Berwick	1785
	Normand	1784
	Denis	1784
	Soileau	1783
	Debrando	1783
	Gradenigo	1782
	Rody	1782
	Fontenot	1782
	Veillon	1781
	Lamerande	1781
	Auzenne	1781
	Jannis	1780
	Gullifory	1780
	Lamathe	1780
	Sylvestre	1780
	Lenelle	1776
	Zeringue	1775
	Richaume	1777
	Soileau	1777
	Penot	1777
	Batin	1777
	Lalande	1791
	Aucoin	1791
	Fontenot	1792
	Caillivat	1793
	Boudreau	1793
	Lenelle	1788
	Benoit	1800
	Lejeune	1793
	Terbanne	1794
	Dupe	1794
	Poiret	1795
	Maton	1790
	Leger	1798
	Boite	1798
	Carriere	1801
	Prudhomme	1798

Boisdore	1791
Bourque	1804
Boon	1804
Berthelemy	1804
Bossier	1803
Burney	1803
Belestre	1803
Buhot	1802
Bushnell & Barton	1802
Bourg	1802
Bossier	1801
Bourg	1801
Bossier	1801
Belestre	1803
Bossier	1798
Belestre	1803
Bugard	1803
Brasseur	1779
Baton	1778
Barre	1779
Bordelon	1778
Banker	1779
Brasseur	1780

C	
Chartlerau	1779
Chapman	1798
Cormier	1805
Collins	1805
Conner	1805
Cochran	1804
Castille	1804
Cochran	1804
Caramouche	1804
Chachere	1804
Cam	1804
Cam	1804
Cormier	1804
Collins	1805
Conner	1805
Collins	1805
Castille	1804
Collins	1804
Clement	1804
Chapman	1804
Chretien	1803

Collins	1804
Calligham	1803
Collins	1803
Carriere	1803
Carriere	1803
Clement	1803
Calligham	1803
Calligham	1802
Clement	1802
Carriere	1802
Comeau	1802
Clarke	1802
Comeau's	1802
Collins	1802
Collins	1801
Carriere	1801
Collins	1801
Calligham	1801
Chenier	1800
Garnie	1800
Collins	1800
Calligham	1800
Calligham	1800
Carriere	1800
Cormier	1799
Chretien	1799
Cormier & Mire	1798
Gormier	1796
Collins	1796
Carriere	1794
Comeau	1792
Collins	1791
Callivat	1791
Carriere	1791
Collins	1791
Cormier	1791
Cleary	1791
Carriere	1790
Carriere	1790
Callivat	1790
Carriere	1790
Chachere	1790
Collins's	1790
Collins	1790
Collins's	1790
Collins	1790
Cam	1790
Calligham	1783
Carbounett	1783
Carriere	1783
Caron	1782
Cartier	1788
Cpabot	1788
Collins	1788
Chevalier	1788
Chappon	1788
Collins	1788
Chabot	1788
Coleman	1786
Carriere	1786
Collins	1786
Comeau	1786
Caillivat	1786
Collins	1785
Calligham	1785
Comeau	1785
Carriere	1784
Collins	1784
Cole	1783
Charbonet	1784
Collins	1783
Chretien	1781
Comeau	1780
Chartlerau	1777
Clermont	1777



OLD LAND VENDEES index book, compiled here in 1819 to index the land ownership records kept by the Spanish commanders of the Post of Opelousas from 1765 to 1805, cover shown above. There is an identical book cross-indexing the vendors for this period also on file in the office of the parish clerk of court.

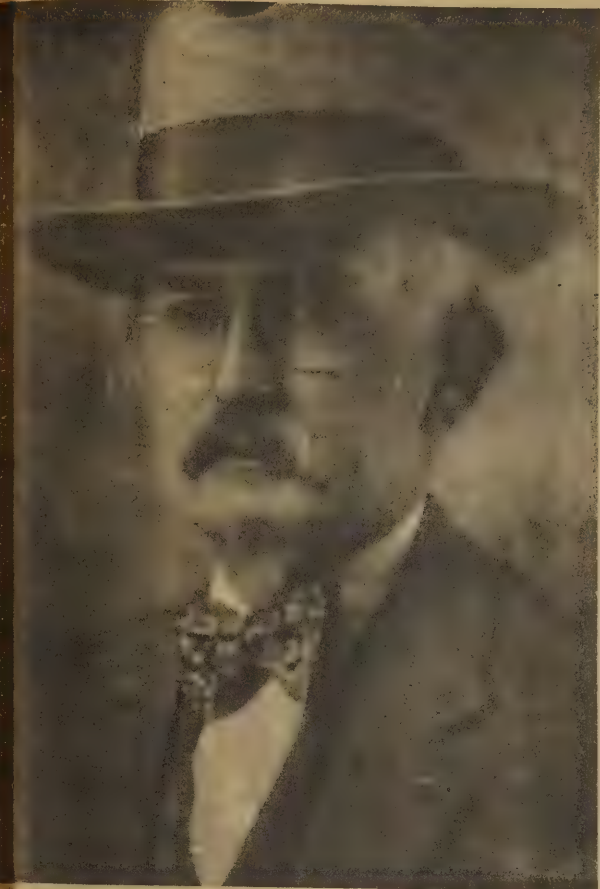
Cave	Mallett	1774	Daigrepoint	Thorp	1803
Carriere	Chevalier	1774	Debuissou	Delamorandier	1804
Cave	Chevalier	1774	Delachaise	Tesson	1806
Chevalier	Tesson	1778	Delamorandier	Beausergent	1804
Collins	Collins	1786	Deshotels	Veillon	1804
Cacarache	Roger	1779	Davis	Rogers	1804
Chattlerau	Mondon	1778	Dugas	D'aigne	1804
Collingwood	Trahan	1780	Donato	Frederick	1804
D					
Declouet	Bertrand	1780	Deville	Deville	1804
Duralde	Ledoux	1780	Duplessis	Vidrine	1795
Demarais	Veillon	1781	Deshordes	Labeaume	1782
Donegan	Boisdore	1785	Deshordes	Courtebleau	1765
Demarais	Schnell	1785	Derosiers	Lacaze	1779
Duralde	Fontenot	1786	Derbanne	Comeau	1779
Despau	Lenelle	1786	Dupe	Veillon	1774
Despau	Latiolais	1786	E		
Despau	Barre	1787	Emond	Lalande	1792
Despau	Robin	1787	Ellis	Donato	1780
Despau	Frederique	1787	Ellis	Donato	1781
Donegan	Lett	1788	Escouffe	Soileau	1786
Duplessis	Boisdore	1788	Escouffe	Veillon	1788
Debuissou	Manne	1788	Etienne	Bordelon	1791
Dio	Debuissou	1788	Elmer	Villier	1804
Daniel	Teal	1788	Eglise	Tesson	1800
Duplessis	Schnell	1789	Eglise	Normand	1794
Dejean & Last-trapes	Vevant et als	1789	Elmer	Tessonau	1804
Demarais	Vidrine	1789	F		
Desborde	Villier	1789	Faivre	Prudhomme	1777
Duralde	Lemelles	1789	Fontenot	Boisdore	1780
Desborde	Chachere	1790	Fairchild	Poiret	1781
Duplessis	Buhler	1791	Duralde	Poiret	1781
Demarais	Carriere	1791	Desborde	Chachere	1782
Deforet	Fontenot	1797	Duplessis	Fontenot	1784
Donato	Fontenot	1797	Demarais	Frederique	1785
Dubroquar	Desborde	1792	Fontenot	Fontenot	1787
Dupe	Barre	1792	Frederique	Lacaze	1787
Stienne	Bodreau	1793	Forstall	Bello	1788
Despau	Lemelle	1794	Frelon	Baisdore	1788
Duplechain	Lamerande	1796	Frelon	Broussard	1788
Moreau	Moreau	1796	Frelon	Brosset	1788
Donato	Moreau	1797	Forstall	Boisdore	1789
Donato	Chauvin	1797	Fontenot	Villil	
Derosier	Bime	1798	Fontenot	Villier	1791
Deshotel	Lamathe	1798	Fontenot	Fruger	1791
Doza	Fontenot	1798	Fontenot	Bello	1791
Dustine	Bossier	1799	Fontenot	Reeds	1793
Dustine	Bodreau	1799	Fontenot	Foret	1792
Dustine	Lalande	1799	Fontenot	Demarais	1792
Dwive	M. Pike	1799	Fontenot	Navaire	1785
Desborde	Donegan	1800	Fontenot	Lafleur	1795
Ducet	Bellard	1801	Fontenot	Heuller	1796
Ducet	Bellard	1801	Fontenot	Guichard	1796
Demarais	Fontenot	1801	Fontenot	Lafleur	1796
Demarais	Feg. rant	1801	Fontenot	Doucet	1797
Duistental	Sappington	1802	Fontenot	Veillon	1798
algie	Doucet et als	1802	Fontenot	Collins	1799
lachaize	Celestin (Indian)	1803	Fontenot	Vasseur	1800
lad	Comeau	1803	Fontenots	Frelon	1800
			Fontenots	Fontenot & Gull-lory	1801







# Cholera Brought First Dr. Boagni to Parish



E. M. BOAGNI



STATE SEN. EDWARD M. BOAGNI

(There is no picture to be found of this founder of a prominent St. Landry parish family).

Dr. Vincent Boagni came to New Orleans as a youth of eighteen, from a small village near Genoa, in the Kingdom of Sardinia. This particular part of Italy was in the hands of the French from the time of Napoleon, and Vincent Boagni was born a French subject, in 1822. His Italian father had married a Frenchwoman from Nice, and the young man spoke French fluently, as well as Italian and English.

Shortly after his arrival in New Orleans he began the study of medicine, and was for a time stationed at the Charity Hospital in that city.

It was during a cholera epidemic that Dr. Boagni came to Opelousas. He had been called by the Wikoff family, who owned a large plantation and had many slaves, a great number of whom had contracted cholera.

During his stay in St. Landry Parish at the home of the Wikoff's, Dr. Boagni met and married Susanna Littell, daughter of Dr. Moses Littell. Dr. Moses Littell, who was married to Constance Collins, was a brother of Eliakim Littell, who also founded a long family of doctors of this parish.

Children of Dr. Vincent Boagni and Susanna Littell were:

Rosa, who married J. J. Thompson; Vincent, a bachelor who was for many years a steamboat captain; Edward Millard, who married and became a prominent planter and businessman; Theo, who died as a boy; Joseph Moses (Planter), who married Julia Lewis; Eliakim, who married Mrs. H. Comeau; Charles, who became a doctor and married Francis Tillou Nicholls Andrus; Pearl, who married Madison Callaway Moseley; John (Bee) Boagni who married Mattie Shute.

"Dr. Charlie", as he is known throughout the parish, was educated at Tulane University, where he received his degree in medicine.

His son Kenneth served as judge of the 27th Judicial District 1942-48, and is now an active member of the St. Landry bar. He is married to Helen Garland, daughter of R. Lee Garland, long-time district attorney of Imperial St. Landry. They have four sons.

Another grandson of Dr. Vincent studied medicine—Senator Edward Boagni—but because of ill health he never practiced this profession. Senator Boagni is married to Celeste DeLaurel, and their son Edward has just completed his studies of medicine at Tulane and soon will begin his year of interning at Charity Hospital in New Orleans.

Dr. Mattye Lois Boagni is the great-granddaughter of Dr. Vincent, granddaughter of "Bee" Boagni and daughter of John Boagni and Lois Shaver. Born Jan. 9, 1928, in Opelousas, she was educated in the public schools of the parish, entered L. S. U. in September 1944, majoring in pre-med, and was graduated June 1948 receiving her B. S. Degree. She entered L. S. U. Medical School the following fall, and in June 1952 received her M. D. She interned at Charity for one year—July 1952—July 1953. She started a residency in Pediatrics July 1953 at Charity, and after after several months, due to illness was granted a leave of absence. Since that time she has been health director at Donaldsonville, in charge of the Iberville and Ascension parish health units located at Donaldsonville and Plaquemine.

She plans to resume her residency in Pediatrics at Charity in order to complete her specialization in pediatrics.

Many members of this family have been prominent through the years in civic and governmental affairs of the Parish. E. M. Boagni, called "Ned," was President of the governing body of the parish—the police



"DR. CHARLEY" BOAGNI, prominent banker and financier of St. Landry parish.



KENNETH BOAGNI, attorney, former district judge for St. Landry parish.

jury during the latter quarter of the last century. He also was president of the original St. Landry Bank in the first decade of the twentieth century.

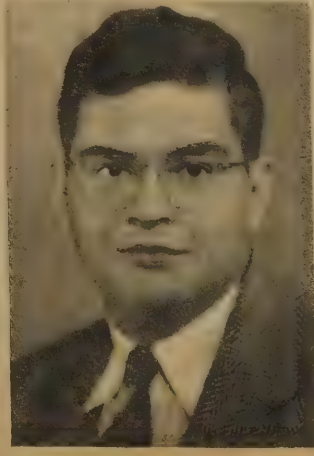
His son, Senator Boagni, is a distinguished member of the state Legislature.

Several grandsons are members of the St. Landry bar.

The old Boagni home is one of the landmarks of the Parish, with its early origin dating back to the eighteenth century as a small pioneer home, which has gradually been added to through the years until it has become the large and lovely home on Grolee and Railroad Ave., set in its parklike area of lawn and trees. The original homestead extended to the old Garland place.



DR. MATTYE LOIS BOAGNI



DR. EDWARD BOAGNI, graduated in medicine, now an interne.

Prestman	1782	Wells	1785
Crook	1782	Wells	1785
Moredock	1783	Waible	1789
Lamorandier	1784	Waible	1789
Lejeune	1784	Watton	1791
Bolls	1782	Wikoff	1791
Martin	1785	Webster	1798
Kirkland	1785	Wells	1802
		Glayton	1785
		Martin	1785
		Waible	1789
		Bergenoelder	1789
		Ponsony	1791
		Celestin (Indian)	1791
		Desbordes	1798
		Collins	1802



# Dr. Boagni's Famous Operation

A medical who-dun-it of the mid-19th century, involving Dr. Vincent Boagni—the first member of the prominent Boagni family to settle here—is in possession of members of the family here today.

And Dr. Boagni won when the mystery was solved.

The question involved the identity of the physician who performed a then highly difficult and extremely rare Caesarean operation at Opelousas.

One Dr. Robert P. Harris, A. M., M. D., of Philadelphia, Pa., heard about the success of Louisiana physicians — to whose skill he paid high tribute, saying it was undoubtedly due to their having studied in France—with Caesarean sections, and he investigated. And investigated. and investigated some more.

Doctors kept lying to him. We quote from an article which will follow, "The pertinacious lying of the Franco-American exceeds belief." Dr. Harris got confused because one of the lying doctors wrote him such convincing letters, while Dr. Boagni of Opelousas had written his letters in "an erratic manner, mixing up English, French, Latin and Italian," so that he gave them no weight.

Ultimately, Dr. Boagni came through with the proof that he was, indeed, the successful performer of a Caesarean operation, and not the other two claimants, and Dr. Harris published a book on the subject.

The title page of the booklet had the following information:

Untruthfulness, as an Obstacle to Statistical Research

A Louisiana Caesarean Operation with Three Claimants

The Very Curious Case of Drs. Achier and Pilate vs. Dr. Boagni of Opelousas, Louisiana

1850 - 1879

Searches Made in France and the United States

and

The Rightful Claimant Credited, in Dr. Vincent Boagni

By Robert P. Harris, A.M., M.D., Philadelphia

1871 - 1879

The account of Dr. Harris' medical detective work, which resulted in credit being given Dr. Boagni, was recounted in the Bulletin of the History of Medicine of June 1944 by one William Dosite Postell. There follows here with his account:

By William Dosite Postell

Medical culture owes a debt of gratitude to the work of Dr. Robert Patterson Harris of Philadelphia, who has been described by Dr. Howard A. Kelly as the most prominent medical statistician this country has ever seen. Dr. Harris spent many years compiling statistics relating to Caesarean births and investigating the numerous reports of those who claimed of having performed this difficult operation.

In connection with this work Dr. Harris' researches were directed almost at first towards investigating the various reports of Caesarean births in the State of Louisiana, when he undertook to verify the record of Dr. Francis Marie Prevost, who was eventually given credit for performing the first Caesarean operation in the state about 1822, and who for a long time was given credit for performing the first gastro-hysterotomy in what is now the United States.

In order thoroughly to canvass the state to obtain all the facts relating to the Caesarean sections performed, Dr. Harris enlisted the aid of Dr. Samuel M. Bemiss, then Professor of Principles and Practice of Medicine, Medical Department of the University of Louisiana, to assist him in circularizing the profession, and as a result Dr. Harris was able to assemble a total of 19 cases performed up to that time (1873), which was the largest number of operations performed in any state of the Union. So impressed was Dr. Harris with the number and success of these operations of gastro-hysterotomy been so often performed, and with such good proportionate results as in Louisiana, . . . Dr. Harris commented that he was at a loss to understand the remarkable success of the Louisiana physicians in comparison to the rest of the country. He assumed that probably the skill of the French surgeons had something to do with it. From a recent study by Dr. Rudolph Matas you are inclined to feel that this was the main factor in accounting for such a large proportion of successful operations; that is, the skill

of the operators. The physicians of the State were largely of French extraction and had obtained their education in Paris, the medical center of the world during the first half of the 19th Century.

In April, 1878, Dr. Harris published a list of Caesarean operations, in which he gave credit to a Dr. Vincent Boagni for an operation performed at Opelousas, Louisiana, in 1850.

In June, 1879, Dr. Harris published an additional list of Caesarean sections giving credit this time to Dr. E. Pilate for having performed this operation, which he had previously credited to Dr. Boagni. He also credits Dr. Pilate with an additional operation in 1854. These cases are listed as 12 and 13 in this report. Further he had this comment to make:

"Cases 12 and 13 gave me a great deal of trouble, as, strange to relate, they had each three claimants, and one of these had them credited to himself through a French medical society twenty years ago. A second party also had case 12 recorded in his name, although a laborious investigation satisfies me that he was not even present at the operation. The third claimant has certainly established by abundant proof that he was entitled to be considered the operator in each instance; and this is the opinion of my medical friends, who have seen the letters and records of interviews in my profession. If either of the first or second claimant ever performed the Caesarean operation, it was not upon the woman in cases 12 and 13, as a package of letters before me gives these operations to Dr. Pilate, now 75 years old, and a resident for the last twelve of Dayton, Ohio. Later, that is, in the March, 1880 issue of the New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal, Dr. Harris published a correction to his second report, pertaining to cases 12 and 13, which he now, due to further evidence presented, again must credit to Dr. Boagni, the original claimant. In this paper Case Number 12, due to the change in dates is now listed as Number 11, while the second operation is rejected as a true Caesarean, and listed as a laparotomy after rupture of the uterus.

Dr. Harris further commented that unfortunately Dr. Boagni was a poor witness for himself against the other claimants, but finally obtained justice, by the fortunate discovery of two leaves of an old ledger among some waste papers, in which were recorded the entries made at the time of his two operations in 1850 and 1851, and that as Dr. Pilate expressed no desire to see this evidence against him, when forwarded to a mutual friend to be shown him, that he was forced to change his mind again and credit Dr. Boagni with the operation.

Dr. Harris was most vigorous in protesting against the cunning manner in which Dr. Pilate attempted to establish his claim as the operator, which not only fooled him for a time, but several of his medical friends. Dr. Harris closed with the comment that he hoped that there were not many Pilates, Achiers and Dabrin's (the first two were claimants for the honor, the third a witness) in the medical fraternity of Louisiana at the present day, for they gave the statistical worker, who desires to write correctly, a world of trouble.

And thus this case ended until our present day when something like 63 years later a very interesting manuscript came to light which for these many years had been deposited in the library of the late Dr. Howard A. Kelly. It bore the rather long and interesting title, "Untruthfulness, as an Obstacle to Statistical Research. A Louisiana Caesarean Operation with Three Claimants. The very curious case of Drs. Achier and Pilate, versus Dr. Boagni of Opelousas, Louisiana, 1850-1879. Searches made in France and the United States, and the Rightful Claimant Credited, in Dr. Vincent Boagni. By Robert P. Harris, A. M., M. D., Philadelphia, 1871-1879" (see plate). On examination this proved to be the evidence as assembled by Dr. Harris over a period of 13 months in investigating this case. The manuscript is in an excellent state of preservation and contains copies in Dr. Harris' own handwriting of all the correspondence compiled in assembling the evidence in this case.

The manuscript opens with a few introductory remarks by Dr. Harris in which he stated that Louisiana had been the chief center of Caesarean work in the early days of our country, and that with the help of Dr. Samuel M. Bemiss the state was circularized for any information pertaining to the performance of Caesarean sections by surgeons within the state.

In response to a circular sent out by Dr. Bemiss a reply was received from Dr. Vincent Boagni of Opelousas, Louisiana, who reported three cases, performed by him on January 30, 1850, July 30, 1851 and May 4, 1853, although in the latter case the Mother died before he arrived.

Dr. Harris credited Dr. Boagni with these operations, until he received a letter from Dr. John C. Reeve of Dayton, Ohio, who stated that Dr. E. Pilate, city physician of Dayton, had remarked to him that while living in Louisiana, he had twice performed the Caesarean operation on the same woman. On inquiry Dr. Pilate reported that he had performed a

Caesarean section on a colored woman, Lucie, then about 28 years of age in 1852 in the presence of his friend Dr. F. Achier. About 20 months later, he reported performing a second operation on the same woman.

Dr. Harris then wrote twice again to Dr. Boagni and received in reply rather irrelevant or erratic answers, as if he cared very little if he was credited with the operations or not.

A long series of letters followed to the various parties involved and their replies, until you wonder how Dr. Harris ever was able to unravel the mystery.

Dr. Pilate's claim at first seemed by far the most logical. He stated his case quite clearly, always representing evidence as to his character and veracity. However, in time, one gets a little suspicious of Dr. Pilate's claim, since he continually protests that he doesn't want to have anything to do with the case and this is his last letter, etc., but he always comes back in a rather winning manner protesting his opponents' statements or claims, and presenting himself as being prosecuted. Towards the end he becomes very personal and slanderous in his remarks concerning the other claimants, which tends to arouse your suspicions still more.

The matter was further complicated by Dr. Achier (one of the claimants) having published at Lyons, France, these two operations, purported to be his own. To clarify matters Dr. Harris finally located Dr. Dabrin, who had been present at the operations, and as he was the only one of the four present who made no claim as to being the operator, Dr. Harris was hopeful that Dr. Dabrin would be able to give a correct version of the affair. In this he was disappointed. Dr. Dabrin reported that Dr. Achier performed the first operation, assisted by Dr. Pilate and himself; the second he credited to Dr. Pilate; and the third, a case of rupture of the uterus, operated on after death, to Dr. Boagni.

Dr. Boagni seemed from his letters to be enjoying the controversy immensely. He was fond of quoting passages in Latin, French and Italian, which seemed to have infuriated Dr. Pilate. It was only towards the end of the controversy that he became serious and attempted to prove his claim. Then it was, that he found his original entries covering these operations in an old ledger, which in the opinion of Dr. Harris and his friends had every appearance of being genuine. This evidence satisfied Dr. Harris that Dr. Boagni was the operator, and finally after thirteen months of investigation, he so credited Dr. Boagni with these cases.

The final summary of the controversy as presented by Dr. Harris at the conclusion of his manuscript is so interesting that it is here given in its entirety.

### General Summary

Dr. Boagni, claims to have performed a Caesarean operation on Jan. 30th, 1850, on a woman aged 22 - child a male, dead. His second operation was a Coeliotomy, after rupture of the uterus, on July 30th, 1851 - child a female, dead. His third operation - was also a Coeliotomy, after death of the mother on May 4th, 1853 - from rupture of the uterine.

Dr. (7) Pilate, claims to have performed a Caesarean operation on the same woman, on June 5th, 1852 - woman 28 - a child male and dead. He claims to have performed a second Caesarean Section on the same subject - 20 months later - child a female also dead; recovery in each instance. Mr. Perrodin, credits the first operation to Pilate, and said he told him of it, the next day after he performed it.

Dr. Littell, had always supposed that the credit of the operations was due to Dr. Achier. Dr. Achier told Dr. Roy that he had performed both operations, Dr. Estorge says that in 1859 he gave him full notes of the operations to be published in France, which he had attended to. Mr. Rocquet credits Dr. Achier, assisted by Dr. Pilate - Dr. Boagni had performed a Coeliotomy in the second case; that the progress in a third pregnancy, had died of an attack of indigestion.

Dr. Estorge, credits Dr. Pilate with the first operation; says the second operation was a coeliotomy after uterine rupture, and says that Dr. Boagni performed it.

Dr. Achier, published at Lyons in 1860 what purported to be his two operations. He does not say he performed them, but he leaves the reader to infer that he did. The second is a very ingenious conception of an extra- and intra-uterine pregnancy, the placenta remaining in utero, whilst the foetus and membranes have escaped by rupture, through the cicatrix of a former Caesarean operation and been developed outside of the uterus. Such a Case I have seen; but I do not know of one as far back as 1851.

Dr. (7) Dabrin, gave the first operation to Dr. Achier, assisted by Dr. Pilate and himself, and the second likewise a Caesarean, to

Dr. Pilate; and the third a case of rupture of the uterus, operated on after death, by coeliotomy, to Dr. Boagni.

This does not look like unravelling the mystery. The pertinacious lying of the Franco-American exceeds belief. One told the truth and two lied. The truth teller injured his own case by his style of writing, so that at one time he was thought by some of my medical friends to be the liar -- and the biggest liar

to be the truth-teller.

### The Dispute Closed

My next communication from Dr. Pilate entirely put at rest the pertinacious of Dr. Pilate and showed the record of Dr. Achier to be without foundation. Had Dr. Boagni written his letters in a less erratic manner mixing up English, French, Latin and Italian they would have been considered as of weight.

Dr. Pilate wrote with much more force than appeared to be telling the truth, although a living liar for many years. He was graduate in medicine, and yet had plausibility enough to be chosen the physician of some prominent planters, and to be elected physician of Dayton, Ohio. Instead of mending to lie at 75, he has always been dictating to telling untruths and sticking to them.

When Dr. Boagni wrote his letter of 15, 1871, it was without dates; so I immediately wrote to him, and he supplied which I added to the said letter, and scored with red ink as will be noted, dates are quite different from those of who made the first, January 5th, 1850, the second, 20 months later; both being Caesarean operations. He had evidently no impression whilst living in Louisiana, that he was the operator, so that when (enquired) made, the credit should be given to him.

What changed the whole complexion of the case was the finding by Dr. Boagni in a box, of two leaves of an old ledger among some waste papers, that bore every appearance of age, in the colour of the paper faded light-brown of the ink. These were torn, but not materially defaced, were evidently as old as their dates indicated. Here were the entire services rendered in correspondence with the dates of the letter of April 5th, 1871. The operations noted, and the nocturnal visit.

These papers corresponding in date to the original letter of Dr. Boagni were sent to Dr. Reeve of Dayton, who notified Dr. Boagni of their arrival, and character, but he declined to call and examine them; so that Reeve was convinced, that he and Achier tried to steal Dr. Boagni's case. He would never have believed this of Dr. Boagni.

### The Whole Story Condensed

On January 30th, 1850, a Caesarean operation was performed in Louisiana, near Opelousas, by Dr. Vincent Boagni, on a slave Mr. A. Rocquet, living on the Teche road. The patient was aged 22 - 5 ft., high - hand - and in robust health. The operation took place on the third day of labour when the woman was cold and much exhausted. The patient was a male, full grown and dead. The man recovered in three weeks.

The case was communicated by the doctor in answer to a circular of inquiry on 15, 1871.

2nd Pregnancy -- On July 30th, 1851, the patient ruptured her uterus after a few labor; Dr. Boagni performed coeliotomy she recovered in a month, although was discreet enough to eat until she became fifth day, and suffered in consequence, an attack of indigestion on the night of 4th.

3rd Pregnancy -- On May 4th, 1853, she ruptured her uterus at term, and died of internal hemorrhage. Dr. Boagni found her on arrival, opened her, but the foetus was dead. He believed that the placenta had been implanted over the seat of the rupture.

In August 1859, the first and second operation was claimed as his own by Dr. Pilate of Dayton, Ohio, who brought so many letters in his favour, that for some time he was thought by several medical men to be the rightful claimant; but at last Dr. Boagni discovered among some waste papers two leaves of an old ledger, which bore, in which were three entries, corresponding with the dates sent me in for the two sections, and the night Dr. Pilate had always claimed that the first and second operations were identical. Dr. Boagni was not present, that Dr. Achier assisted him -- and that Dr. Achier present, but too much intoxicated to be of any way.

Dr. Boagni said that Dr. Achier assisted him, and that he was called in consultation to operate.

In 1859, Dr. Achier sent to Dr. Bowdler of Lyons, a claim to the first operation, he describes as Caesarean, and the second which is given as a unique utero-abdominal pregnancy, the placenta being in the abdominal cyst outside; and cord through an unclosed uterine wound. Dr. Bowdler, when written to, sent me the original letter of Dr. Achier, describing his two operations.

As Dr. Dabrin was the only one present who made no claim, I hunted him up in the State of France, and sent him a long letter detailing the three claims, and asked him to give the truth as an impartial witness. He gave as the "exact truth" that both operations were Caesarean; that Dr. Achier performed the first, and Dr. Pilate the second, and closed all that Pilate stated, except his claim to the first operation.

Dr. Boagni explained away all that Dr. Achier had said, putting his statement down as a tentative measure against him, and closed the case by discovering and securing as evidence the ledger leaves mentioned. When Dr. Pilate heard of this he made a reply, and expressed to Dr. Reeve of Dayton who had them, no desire to examine them.

This case took thirteen months to fully settle.



# The LaFleurs -- Physicians

THEY SERVED THE GREAT OPELOUSAS PRAIRIE

Serving the people of the great prairie stretches west of Opelousas, the Doctors LaFleur have been a symbol of their profession for several generations.

The first of the large and old French family of LaFleur to become a doctor was Armand LaFleur, son of Artheluis LaFleur and Adele Pitre.

He was born at L'Ance d Bellaire, known to the English-speaking people as Bellaire's Cove. Here his father had a large plantation.

Dr. Armand LaFleur studied medicine in Louisville, Ky., and was graduated from the medical college there. He returned to begin practice of medicine in his own prairie country, settling on a farm in "L'Ance des Valliers," so called from old days when the section could only be traversed on horseback. This is a small area between L'Ance Bellaire and L'Ance aux Pailles, near Ville Platte.

When Evangeline Parish was created in 1810 from a portion of St. Landry, and Ville Platte was established as the new parish seat, Dr. Armand LaFleur was the first doctor of the new parish.

He was married to Mary Evelyn "Mamie" Fontenot, and were the parents of Leo, Aron and Teurling LaFleur. They lost an infant son, Leslie. By a second marriage to Ophelia Carroll, Dr. LaFleur was the father of one daughter, Viola, who is Mrs. L. V. Chachere.

When Dr. Armand LaFleur made his rounds in the prairie, he frequently took along his young cousin, Ertemon LaFleur, who soon became the second of his family to the medical profession.

Dr. Ertemon LaFleur was the son of Artemon LaFleur Sr., a well-known planter of the Prairie Ronde section, and Estelle Pitre. He received his early education in schools of the parish, attended Mount Lebanon (now Louisiana College), and Southern Louisiana Institute, and began medical studies at Sewanee University in Tennessee. He completed his medical studies at Tulane University, where he was graduated in the class of 1908.

In the same year, Dr. LaFleur married Alta Dupre, member of a prominent South Louisiana family. Their children, Irena (Mrs. Walter Ledoux), Sherwin, Roland, Dr. N. C. LaFleur and Father Gene LaFleur, all live in this community, and one of them has followed his father's profession.

Dr. Ertemon LaFleur was a prominent physician and surgeon of this area --- for 30 years he was a familiar figure in the section where he practiced.

For many years he was a "horse and buggy" doctor, and eventually acquired the first automobile in Prairie Ronde --- ordered from Sears and Roebuck.

He owned a large farm in the Prairie, and found time to make it one of the models of the community --- one of the most modern improved agricultural enterprises in this section of the state.

Dr. LaFleur was an untiring worker from 1877 until his death in 1946 in the Rural Electrification Administration. He belonged to the St. Landry Parish, Louisiana and American Medical Associations, and was a highly esteemed member of this community.

Dr. Nathan C. LaFleur has followed in the footsteps of his father, attending schools in this parish and receiving his medical degree at Tulane University. During World War II he served his country, and was stationed at Guam for several years. Now practicing physician of this parish, Dr. LaFleur is a "prairie" doctor like his father.

Dr. Ertemon LaFleur, another member of the old French family, was a younger brother of Dr. Armand LaFleur. Educated at Tulane, he went with a group of members of his profession on a scientific research expedition to Guatemala, where he was killed by natives.



DR. ARMAND LaFLEUR -- first of the LaFleur doctors.



DR. ERTEMON LaFLEUR -- prominent physician and planter of St. Landry parish. He died Dec. 10, 1946.



DR. MOISE LaFLEUR -- he gave his life.



DR. N. C. LaFLEUR -- carries on the family medical tradition.

## PLANTATION FOR SALE.

The undersigned offers for sale his Plantation, situated on Bayou Teche, in Petit Bois, measuring 700 arpents, more or less, with all the Buildings and Improvements thereon erected. There is on said plantation about 250 arpents of wood land. Said plantation has also a right to make wood on a wood land of 960 arpents, situated at about eight arpents from said plantation, ceded by the Spanish Government for the use of the inhabitants of Petit Bois.

For terms or other particulars apply to Mr. Valiere Roy or the undersigned  
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Barré's Landing, 15th Jan. 1853. — Sm.

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## St. Landry Homestead and Loan Association, OF ST. LANDRY PARISH, LA.

No. 1 ..... Shares.  
The holder of this book, No. 1, Miss Effie B. Ealer, has subscribed to ..... shares of this Association, now standing in ..... name on the books thereof. Said shares are to be paid up by consecutive weekly payments of twenty-five cents per share, in accordance with the terms of the Charter and By-Laws, hereto appended, which are hereby accepted as binding alike upon ..... and the Association.

Amount Stock, \$100.00  
E. D. Estilette, President.  
C. N. Ealer, Secretary.  
Effie B. Ealer, Shareholder.

STOCK SUBSCRIPTION BOOK NO. 1 of the St. Landry Homestead and Loan Association was issued to Miss Effie B. Ealer. She bought five shares, worth \$1,000, and paid part cash and the rest in installments as was recorded in special pages at the rear of the book. The charter of the association was drawn up March 22, 1888. The book was printed in 1891, as shown on title page. Miss Ealer was one of the incorporators, although represented on the board by Charles N. Ealer. The original officers and board are on the title page. Miss Ealer made her first stock payment March 12, 1899.

## Dr. Todd

Beloved Dr. David L. Todd, who gave the doctor's kit which he used during the Civil War (shown elsewhere in this issue) to his protegee, the late Dr. S.B. Wolff, was a practicing physician in Washington for approximately half a century before his death Dec. 19, 1910.

Dr. Todd's daughter-in-law, Mrs. May S. Todd, lives at 611 S. Main in Opelousas. The Washington doctor's granddaughter, Mrs. Henry E. Gaurieux of Covington, writes of her grandfather: "According to my Aunt Evie (Mrs. Evie Todd Gillis of San Antonio, Tex.), Grandpa was born near Opelousas but for some reason was sent north at a very early age for his education. I always thought he was born in Connecticut but fought on the Confederate side in the Civil War. I am sure he fought on the side of the South.

"I was ten years old when Grandpa died but I can remember him vividly as he was an imposing personality and much like Abraham Lincoln in size and appearance. He spoke slowly and always intelligently and had a priceless dry sense of humor.

"He had a little office on the lawn of his home in Washington, La. and a skeleton we children liked to connect with weird tales." (The office and home of Dr. Todd in Washington are still standing. The home is now the residence of the J. M. Landreneau family.)

"You might be interested to know," Mrs. Gaurieux continued, "that he had leeches in jars which he used to reduce high blood pressure. He liked to walk to his calls as much as possible and think. He was never in a hurry and refused to let people rush him.

"My grandfather thought highly of Dr. Sylvian Wolff and his wife and was deeply interested in the brilliant young doctor's future." (The late Dr. Wolff's wife lives at 663 S. Main in Opelousas.)

After Dr. Todd's death Dec. 19, 1910, the following obituary appeared in the New Orleans Times-Democrat:

"Washington, La., Dec. 21 - The death of Dr. Todd, which occurred suddenly last Thursday evening, causes sorrow to this community, as well as the surrounding country and adjoining towns, where he has been physician, friend and advisor for half his life.

"He was loved and honored for his sterling qualities as well as his valuable professional services. His truthfulness, honesty and uprightness had long become a by-word in this vicinity. He was a man of fine physique and

intellect and though he was eighty-three years old at his death, his faculties retained their keenness and he continued his practice to the day of his death.

"A proclamation issued by the mayor caused all business houses to close, and in spite of a pouring rain, which lasted all day, people came far and near attended the funeral, which was the largest ever seen in the town.

"Dr. Todd was buried from the Catholic Church, regardless of creed, he was visited by ministers of other denominations, who knelt in prayer at his bier. His pall-bearers were ex-Confederate soldiers, who with gray heads bowed in sorrow and voices broken by sobs, told of the doctor's bravery and kindness. At the grave they blew the last bugle call.

"Dr. Todd was born in Connecticut and lived up to the old Puritan doctrines of his forefathers. He was a graduate of Harvard. After finishing his medical studies in Philadelphia he entered the Charity Hospital in New Orleans and served until 1853. Besides rearing a large family of his own, he cared for a number of orphans. His death, like his life, was quiet and unostentatious. He was a true child of nature and enjoyed nothing more than camping in the woods."

After the above had been written, we received a kind letter from Mrs. Jerome D. Stocking of Clarendon, Tex., who wrote for us some of her childhood recollections of her grandfather, Dr. David L. Todd. She writes:

"He had a very keen sense of humor. He was highly educated.

"Dr. Todd was a son of nature, and used to spend days sitting on the banks of the bayou near Washington; this was his great form of relaxation.

"He walked on every call he made, and on one occasion, he was awakened in the middle of the night to make a call. The patient was some two or three miles away and the family wanted him to hurry to the bedside, so they asked to drive him in a buggy.

"Dr. Todd refused to ride, and the family became impatient.

"The doctor then said 'Well, if the patient is that ill that I do not have time to walk there, then why did you get me out of bed? You should go for the priest and not a doctor.'

"In his little office he had a shelf with jars of leeches in them. These he used on people to reduce high blood pressure. They were placed on the back of the neck and left there until they fell off."



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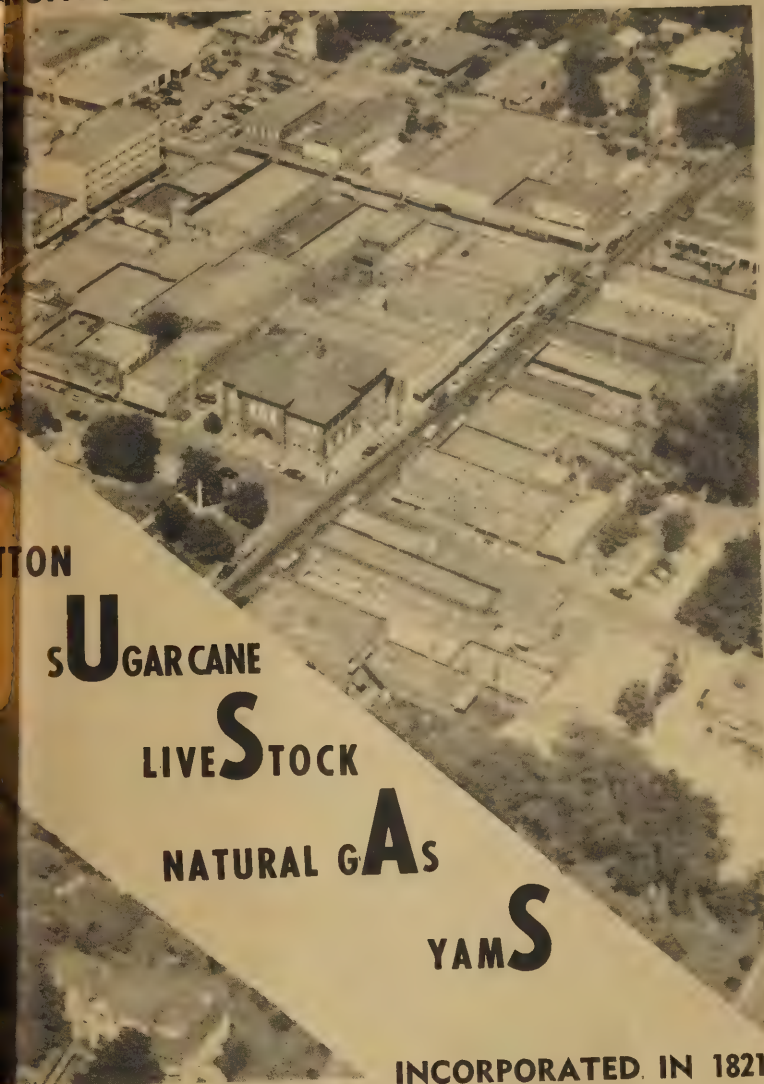
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Was organized July 10, 1933 as the Opelousas Credit Association, Inc. and has operated continuously since then. Mr. W. D. Lastrapes assumed managership June 1, 1948. During the last year the office was moved to present location and a completely new filing system installed. In 1954 the name was changed to "Credit Bureau of Opelousas" It is affiliated with the Associated Credit Bureaus of America and can furnish national and local reports.

THE ST. LANDRY LEGAL NEWS, a complete semi-weekly containing all legal documents filed with the Clerk of Court, is owned and operated by Mr. Lastrapes. It contains all sales, mortgages, suits, judgments, minutes of the Court and everything filed for record. It is widely circulated in the parish.

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# First Methodist Church



**OLD FIRST METHODIST CHURCH**, built about 1900, at top, now torn down and new church—architect's sketch here—is being built today. Fine cypress lumber from old church went into new Teenage Center in City Park, a handsome building recently completed. (Old church photo by Dorothy Dunbar).

By B. A. ROSE

The very beginning of the Methodist Church in Opelousas started when Bishops Asbury and Whatcoat in Oct. 1805 sent Elisha W. Bowman as "Missionary to Louisiana" with his particular appointment as the "Appalouzas" (as it is shown in the minutes of the Conference Records) territory.

He landed near the mouth of the "River Tash" (Teche), rode upstream eighty miles, reached a large French settlement, perhaps St. Martinville, passed through a small tribe of Indians, crossed the Vermillion River, and came to the Opelousas Country. The following day he reached the Catholic Church which had been established at Washington in the year 1777. The church was later moved to Opelousas—if this removal was after the year 1806, Bowman had reached the vicinity of the present town of Washington. Hence Opelousas became the cradle of Methodism in the state of Louisiana.

Learner Bowman writes, "In the month of August, 1806, I visited Opelousas and met with Bro. Bowman and administered the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper to the little society he had formed there."

The first session of the La. Conference of the Methodist Church was held in Opelousas on Wednesday, the sixth of Jan. 1847.

One of the early leaders of the Methodist Church in Opelousas was Seth Lewis. He and his wife were received into the church in the year 1817 by Thomas Nixon. Many of his descendants are still active in the program of the church.

Records indicate that the first church was a meeting house either on South Court or South Main in the vicinity of the Thomas Lewis home. The next site was in the vicinity of the Bertheaud Motor Co. on Cane St.

The present site of half a square was purchased from a Fonda family in the year 1857. The first church erected on this site faced Bellevue St. It was torn down at the turn of the century and the present building was built shortly after. Much of the material in the old building was used in the construction of the present building.

The church plans next year to celebrate its 150th anniversary in the new building, the erection of which it hopes to start within the next two months.

# Negro Baptists

The first Negro Baptist Church in St. Landry Parish was also the first Baptist Church west of the Mississippi. It was organized by a pioneer missionary colored minister from South Carolina, Rev. Joseph Willis, at Bayou Chicot. It was organized with six members, in 1812. This was part of the great Opelousas Territory, and when this historic church was organized, most of the negroes at that time were slaves. Joseph Willis was a free man of color, serving the people of his race during the early days of Louisiana's history as a state.

The first Negro Baptist Church established in the town of Opelousas was Little Zion Baptist Church, organized at a blacksmith shop near the present church. It was organized June 29, 1867. Baptisms were performed in the small bayou, "Bayou Prudhomme", or "Bayou Kenison." At this time eleven people were baptized.

Exactly when the first church was built is not definitely known, but it was partly destroyed by fire about 30-years ago, and subsequently rebuilt.

Among leading members of Little Zion was the late Prof. Felix Mack, a pioneer in educational work among negroes. Other pioneers in the same field are Prof. and Mrs. W. W. Solette, both of whom are retired school teachers. Professor Solette served as supervisor of colored schools for many years in West Baton Rouge Parish, and later came to this section. Other pioneer church members and educators who are members of Little Zion are Prof. F. J. Jackson, Mrs. Leana Thibodeaux, Mrs. Helen Johnson, Mrs. Davies and others.

Pastors of Little Zion were, in order, the Rev. Joseph Davenport, McNeal, Samuel White, J. L. Burrell, A. M. Newman, L. C. Simon, F. Hams, W. M. Johnson, L. C. Simon, and C. J. Boswell, the present minister.

In Washington, the first Baptist Church was the Shiloh Baptist Church, organized in 1871. It was built near Bayou Carron, and in 1910 it was moved to its present location. Among the pastors who have served there in the past are the Rev. White, Fontenot, A. G. Jackson, M. J. Jackson, Jeff Peterson, and the present pastor, the Rev. M. W. Antoine.

The Emma Zion Baptist Church in Washington was organized in 1897 by the Rev. L. J. Campbell, who remained there for a number of years. Others who followed him were Rev. E. D. Rideaux, T. R. Johnson, J. G. Frank, H. Thomas, and the present pastor, the Rev. Wilkin Jones.



# First Presbyterian Church

The first Presbyterian Church of Opelousas was organized May 20, 1871, with the following charter members: James A. Houston, Mary A. Houston, Kate Houston, Dr. Louis Hadden, Cora Truman, John E. Wilson, Louisa E. Wilson, and Annie E. Wilson. The following year on March 21, 1882 the trustees of the church, of whom there were five, purchased a lot on Main and Cherry sts., on which was subsequently erected the first Church Building.

The first service in the new church was held March 1883, and since that time the building has been in regular use as a place of worship. The pulpit has been filled by a resident pastor, or on occasions by a visiting evangelist.

Historians of the Presbyterian Church record that while the membership has at no time been a large one, the people have always been loyal and faithful.

Ministers who served the Church in its early life were:

James A. McConnell, May 30, 1871-August 1872; C. S. Dodd, Sept. 28, 1872-Oct. 1873; Wm. M. Stratton, May 1875-July 1875; A. Z. Young and M. B. Shaw (Evangelistic work) 1874-1875; Edwin Cater, April 1876-April 1878; F. W. Lewis, Jan. 1882-1890.

Members of the Church who served as Elders are: L. A. Black-1871; J. B. Wilson-1872; D. L. Hadden-1886; J. H. Houston-1891; Alex-

ander Mair-1897; F. L. McGarkle-1900; E. Wilson-1910; F. J. Tillotson-1920; Bertheaud-1927; Dr. Newton H. Brown-1940; D. A. Long-June 2, 1940; J. Anthony-Oct. 10, 1943.

Members who served as Deacons are: A. C. Kennedy-1897; E. S. Andrus-1900; M. A. McLeod-1927; Sam Bertheaud-1931; L. McGuire-1934; Sidney Benson, Jr., D. A. Long-1936; E. P. Smiley, Sr., Max McLeod - 1940; L. D. McLeod-1941; Leonard Swinney; J. N. Smith, R.-1943; Low-1941; Oren Briggs-1941; Harvey-1944; Rigby Owen-1944; Fred R. - 1944.

Members of the church have served as historians through the years, and the present data was compiled by the active historian, Mrs. J. W. Low, with the aid of a number of older church historians and members.

The present brick educational structure was erected in 1952, begun during the ministry of Dr. C. B. Tombs, and following his death the work continued under the administration of Dr. J. A. Reed, the present minister.

Traditional in style, the modern edifice stands to the rear of the old church, on the corner of Main and Cane St., on the same lot originally purchased by the founders of the First Presbyterian Church in Opelousas.



**OLD BARRY RESIDENCE** at Grand Coteau, home of Mrs. Edward Victor Barry, who is seated on the porch. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

Fenelon Cannon. Theodos S. Robin:

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Opelousas, January 31st 1852.

### Notice to the Public.

**T**HE undersigned, merchants in Washington, wishing to close their partnership, in that town, and dissolve the partnership, announce to the public in general that they will sell off their large stock of Goods at cost, but only for cash.

Persons indebted to them are requested to come and settle in the shortest delay.

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EPHYPHANY EPISCOPAL CHURCH in Opelousas, as it appears today, at Un.on and Landry streets. (Daily World Photo).



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH in Opelousas, old building and the old church was built in 1883 and improved and expanded several times, new side by side. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

## First Baptist Church

The history of the Baptist Church in Opelousas, written in 1938 by the Rev. J. B. Brock, who was assisted in his research by Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Phillips and Miss Daisy-Thompson, is an interesting one.

The First Baptist Church was first organized in 1880, when Dr. W.C. Friley and the Rev. Ed. W. Kelley came to Opelousas and held a meeting in the court house, and at the close of the meeting organized the church.

Quoting from a letter written by Mrs. Rhinehart, nee Stella Truman, "I do know that from the time of Dr. Friley's meeting my father held a Sunday School in the court house every Sunday afternoon." The names of the earliest known members were W.L. Truman, Mrs. E.J. Lassiter, Mrs. Shara Summerlin and Mrs. Addie Thompson.

The first pastor was the Rev. W. P. Carter, who was here for two or three years. He was succeeded by the Rev. A. P. Scofield, who was pastor when the first meeting house was erected in 1883.

Written on a cornerstone are the following words, "Erected by the State Mission Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. W. C. Friley, Cor. Sec. J. P. Everett, Pres." The cornerstone was laid by the Masons. Members and friends contributed to the erection and maintenance, as did the Baptist Mission Board. For forty years the Mission Board helped with financial affairs, until in 1920 when there was sufficient membership to maintain the church locally.

The land on which the parsonage and church was erected was bought by W. L. Truman as trustee for the church from Charles Lastrapes, June 7, 1883. It was incorporated, Dec. 2, 1893.

Early membership was very small, and Rev. Brock states that prominent among these were W. L. Truman, Mrs. E. J. Lassiter and Dr. Parker.

The Rev. L. M. Phillips was the next pastor, and it was he who built the parsonage. In 1895 he was followed by A. L. Johnston, who was followed by his brother George Johnston, who stayed until 1897 or 1898, and for the next two years the church was without a pastor.

Truman maintained a Sunday School and Mrs. Lassiter continued with the Ladies Aid. In 1900 a minister named Love came, but was so discouraged that he never unpacked his trunk. Later in the year Reverend Brock, who had just graduated from Louisville Seminary, came here and accepted the work. He found only eleven resident members, and of these only one was a man—Josephus Brown. He served as deacon.

During this time the church was repaired and painted, sidewalks were built and the street gravelled. The debt on the parsonage was lifted. Reverend Brock served for six years at this time, and later served from 1912 to 1913.

Through the following decades the church gradually expanded until in 1952 the membership was increased to 511, and the present handsome brick structure was erected, under the administration of the Rev. George Nichols. Many of the former pastors of the church attended the dedication of the new First Baptist Church, which stands side by side with the old.

## Episcopal Church

### HISTORY AS RECORDED IN PARISH REGISTER

The history of the Church of the Epiphany in Opelousas as recorded in the Parish Register shows that the church is this year celebrating its centennial, having been in existence for a hundred years.

The original Church which was built after the order of the Parthenon (This was the era of the Greek Revival) was replaced in 1880, during the administration of Rev. M.C.P.K. Coombe, pastor at that time.

The present church building, pictured, stands on the original lot purchased by the first rector, the Rev. David Kerr. The Church of the Epiphany is one of the oldest churches still standing, as a great many of our churches have been razed and rebuilt in the last half century.

The history as recorded in the Parish register reads as follows:

"In the spring of the year 1855, several persons favorable to the establishment of the Protestant Episcopal Church met in the town of Opelousas, and resolved to invite a clergyman at a salary of One Thousand Dollars per annum, to organize a parish. By the advice and recommendation of the Rt. Rev. Leonidas Polk, D.D., the Bishop of the Diocese of Louisiana, the Rev. David Kerr, rector of St. Peters Church, New Orleans, was on the 23rd day of May unanimously invited to undertake the enterprise.

"The invitation was accepted on the 18th of June, and the 15th July of the same year he preached his inaugural sermon in the Court House.

"Entering at once upon his new and unbroken field he continued to labor in Opelousas under adverse circumstances of an extraordinary nature until April 13, 1857, when he resigned.

"Within this period of 22 months there was organized a good congregation with a vestry which was instructed in the ritual of the church having a scientific choir, with a melodeon and a Sunday School was raised.

"The Church of the Epiphany was admitted into union with the Diocese of Louisiana, and incorporated by an Act of the Legislature of the State. A valuable square of ground in the center of the town was purchased as the site of the church, and the lumber for the frame of an edifice after the order of the Parthenon was placed upon the square. There were also forty Baptisms, twelve persons confirmed and 27 received the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

"The Church of the Epiphany was Consecrated by the Rt. Rev. Leonidas Polk, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese, on the 1st day of March, 1861.

"There were occasional services only until the Rev. Charles Seymour took charge in April, 1867. He resigned July 1867.

"The church was closed from July 1867

until the Rev. Charles Morrison took charge, Jan. 1868. During his administration the lot was fenced, a large organ melodeon purchased, venetian blinds put on the church, and other improvements effected. Mr. Morrison resigned March 1870. The church was closed again until the Rev. J.W. Weddell took charge Oct. 1870. He resigned Jan. 1872.

"The church was closed again until the Rev. G.R. Upton gave occasional services, beginning July 1872.

"Mr. Upton took full charge in Jan. 1873, and resigned Whitsunday (June 3) 1873.

"The Rev. P. McFarlane took charge July 1873, and resigned holding his last service (Friday), July 10, 1874.

"The Rev. Robert S. Stuart was in charge from 1875 until 1876.

"Occasional services only were held until the Rev. G.P.K. Coombe became rector in 1880. At this time the original church building and most of the lot was sold, the corner of the lot on Union and Landry Street being retained, and on this corner a new church was erected.

"The Rev. Mr. Coombe resigned in 1883.

"The Rev. C.C. Kramer was rector from 1883 until 1885 and continued to visit the Parish and hold occasional services until 1887.

"The Rev. J. Narbonne Abon took charge Aug. 15, 1890, and resigned Quinquagesima Sunday, Feb. 28, 1892.

"The Rev. Arthur Randles Price, resident in Washington, was in charge from 1893 until 1895.

"The Rev. W.S. Slack, in Deacon's orders, resident in Washington, took charge April 26, 1896. Ordained priest 1898. Resigned Jan. 1, 1902.

"The Rev. J. DeQuincy Doubeou was rector from 1906 until 1909.

"The Rev. George S. Gibbs was appointed priest in charge, resident in Crowley, La., in Feb. 1910. After four years of faithful service he departed this life in Feb. 1914.

"Occasional services were held by Mr. M. Doswell, Jr., lay reader, the Rev. C.B. X. Weed of Lake Charles, and the Ven. G. L. Tucker, Archdeacon of Southern Louisiana, until Oct. 1915.

"On Oct. 1, 1915, the Rev. Menard Doswell, Jr., in Deacon's orders, was appointed minister in charge, resident in Crowley. Ordained priest Dec. 17, 1916. In June 1917 the interior of the church was painted. Rev. Boswell resigned Oct. 1, 1917.

"From March 1921 to June 1922 services were held irregularly by Rev. J.T. McLaa.

"The Rev. Walter Lennie-Smith, under the appointment of the Bishop (Bp. Davis Sessums) took charge of the work in July, 1923, continuing his residence in Alexandria, and holding regular services on the 2nd and 4th

Sundays of each month.

"On May 1st, 1932, under the direction of the Rt. Rev. James Craik Morris, D.D., Bishop, the Rev. Mr. Lennie-Smith moved to Opelousas and continued his ministry in the parish as resident priest-in-charge. Removed residence to Lafayette, La., May 15, 1935.

"From Nov. 1935 to September, 1936, the Rev. Julius A. Pratt, in residence at Crowley, La. was in charge of Epiphany Parish.

"The Rev. H. Newton Griffith, in Deacon's orders, was appointed by the Rt. Rev. James Craik Morris, D.D., Bishop of Louisiana, to be Minister in charge of Epiphany parish, and to be in residence at Opelousas."

"On Nov. 15, 1936, in the church of the Epiphany, Opelousas, and representing the Bishop of Arkansas, I ordained to the priesthood the Rev. Herbert Newton Griffith, the Rev. Carleton D. Lathrop was the presenter, the Rev. William S. Slack, D.D., was the preacher; the Rev. George A.A. Tucker said the Litany; the Rev. Julius A. Pratt, Jr. was master of ceremonies." This is signed Jas. Craik Morris, Bishop of Louisiana.

"On July 4, 1937, being the Sixth Sunday after Trinity, I instituted the Rev. Herbert Newton Griffith as rector of the Church of the Epiphany in the presence of a large congregation. At the Celebration of the Holy Communion the rector was the celebrant and the Bishop preached." This is signed Jas. Craik Morris, Bishop of Louisiana.

"In 1947 the Rev. Herbert Newton Griffith resigned. Occasional services were held in the next two years, by ministers sent by the Bishop.

"In 1949, the present pastor, John Wesley Jeyes, said his first Mass on Easter Sunday. He has served at the Church of the Epiphany since that date.

## Negro Baptists

Information on the Negro Baptists, as supplied by Rev. G. C. Chaney, D. D., historian of the Seventh District Association for Negro Baptists, sheds light on many of the early churches in Opelousas and the surrounding areas.

Little Zion was the first church organized, in 1867, by Rev. J. P. Davenport.

Mount Olive was organized in 1890 by Rev. Felix Green, and subsequent additions were made to the church building by Dr. W. M. Johnson, in 1897, and Dr. V. B. Bryant. A new brick structure that stands today was erected in 1933 by D. A. A. Gandy.

St. Paul was organized by Rev. C. J. W. Boyd, June 28, 1899. He was followed by Rev. R. W. Nickerson, who served until his death. The next pastor, who is presently serving, was Dr. H. J. Gilliam, who has recently completed a modern church building with the aid of his members.

Mount Calvary was organized by Rev. Felix Green, in 1907. He served until his death and was followed by his son Milton Green, who was followed in 1939 by Rev. A. L. Frank, Rev. A. W. Rosette is the present pastor.

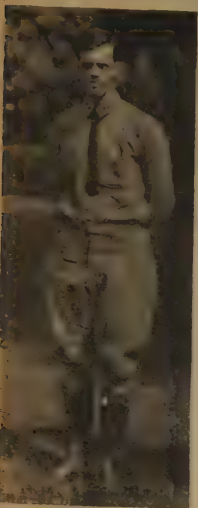
St. John was organized by Rev. A. N. Johnson in 1907, and he served until his death. Following him were Revs. G. W. Williams, H. J. Guillian, and the present pastor, Rev. A. Joseph.

In Lemoyne, St. Mark was organized in 1881 by Rev. V. L. Rideau. Revs. P. L. Lewis, G. C. Chaney, and L. P. Pointer followed him. Present pastor in 1955 is Rev. E. D. Henry.



# The Littells, Physicians

The first Littell to come to St. Landry Parish was Captain Eliakim Littell, who was married to Catherine Carroll. They first lived out at Poplar Grove, east of Opelousas, and owned land that extended into town to the present Littell home, residence of Mr. and Mrs. B.A. (Gus) Anderson (Mrs. Anderson was Alma Littell). Captain Littell came from New Jersey.



DR. R. M. LITTELL, JR.

Dr. Robert Hart Littell was their son, and the first of a long line of doctors who were to serve this parish and state. He married Arrietta Campbell, and built the family home on N. Union as a residence.

Dr. Littell received his education at the College of Physicians and

Surgeons, New York. He practiced medicine in Opelousas and the surrounding area for many years. His children were:

Dr. Robert M. Littell (Dr. Bob), Tulane; Dr. Benjamin Augustus Littell (Dr. Buster), Leonce Littell (who was in real estate) and Dr. Theophilus Hart Littell (who practiced in Ville Platte), Annie (who became Mrs. Kemp Catlett of Rosa), Katie (who married Henry Sampson of Houston), Mary (who never married), and Florence (married a War-telle).

"Dr. Bob" and "Dr. Buster" were old-time country doctors, who devoted their lives to the service of their fellow men, with little thought of themselves. Their lives were spent traveling by buggy and horseback to remote parts of the community, which at that time were reached through the worst kind of dirt roads. They brought life, and eased the death of untold numbers of this community, and to these and other doctors of their kind we can never pay tribute enough.

Two of Dr. Bob's sons became doctors. Isaac F. Little, graduate of Tulane, was an E.N. & T. specialist, and he practiced in Alexandria most of his life, serving also at the Angola Penal Farm. He died in 1953.

R.M. Littell, Jr. studied medicine at Tulane. He completed his internship at Charity and died shortly after beginning his career as a doctor at the U.S. Marine Hospital in N.O.

Eleanor, Mary, and Bertha Littell are the daughters of Dr. Bob.

Brian Littell is the third son of Dr. Bob. He is in business in Opelousas, and is an active civic worker of the community. He is president of the parish school board.

Dr. Buster's children were: Mary Octave ("Sing") Altha (Mrs. Gus. Anderson), Robert Hart, (who died recently) who was a chemical engineer, Edward Whipple, (fireman), Eugene Slack, (fireman), George, (died in infancy), and Dr. William Catlett Littell, who is practicing medicine in Opelousas.

Dr. William C. Littell received his B.S. at Tulane in 1931, his M.D. in 1935. He was a general practitioner in this area for the years following until 1942-46, when he served in the army, coming out as a lieutenant-colonel.

For one year he was at San Jose, where he was Chief of Hospital unit of Chemical Warfare; two years at Camp Rucker near Dothan, Ala., one year at Brooks General Hospital, Ft. Sain, Houston, San Antonio, where he treated the thousands of soldiers who had suffered frozen feet in the famous



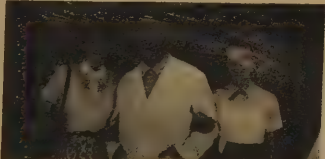
DR. ROBERT HART LITTELL -- first of Littell doctors.



DR. ROBERT M. (Bob) LITTELL - in World War I uniform.



DR. B. A. (Buster) LITTELL - delivered many hundreds of St. Landry residents who proudly called themselves "Dr. Buster's babies".



DR. ISAAC F. LITTELL - eye-ear-nose-throat specialist. (Only photo available was this heavily tinted one, hence will reproduce dark).

"Battle of the Bulge".

In 1950 Dr. Littell became a resident at Charity Hospital, in order to specialize in eye-ear-nose and throat, and in 1953 completed his residency, and returned to practice in Opelousas. He is married to Alma Bordelon, and they have two children, W.C. Littell Jr. and Susan Mary.

Dr. Theo Littell practiced for many years in Ville Platte. His children were T.J., who died in 1926 in his last year of high school, and Shirley, who is connected with an oil refinery at Beaumont.

Miss Eleanor Littell has recently retired, after forty-three years of teaching in the public school system of this parish, at Opelousas High school.



DR. WILLIAM CATLETT LITTELL - practicing today, is now ENT specialist.



VIEW OF NEW YORK HOSPITAL where Dr. Robert Hart Littell was graduated, and appeared at the top of his degree from that medical school.

**In the center of St. Landry Parish's Sportman's Paradise**  
**... Krotz Springs**

**Bee Theatre**  
Wholesome entertainment  
For the whole family  
Krotz Springs, La.

**Nall's Grocery**  
High Quality Meats  
Krotz Springs, La.

**Patin's**  
Esso Service  
**BAR & CAFE**  
Road Service Hiways 71-190  
Krotz Springs, La.



# Lazaro---Dr., Statesman



Ladislaz Lazaro was born near Ville Platte on the old Lazaro plantation, June 5, 1872. He was the only child of Alexandre Lazaro and Marie Denis Ortego, whom Alexandre Lazaro married after the death of his first wife, by whom he had two children, Mark and Elizabeth.

His father died when he was young, and his mother moved to Ville Platte. He was educated at public and private schools, attended Holy Cross College in New Orleans; was graduated from Louisville, Ky., Medical College in 1894 and practiced his profession in Washington, La., until 1913. He became interested in agricultural pursuits. Dr. Lazaro was president of the Parish School Board for four years; served in the State Senate 1908-12; was elected as a Democrat to the Sixty-third and the seven succeeding Congresses, and served from March 1913, until his death in Washington, D.C., March 30, 1927. Interment was in the old City Cemetery at Ville Platte.

Dr. Lazaro was a distinguished physician and statesman, and his record of service in both fields gave honor to the parish that claimed him as a native son. In one of the many eloquent tributes paid him by his colleagues in Congress there is one that because of its simplicity is especially noted: "... he loved life, he enjoyed it, and he loved human beings". Another in the same vein "He loved humanity and he loved to serve it". His wife was Mamie Curley, and they had four children: Mary, Elaine, Eloise, and Ladislaz.

Ladislaz Lazaro Jr. followed his father's profession, and is a practicing physician in Opelousas, where he is associated with the St. Landry clinic and hospital. He was born Feb. 8, 1910, and educated at Georgetown, 1926 and 1927. He was graduated from Tulane Medical School in 1933, and began practicing medicine in Opelousas immediately thereafter. He was in the army 1942-45, in Europe, and resumed practice in Opelousas on his return.

Dr. Lazaro is married to the former Lillian Boagni, and they have three children, Ladislaz Jr., born in 1937; Stephen Charles, born in 1941 and Denise, born June 6, 1946.

Dr. Lazaro resides in Opelousas, and owns part of the Lazaro place in Grand Prairie, having repaired the old family home there. He is interested in agriculture as was his father, and has started raising cattle on the old homestead.



**HENRY CHACHERE FAMILY**--The Chacheres were there on the day of this photograph (only a small part of the family) of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Chachere, who stand in the center, and some of their children and grandchildren. Many of the people in this photograph have not been identified for us but we can name some of them. This photograph was made about twenty-five or thirty years ago, and so many of the people in it have died, while the children in the photo are now married and have families.

Left to right on the front: "Bat" Wylie, Eldon Gil, Father Collard, (unidentified), Adolphe David, and, standing behind the children, Lee Gil Jr., Jeanne Gil, Henry Chachere and his wife, Aglala Boutte. Now, beginning at the extreme right and reading left on the front row are: Darius Richard, Roland Chachere, Ollie Wylie, Herbert Fontenot, Henry David, Yorick Chachere, (unidentified), Ike Chachere, Louis Chachere, and the rest unidentified.

Standing on the gallery left to right: Veillon Chachere holding a child, Felix Chachere holding a child, Mrs. Veillon Chachere, Mrs. Adolphe David, Mrs. Nita Richard, Mrs. Darius Fontenot, Mrs. Bat Wylie, Mrs. Lee Gil, Mrs. James O. Chachere, Mrs. Bob Chachere. Others in the rear are Leon LaVergne, Mrs. Bob McLelland, Mrs. Ceil Parker.



**EARLY TOLL FERRY** on the Atchafalaya river at Melville. This ferry was operated by Rose Dupuis who had the franchise for ferry operation at the time. Mr. Dupuis now resides in Lafayette and is a member of the firm of Parkerson & Dupuis. (Photo property of F. J. Dietlein Sr.)

*Pardevant vous 20<sup>e</sup> c. siècle  
forstall Régidor Perpétuel de la c. veau  
Orléans), Commandant Civil et militaire  
du Poste des Opelousas) fut présent  
en personne à la c. de chez les Vellon  
habitants de ce Poste lequel, de son bon gré,  
propre mouvement et dans la meilleure  
forme possible vend, cède, quitte, délaisse  
et transporte en toute propriété de  
maintenant et à toujours aux c. s. s. s.  
fontenot aussi habitants de ce Poste cy  
présent et acceptant une terre de  
quatorze arpents de face sur les profondeurs  
ordinaire, situés à la prairie de l'anglais  
provenant de Monsieur Joseph Larro  
et en conformité des lettres que ledit c. s. s.  
kudens s'oblige de remettre au d. s. s.  
acquéreur, laquelle terre ledit c. s. s.  
de Vellon garantit libre de toute  
hypothèque d'exécution de c. s. s. s.  
quelconque, la dite terre ainsi vendue  
pour et moyennant le prix de c. s. s.  
de deux cent vingt piastres payables*

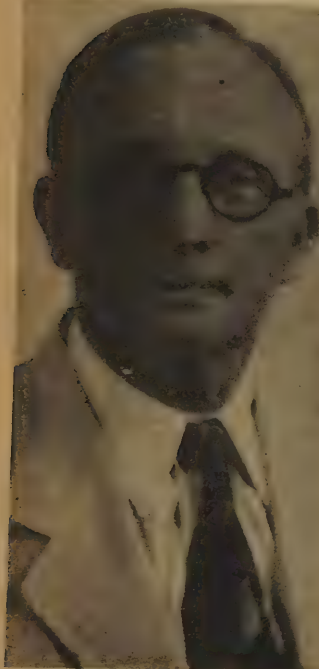
**HOW LAND WAS ACQUIRED** at Opelousas in the 18th century is demonstrated by the above document, slightly reduced in reproduction. This is the first page of a three-page land sale, made Oct. 25, 1791. By this document, Francois Fontenot bought 14 arpents of land from Chevalier De Villiers, commandant of the Poste des Opelousas, for 220 piastres, payable in cattle and other valuables. This was a mortgage sale, and Fontenot was forbidden to sell the land until he had made "parfait payement." The land was situated in "la prairie de l'anglais," (Prairie of Englishmen). The sale was passed before Nicolas Forstall, registrar from New Orleans, and the document above is a copy, filed here, of the original. The original was signed by the vendor and vendee, with Juan Gradsneigo and Francois Brunet as witnesses. At this time Louisiana was under Spanish rule, but Spain had retained the local French commandants when she got the territory from France.



# Mayers ---- Doctors, Musicians, Professors



PROFESSOR Rudolph Adelbert Mayer.



PROFESSOR Lionel Waldemar Mayer, Pioneer professor at S. L. I.

Professor Rudolph Adelbert Mayer was born in Munich, Bavaria, 1839. He was educated at Queens College, Belfast, Ireland. He was a professional musician, formerly member of the Orchestra of the Royal Opera (playing the violin cello). He was also a good chemist according to the standards of that day, having attended lectures under Leibig, the "Father of Organic Chemistry." He invented the first breechloading rifle in the world, and patented it in France, where he sold it to M. Martini. It evolved into "Martini Henry," which was used by the British Army for twenty years.

He was one of a family of professional musicians, his father having been for many years conductor of the Royal Bavarian Orchestra in Munich. His brother Louis Mayer, a violinist, organized the famous St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

Professor Mayer was also a teacher of music, and a photographer of note, having developed a technique of color photography almost a century ago. Before coming to America he was established in London and Belfast, Ireland.

He lived most of his life in Opelousas, where he was the organizer and conductor of the only symphony orchestra in this part of the state - the Corona Orchestra, which gave concerts in all of the surrounding towns and cities. He taught piano, violin, cornet, cello, and other instruments for many years in Opelousas, and was organist at the Catholic Church.

His brothers Louis, Charles and Frederic played for a while in the French Opera at New Orleans. He married Mary Dunnon O'Rourke at Charenton, St. Mary's parish.

The Mayer home, since about 1875, has been at 250 E. Bellevue, now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mayer and family. The children of Professor Mayer and his wife were all doctors, musicians or professors, serving this community during their lifetimes as people of culture and learning, at a time when education was hard to acquire.

Dr. Charles Raphael Mayer was born in Charenton and educated in public and private schools in Opelousas and Belfast. He clerked for Joseph Bloch in Opelousas, and when about 16 went to Chicago, where he clerked for Marshall Field and Co. He graduated in Medicine at the Homeopathic Medical School of Chicago, and practiced medicine at St. Martinsville and New Orleans. He died in New Orleans.

Dr. R.A. Mayer was born in Belfast June 1, 1869, and came to Opelousas when he was one year old. He was educated in public and private schools of Opelousas, and was graduated from Tulane Medical College in 1890. He assisted the quarantine officer and inspector for the Louisiana State Board of Health, and was stationed in Belize, British Honduras, to keep watch on the fever situations in Central America (1893-4). He practiced in Vermilion parish for a number of years, at Abbeville. He is still living, residing at Abbeville.

Professor Lionel Waldemar Mayer was court stenographer in Opelousas for many years, and was one of the first professors at Southwestern Louisiana Institute. He also taught in schools in New Orleans.

hers in St. Landry parish for many years - they were among the pioneer teachers in our public school system. A great many of the people in St. Landry can trace the splendid foundation of education that they received in school from these two beloved Opelousas teachers.

Mrs. Rudolph Adelbert Mayer was born Mary Dunnon O'Rourke, in the Village of Castle Pollard, County West Meath, Ireland, (also the birthplace of Gen. Packenham, who died commanding the British at the Battle of New Orleans).

She came to New Orleans with her father when a child of twelve and was educated in both French and English at Madame Durant's boarding school. She taught school in New Orleans, Charenton, and Opelousas for many years.

## DR. FREDERICK J. MAYER

Dr. Frederick J. Mayer was born in Charenton in 1869. He died in Opelousas in 1943. He was educated at Queen's College, Belfast. He taught school at Church Point and Chicot, studied medicine under Dr. Leslie, and was graduated in 1894 from the "New Orleans School of Medicine" --- which became Tulane a few years later.

He began his practice at Scott. He took an active part in politics of this era, and was a brilliant orator. He became quarantine officer during the administration of Blanchard, and was sent to London to attend a meeting on hygiene. He was connected with the Louisiana and Texas public health departments for many years, in campaigns against yellow fever, bubonic plague, and malaria. He was noted for his "Sunday Sanitary Sermons," in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. In politics his brilliant oratory helped elect Murphy J. Foster during the celebrated lottery reform, and Francis Tillou Nicholls, famous reconstruction candidate.

"Dr. Fred" is remembered by many for his eloquence, wit and learning. He was one of the most splendid orators that this parish ever produced -- a polished speaker extempore, who could discourse fluently on almost any subject. His pioneering in the field of public health has had far-reaching effects on the several states that felt his influence.

Formal and distinguished in appearance, he was a part of an era in which this parish was developed --- an era when a man was not ashamed of being an educated gentleman.

DR. FRED J. MAYER (Jr.) son of Lionel Mayer, was born in Opelousas, E. Bellevue St., in 1910. He attended Opelousas High school, first grade only, then was a graduate of La Salle Elementary school and Warren Easton Boys High School, New Orleans. He was graduated from S.L.I. in 1935 with the degree of Bachelor of Science; was assistant principal and coach, Washington High School, 1935-40; graduated at LSU Medical School 1944; was intern and resident in pediatrics, New Orleans Charity Hospital 1944-46, at which time specialty training was cut short by call to army duty. He had four years' active duty in the army, mostly abroad in Japan where he served as chief of X-Ray and Chief of Medicine in an Army general hospital, and was discharged in 1949 as a major in the Medical Corps. He was in general practice six months in Erath, and six months that time in Opelousas.



DR. FREDERICK J. MAYER.



DR. FRED J. MAYER, (Jr.) Photo taken in service in Japan.

## BUSINESS CARDS.

PHYSICIEN ET CHIRURGIEN,  
**Dr. R. B. HEWITT.**  
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON  
Office at C. S. Cozine's.  
Washington, La. Dec 6, '76

**DR. J. A. DERBANNE**  
DENTIST,  
Washington, La.  
All calls from the country will be promptly answered.  
Sept. 27-'11

**DR. A. D. HARMANSON**  
DENTIST,  
WASHINGTON, LA.

I am now prepared to serve the public at very moderate rates. Hard times -- Low prices -- Cash only. Office at Dr. E. P. Doremas' old stand.  
February, 21, 1877.

**KENNETH BAILLO**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW,  
Opelousas, La.,

Will practice in the Courts of the Eighth Judicial District. Office--lately occupied by O. H. Violet.

## NEW BARBER SHOP

Kept by

**C. O. RICHARD,**  
IN WINKLER BUILDING.

HAVING fitted out my Barber Shop, I am now prepared to render satisfaction to my friends as well as the public in all work in my line. Such as Shaving, Hair-cutting, Shampooing, &c., my charges being very moderate. I hope to have a fair share of patronage.  
Shaving, 15 cents, Hair-cutting, 35 cents, Shampooing, 35 cents.  
Washington, La. Dec. 2, 1876.



Misses EDITH and HILDA Mayer, posed in bathing costumes of the Gay Nineties.

Misses Edith and Hilda Mayer were teachers in St. Landry parish for many years.

## PUBLIC SALE.

THE subscriber will sell on SATURDAY the 22d January next, 1853, at the premises, through the medium of a public auctioneer, the property known as the

## Washington Hotel,

situated in the town of Washington, parish of St. Landry, being Lot No. 20, as represented on the plan of said town, bounded on the North by Carriere street, East by Washington street, South by Mountville street and West by Main street, together with all the BUILDINGS and IMPROVEMENTS thereon, and the Hotel's Furniture and Kitchen Utensils.

Also:--An OMNIBUS.  
Sale to commence at 1 o'clock, P. M.  
TERMS:--CASH.

**ISRAEL GUILLORY.**  
Washington, Dec. 18th, 1852.



THE OLD MAYER HOME--Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mayer and family. (Daily World Photo by Deville.)



# Daly Name Long in St. Landry Medicine



OLIVER P. DALY, Sr., first of three sons of St. Landry parish physicians.

Adrian Walker, Etta Belle married Bryan Williams.

Both Dr. Lawrence and O.P. Daly were general practitioners, serving the parish for many years. Both resided in Bellevue, and Dr. Lawrence Daly's home still stands on the road to Sunset, a large stone house set back in an avenue of azaleas and oaks. Dr. O.P. Daly's home was recently destroyed by fire, and only the avenue that once led to the house remains. It is across the road from the residence of Charles Daly, II, who lives in the family home.



DR. O. P. DALY, Jr., — eminent surgeon.

Several generations the Daly name has been associated with medicine in this state. Doctors in this prominent family have been in practice for many years. The family came to St. Landry Parish in 1817. Mr. Charles Daly, a planter, came here with his two sisters, Belle and Etta. His son Lawrence was a doctor and his son (who was orphaned) O.P. Daly, Sr., was a doctor.

Lawrence Daly had three sons, Frank, George, and the latter became a doctor. Dr. George Daly settled in Mississippi. Children of Dr. O.P. Daly were O.P., Jr., Lawrence, and Etta Belle. Josephine married

O.P. Daly, Jr. was born in St. Landry parish August 5, 1880. He attended public schools of the parish, and took his pre-medical course at L.S.U. In 1910 he was graduated from the Medical School of Tulane. He was a resident house surgeon at Charity hospital in New Orleans three years before engaging in private practice. He also served two years as assistant surgeon in the Eastern Louisiana Hospital at Jackson.

In 1914 he began the practice of medicine in Lafayette limiting his work to general surgery. In 1918 he entered the service as first lieutenant in the Medical Corps, serving at Camp Greenleaf, at the Elizabeth Hospital

in Washington, and at Camp Allentown, Pennsylvania, where he was discharged. In 1924 he erected the St. John's Hospital in Lafayette. He also erected the St. Landry Sanitarium in Opelousas, and he directed both of these institutions.

In 1938 he served as superintendent and chief surgeon of the newly erected Lafayette Charity Hospital, and continued in this capacity until 1941 when he was chosen as superintendent of the Charity Hospital in New Orleans, and served in this capacity until 1946.

Following this time Dr. Daly tried to retire from active practice, serving only as a consultant surgeon, but he was pressed to active work again, and since 1952 has been superintendent of the Lafayette Charity Hospital.

He is a member of the parish, district, state and southern medical associations, Louisiana Railway Surgeons Association, and is a fellow of the American Medical Association.

In 1914 he married Miss Gertrude Scranton of Lafayette whose father Dr. G.W. Scranton, was a well-known physician of that town. Of their children Nita Scranton (Mrs. J.V. Bordelon), Dorothy Gertrude (Mrs. Charles Compton), John Michael (Lieutenant, Air Force) and Dr. O. P. Daly III, the latter has carried the family name and profession.

Dr. O. P. Daly III is practicing in Lafayette, associated with the Lafayette Medical and Surgical Group, and working with Dr. Morgan in obstetrics and gynecology.

Born Feb. 4, 1923, he attended Lafayette High, L.S.U. pre-medical and Tulane Medical School, graduating in 1947. He interned at Charity hospital for one year, and specialized in obstetrics and gynecology by taking a three-year residency at Charity Hospital in New Orleans under Dr. Conrad G. Collins, from 1948-51.

In 1947 he married Miss Catherine Nelson, and they now have two children, Kitty and Eileen. In June 1951 he entered the service as first lieutenant in the Air Force, and while waiting to be called he accepted a short post as clinical director at Bogalusa Charity. In March 1952 he was called into active service, and went to Randolph A.F. Base, San Antonio, Tex., to attend flight surgeons school. He then served at Craig A.F.B. Selma, Ala., until discharged with the rank of Captain, March 1954. While at Craig he was chief of obstetrics and gynecology.



Dr. O. P. Daly, III, who carries on the family tradition.

Henry L. Garland. Louis Lastrapes.

**GARLAND & LASTRAPES,**  
**ATTORNEYS AT LAW.**  
WILL exercise their profession in the different Courts of the 15th Judicial District. Their office is in Opelousas.  
February 23d, 1852—1y.

**HOME MANUFACTURE!**  
The undersigned beg leave to inform the public in general that he is now prepared to furnish to order, at the shortest notice and on reasonable terms, **CARRIAGES, BUGGIES, &c.** Also, carriages repaired as usual at the shortest notice, and on reasonable terms.

The undersigned is also ready to execute all orders in the Blacksmith Business, Horse Shoeing &c. A share of public patronage is respectfully solicited.

**JOSEPH GIBBS.**  
Opelousas, February 24 1852—1y.

**BUILD IT BIG . . .**  
**OR BUILD IT SMALL . . .**  
**WE'RE HAPPY TO BUILD . . .**  
**AND HELP 'YOU-ALL'!**



# Opelousas Lumber Company

Established July 1945 — Robert Amy, owner — Errol Amy, Mgr.

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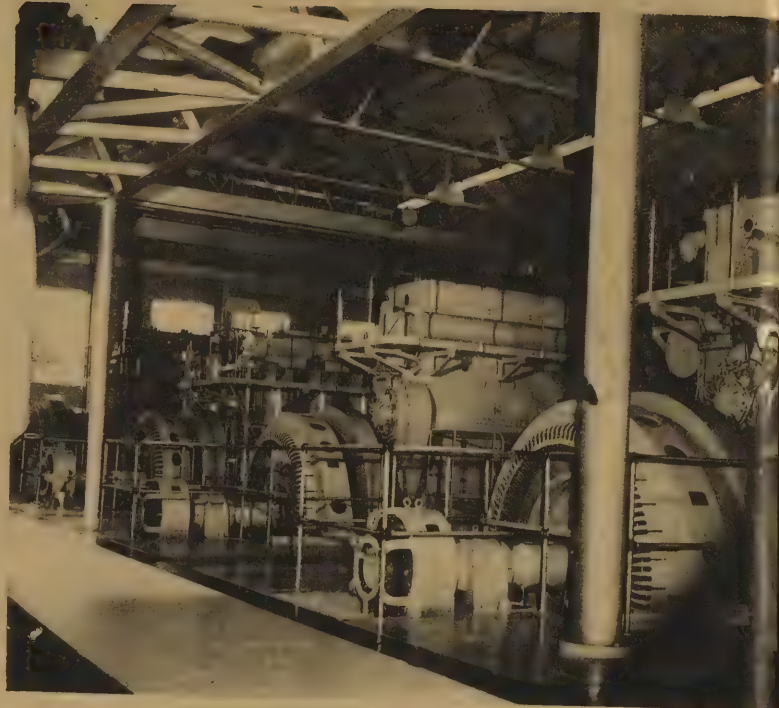


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Mayor

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**Vernon Schwartzenberg**  
**Theo Pitre**  
**Charles Lyman**  
**Dr. Fred J. Mayer**

**Roland Chachere**

Chief of Police

**Robert F. Dejean**

City Judge

**Harry Garland**

Attorney

**H. B. "Pete" Dejean**

Marshal of Ward One

**L. A. Darby**

City Clerk and Tax Collector

**Edwin Stagg**

Treasurer

**James Prados**

Plant Superintendent

# CITY OF OPELOUSAS

**ELECTRIC LIGHT & WATER PLANT**



*Je soussigné Jacques Courtbeau reconnais  
avoir donné par acte de mariage qu'une donation  
pour être faite, sans que personne puisse y mettre  
empêchement, comme bon à moy appartenant,  
à Juliette Desbordes épouse de J. Hollier la quantité de  
trois bestiaux femelles tant mères que vaches que  
jeirai un taureau, quatre juments, et un étalon,  
de plus un couple de vaches, à vingt cinq ans  
nommé Auguste, et outre vingt cinq arpents de terre  
situés sur côté à m. Courville, de l'autre à m. Des  
pour en jouir elle et ses héritiers, que je serai obligé de  
leur faire après le décès, lesquelles choses ne sont pas  
des vaines, ni aliénées pour cause de donation, et  
avant le mariage de la défunte de la dite m.  
de J. Hollier, en dix de quoi j'ai signé, sur le 22  
le vingt février mil sept cent soixante cinq, ainsi  
signé à la minute Courtbeau, Augustin G...  
J. Louis Cap. lemoine.*

*Et plus bas en latin: De quibus etiam aliis, et  
satis pour faire de minutes, comme n'y ayant au  
moins aux Capellains à la dite Orleans le vingt  
moy mil sept cent soixante cinq, et a été J. Hollier  
signé avec nous no. J. Courtbeau ainsi signé  
et nous no. J. Courtbeau*

A DONATION on Feb. 20, 1765, by pioneer settler Jacques Courtbeau is an interest-  
document in the clerk's office here.  
Written in French, the donation of Jacques Courtbeau to Juliette Desbordes, wife of  
(?) Hollier was made prior to her marriage. Courtbeau donated the following:  
Thirty cows, a bull, four mares, a stallion, a Negro of 24 or 25 years of age named  
Auguste, 24 arpents of land alongside Mde. Courieau and next to a woods, for the enjoy-  
ment of the young lady and her heirs.  
As there was no notary then in Opelousas, it added, the paper was drawn in the study  
of M. Hollier and, subsequently, on May 22, 1765, certified in New Orleans before notary  
J. Louis Cap. lemoine.  
On the back the donation was confirmed by the "Conciet superieur de la Province de la  
Louisianne," on June 2, 1766, and signed "Garcia," for the consell.  
(The document was reduced to 2/3 size for publication here).

owner.  
Now back to Bayou Courtbeau, going from  
Main east to the Southern Pacific right-of-  
way, we find the following owners:  
Water street, north side, none for three  
blocks, then A.L. Dupre, Carriere, none  
where the steamboat turnaround was dug  
back from the bayou, then Carriere. Con-  
tinuing across the SP, again on the north,  
are Bidstrup, Russell, Cotton Mills, Bid-  
strup, Mary Fisher. These later lots ex-  
tended north through the block to a Front  
street, except the first Bidstrup lot went  
half way, and a B.M. Lynch owned the other  
half.  
Back to Main, again along Water street,  
north side, C. Wolff, Gibbens, Mrs. Lalanne,  
Gibbens-Dupre-Mrs. Lalanne (joint owners),  
Rodrey Dupre, J.J. Carriere, Jas. Nichol-  
son, Wm. M. Crawford. Across the SP,  
Bidstrup owned two Large plats to the town  
limits.  
Back to Main, and east along the second,  
or Strig, street, north side, same owners  
as above to the SP tracks. South side, J.  
Honsky, Mrs. Lalanne, Donate, E.P. Dore-  
mus and Bidstrup.  
Back to Main and east along the third, or  
Dejean street, north side same as above  
except Mrs. Miller owned a small lot in the  
second block. South side, C. Wolff, Mrs.  
Lalanne, Paul and J. Lalanne, Rogers Bros.,  
St. John's Episcopal Church.  
Back to Main and east along the fourth,  
or then Dupre street, north side, street  
way three blocks long, Claude Screen, Mrs.  
Pinkin, Est. E.A. Biers, and beyond dead-  
end, Rogers Bros. South side, J. Claude,  
Baillo, Carron, Dr. Boagni.  
From Main again, east on the fifth, or  
Carriere street, north side, Sam Haas,  
Goings, Carron, C. Drake, Mrs. D.A.  
Crawford, W.M. Crawford, Bidstrup, South  
side, Dubuisson, J.R. Carriere, Mrs. Roy  
Morandi, Convent. Mrs. M. Miller,  
J. Carriere, Mrs. Curtis, Dupre, Bid-  
strup.  
From Main, east on the sixth, or then  
Sandville street, north side, Dubuisson,  
Carriere, Dubuisson, Convent, Jos.  
Mrs. M. Miller, J.J. Carriere, Mrs.  
Curtis, Bidstrup, South side, Hummel, Du-  
buisson, Catholic Church, Robert Harry, pub-

lic school, Bidstrup.  
From Main, east on the seventh, or then  
Hill street, north side, McNicholls, Town,  
John Courville, Catholic Church, Robert  
Harry, Public school and Bidstrup. South  
side, Leon Wolff, Chevis, Mrs. Elibe Fon-  
tenot, Thos Quirk, Bidstrup, Bidstrup.  
From Main, east on the eighth or Vine  
street, north side, Leon Wolff, Elizabeth  
Dearing, Mrs. E. Fontenot, Quirk, Bidstrup,  
Bidstrup. South side, A.L. Winkler, Sol Pitre,  
Barnabi, Joseph Leer, Hannah Wolff, Ellen  
Wallace, Trousdale, Thos Quirk, Campbell,  
Bidstrup, Bidstrup.  
From Main, east on the ninth, or St. Mit-  
chell street, north side, A.L. Winkler, Sol  
Pitre, Joseph Gauter, J. Leer, Mrs. Bras-  
ter, Vanhille, Wallace, Thos Quirk, Robert-  
son, Bidstrup, Hill, Bidstrup. South side,  
Miss M. Wartelle, Mrs. Braster, (south of her  
lot, Keary), Theresa Gradnigo, Henry Voltz,  
Adelaide Barnabi, Bidstrup, Kent, Bidstrup.  
From Main, east along the tenth, or Gar-  
rigue street, north side, Miss M. Wartelle,  
Mrs. Alide Daniels, Theresa Gradnigo, Dr.  
Splane, Adelaide Barnabi, Bidstrup (last  
five blocks). South side, Alcie Lalanne,  
Earnest Lalanne, Bggens, Gagg, Reed, Blaze  
Matte, Adelaide Barnabi, Julius James, Baz-  
zille, Lurk Mitchell, Tom Williams, Benja-  
min, Jones, Bidstrup.  
From Main, east along the 11th, or Ger-  
don street, north side, Alice Lalanne, Earn-  
est Lalanne, Gibbens, F. Robers, B. Matte,  
A. Barnabi, J. James, Bazzille, Lurk, Gillet,  
T. Williams, Bidstrup, South side, L.B. Car-  
riere, Morrogh, Smiley, Matte, Leon Dupre,  
Collingham, Campbell, Bidstrup (last three  
blocks).  
From Main, east along the 12th, or Buhot  
street, north side, Felicite Pitre in first  
block, rest as on south side above. South  
side, Julius James, Morrogh, Auber spin, Vic-  
tor Breaille, Edward Ykoff, Gallinghouse, Ed-  
ward Bazill, Bidstrup, Murray (two), Chas.  
Ellis (2).  
From Main, east along the southernmost,  
or Short street, for its five blocks, north  
side, James, Elter, V. Breaille, Fr. Wykoff,  
south side, Elter, Gall, Wykoff, Gallinghouse.  
Properties in the extreme southeast cor-  
ner were owned by Grandison Murray, Bid-



FIRST SUCCESSFUL OIL WELL drilled in St. Landry parish was the Bonny Bay Lum-  
ber Co. No. 1, discovery well for the fine Port Barre oil field. The well, containing  
many pay sands, is still producing. The Texas Co. recently completed the Bonny Bay  
Lumber Co. No. 66 in the same field, which is a huge salt dome oil trap with some of the  
oil sands pushed to almost a vertical position. There are a number of dual wells in the  
field—producing from two levels out of the same hold. (Photo from the Association of  
Commerce, donated it by Leo L. Ditch, Lafayette).



THE "HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS" had their moments, as witnessed by this charming  
photo of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Wright. Even old Dobbin seems to know that he is to take a  
pleasant Sunday afternoon drive, perhaps to Gournay's Lake and back. (Photo courtesy  
Bevan's Studio)

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# Gov. Jacques Dupre Home



strup, Shiloh Church and Aug. Jackson. Going back to Bayou Courtableau, property owners on the west side of Main street, beginning along the Bayou and working down, included these:

Wilkins, Transdale, Jas. Nicholson, Mrs. Reynolds, Prescott (a large tract), Boagni, Callahan, Nicholson, E.W. Cushman, Mrs. DeMaret, Ehrhardt, Trapini, Mayer, Baillio, Plonsky and Lynch, Mrs. Dossman, Est. Trainer, Mrs. Donnell, Nicholson, Stafford, Pierrel (two lots), Mrs. M.D. Kavanagh, F. Rogers, Carel, Wolff, Mrs. R. Dossman, Mose Kauffman, Carel Wolff, Jacob Plonsky, Noah Cage, Kate Cage, Jas. O'Riley, Gradnigo, Bynum, W.G. Quirk, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Doyle, Mary Williams, Klaus, A.L. Dupre. - Many notably the Prescotts, owned many lots throughout this part of the town. Ralph Boudreau owned a large tract. Other owners also included:

August Agnelly, Haggerty and Lombard, Est. of F. Ehrhardt, J. T. Dupre, Sandoz, Eves, Chas. Roy, Est. Nelson Hitten, Jesse Desrotell, Swan, Church M.E., McCaffery, Mrs. Schmidt, Neyland, Mrs. F.P. Cooke, "Church Prop.", M. Klaus, Sarah Lanards, Julie Bird, Baptiste Pitre, Madeline Barrel, St. Mark's Church, George Strode, Anthony Bates, Taylor Strode Lanisa King, Spencer Strode, Josephine Alfred, Sam Nelson.

Pierre Carriere, Ralph Boudreau, Alphonse Walker, Sarah Walker, Marx Klaus.



IN THE PLAISANCE SECTION just north-west of Opelousas and off the old Ville Platte road is the old Dupre home, which is said to have been the residence of Jacques Dupre, once governor of Louisiana. It is a typical raised house, with living quarters on the upper floor, which is supported by round brick pillars on the gallery front.

French doors open onto the upstairs gallery, which is approached by a flight of wide stairs. The hipped roof is now covered with corrugated iron. Minor changes are apparent in the screening of porch and addition of clapboarded gallery to replace the original open gallery and rails. But as a whole the house is in good repair, having been lived in for generations by descendants of Governor Dupre.

Laurent Dupre Sr. was an Acadian exile, who found refuge in Opelousas. He married Marie Joseph Fontenot (who by a second marriage after his death was the wife of Louis Fontenot, Sr., called "Grand Louis") in Opelousas. Their children were Lauren-

Dupre Jr., Jacques Dupre, Antoine Dupre and Eugenie Dupre.

Jacques Dupre married Theodiste Roy, they had one daughter and three sons. The daughter married a Rousseau, and had two girls, one of whom married Alexander Mouton, the other married Emile Mouton. His three sons were Lastie, Cyprien, and Onezime.

Lastie Dupre married Marie Tonton Berard, and their children were Hermine, Genevieve, and Celimene. Celimene married Charles Homere Mouton, Hermine married Jules Joubertie, and Octavie married Pierre Roy. The fourth child Aurelia, married Alphonse Mouton. A fifth, Amythe, married Edmond Cyprien Dupre.

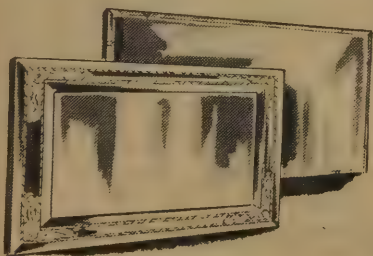
Sixth, Achille Dupre, married first Catherine Vanhille, and second Azema Berard. Their children were Joseph Terrance Dupre, whose widow Hermine Lastrap Dupre is still living. Other children were Marie Louise Dupre (who married John

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re) and the late Leon Dupre of Opelousas, Achille Dupre lived in the old home, and his son Terrebonne, inherited it from him. Mrs. Terrebonne Dupre went to live at the old place at the time of her marriage, 67 years ago and she and her children lived there until four years ago when they came to Opelousas after purchasing the home of the late Mrs. Doucie Mornhinveg.

Walter Dupre and Misses Wanda and Hazel Dupre reside with their mother in Opelousas, and the old place is now lived in by many.

A seventh child of Lastie Dupre, Lucien, married Zulime Carriere.

The Dupre family was traced to the present generation in great detail, of which it is only a small part, by the late Gus E. Dupre, who was interested in genealogy. One of the largest families in the parish descended from Acadians, the Dupre family has been well known in the state since their arrival, rapidly becoming large landowners and active in political and social affairs of the parish and state. Some of the men served as judges of the parish, and among these the Hon. Gilbert L. Dupre is well-remembered by many.

Lastie Dupre was one of the wealthiest men in Louisiana holding a vast acreage and owning tremendous herds of cattle. He had the first "bank" in St. Landry parish, as mentioned in detail elsewhere in this story.

Many of the Dupre women were educated at a time when education of women was considered unnecessary, and some of them served as early teachers in the first public schools of the state. The late Belle Dupre was teacher at the Opelousas School at the time of the first high school graduation in the parish public schools, in the year 1893. Miss Edith Garland Dupre of Lafayette served as head of the English Department at southwestern Louisiana Institute for forty years. She also taught French, as well. Retired from teaching, she now has a bookshop at Lafayette.

Among the older graves still standing in the St. Landry Church cemetery are some of the Dupre graves, and two of these are unusual. They are the graves of Jacques Dupre and his wife, and are known as "the Lion and the Lamb," representing a lion and lamb resting "en couchant" atop the graves of the once governor and his spouse. Adjacent to them is a large grave that is the last resting place of Lastie Dupre and his wife. Also nearby is the grave of Celleneuve Dupre Mouton, their daughter for whom they built the "Governor Mouton" house. Daily World Photos by Deville).

# Legend of Jaques Dupre

An old poem, the author and origin unknown, concerning the fabulous Jacques Dupre — one of the early, high-born settlers of St. Landry Parish (he was said to have owned more cattle, at one time, than anybody in the Louisiana Territory), was sent some time ago to the late Miss Ita LeDoux, then custodian of the Acadian House Museum at Evangeline State Park in St. Martinville. The sender was J. Dean Butler, an attorney of Oregon City, Ore.

How he got it and who wrote it we do not know, as Miss LeDoux is dead and nobody knows whether he informed her of these facts, but here it is:

## THE LEGEND OF JACQUES DUPRE

Where the live oaks grow in beauty  
And the Spanish moss swings low,  
Where the red birds fly in the twilight  
When the sun has swung below.

There is told a witching story,  
Where the sun and shadows play,  
When a chief of the Opelousas  
Dreamed a dream with Jacques Dupre.

For an Opelousas custom  
In the Indian mind has stilled,  
When a dream comes to the sleeper,  
By the gods it is fulfilled.

Now the Chieftain walked one morning  
In a thoughtful mood and slow,  
And he saw a rider coming  
On a horse as white as snow.

And the Indian felt a longing  
So he spoke to Jacques Dupre:  
"I dreamed last night I owned your horse,  
For you gave your horse away."

It was then a sorrowed moment  
For the rider Jacques Dupre.  
But he swung out from the saddle,  
And he gave his horse away.

And the mocking bird was singing  
As the Chieftain rode away,  
On the gallant white caballo  
That had carried Jacques Dupre.

And the song seemed only sorrow  
To the saddened Jacques Dupre;  
He was walking in a shadow  
As the Chieftain rode away.

But another day came dawning,



JACQUES DUPRE, who was governor of Louisiana for a time, and was famed as the richest cattle owner in Louisiana. He had a vast plantation in St. Landry parish. Portrait is a copy in oil by Marie Celeste Spless of an oil portrait done on wood that hangs today in the Cabildo in New Orleans. (Daily World Photo by Deville).



HON. GARLAND DUPRE, Member of Congress—Garland Dupre was graduated from Tulane in 1892, and Tulane Law School in 1894. He was assistant City Attorney of New Orleans from 1900 to 1910. In 1900 he was elected to the state Legislature from the 14th Ward in N.O. and re-elected in 1904- and 1908. From 1908-10 he was Speaker of the House of Representatives. In 1908 he was Chairman of the Democratic State Convention to select delegates to the Democratic National Convention at Denver. He was elected to the 61st Congress Nov. 8, 1910 to fill the unexpired term of Sam'l Gilmore and at the same time was elected to the 61st Congress. From that time he was re-elected to each successive Congress until his sudden death at the age of fifty from cerebral hemorrhage on Feb. 21, 1924, in Washington D. C. At the time of his death he was a ranking Democratic member of the Rivers and Harbors Committee of Congress. He never married. He was the son of Laurent Dupre and Marie Celeste Garland.

And the Indian rode with pride  
Just to greet the kindly Frenchman  
As he walked the trail beside.

"I dreamed, good Chief, a dream last night,"  
Said the jovial Jacques Dupre.  
"And you had given me your land  
For a galloped day each way."

Now the Indian felt a sorrow,  
But he harkened to his God  
And he gave to wiley Jacques Dupre  
All his birthright in the sod.

And a parchment bore the boundary  
In a legal way to say  
All the land he saw in dreaming  
Was the land of Jacques Dupre.

Then the Chieftain spoke with meaning  
For he knew his Indian lore,  
"I have your horse, you have my land,  
We will dream our dreams no more."

There was peace and trusting friendship

With the Chieftain and Dupre  
And the trading made in dreaming  
As a covenant stands today.

Given to Miss Ita LeDoux, Custodian,  
of the Acadian House Museum  
By  
J. Dean Butler, Attorney at Law,  
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# Judge Gilbert L. Dupre

At the time of his death in 1946 (Dec. 18), tribute was paid to this distinguished member of the St. Landry bar by one of his fellow-members, L. Austin Fontenot, Sr., and it is from his intimate account of the life of Judge Dupre that we draw the following brief biography.

Gilbert L. Dupre was born at Opelousas, St. Landry Parish, on Sept. 20, 1858. He was a great-grandson of Jacques Dupre, once governor of Louisiana and member of the Legislature.

Gilbert Dupre was the son of Lucius J. Dupre, a member of the Congress of the Confederate States of America, and who, after the surrender of Robert E. Lee at Appomatto, along with other Louisiana leaders, respected the surrender and took the oath of allegiance to the United States. He later became district judge of the judicial district comprising St. Landry and Calcasieu parishes.

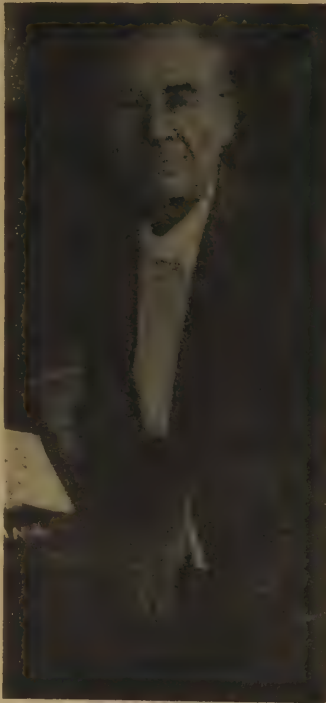
Gilbert Dupre's mother was Caroline Vanhille, daughter of Benoit Vanhille and Caroline Fontenot (daughter of "Grand Louis" Fontenot and Marie Josephine Gradenigo).

Gilbert L. Dupre was educated in local schools existing in the parish at that time - Father Raymond's School, and private tutoring by Professor Frazee. He was married to Julia Estilette, daughter of E. D. Estilette, a prominent lawyer of Opelousas. Their children were Fannie and Lucille (twin daughters) Ethel, and Gilbert, Jr.

Fannie is Mrs. Octave Pavy, Lucille married Rodney Duson (both are now dead), Ethel is Mrs. Isaac Litton. Son Gilbert graduated with honors from Tulane Law School and was admitted to the bar, practicing in New Orleans. He married Delphine Charles, and died in the prime of life.

Judge Dupre was a distinguished member of the Legislature, and served as district judge, following his election after the celebrated campaign of 1896, with R. Lee Garland as district attorney on the same ticket.

In his book, "Political Reminiscences" (1876-1902), Judge Dupre gives a detailed account of this famous campaign and election, and Mr. Fontenot also describes the events accompanying what was probably the most unique and exciting election in St. Landry Parish. This we have discussed elsewhere in our history - the courthouse square bristled with Gatling guns, and every man was



JUDGE GILBERT L. DUPRE, distinguished attorney and legislator.

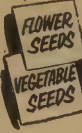
armed to the teeth.

Judge Dupre became totally deaf and was forced to retire long before his death, but he retained an active interest in political issues of the passing years. He was an inveterate writer of "Letters to the Editor" of prominent Louisiana publications, and his influence was felt many years after his retirement.



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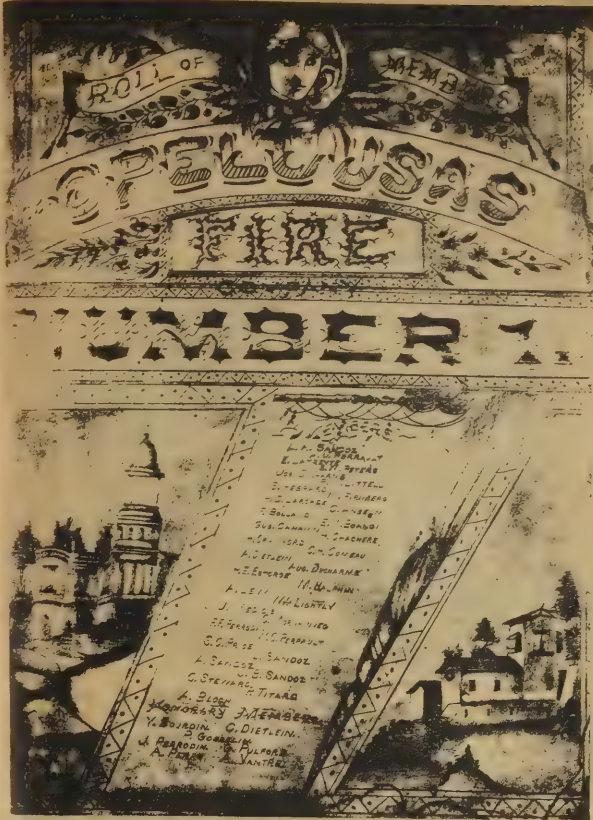
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Opelousas, La.





FIRST FIRE COMPANY in Opelousas, organized in 1828, had the above roster on July 8, 1885. This old scroll is interesting for several reasons. Building at lower left was old court house, which burned in 1886. Building at right is thought to be the old Spanish Fort, which is said to have been located in the vicinity of the St. Landry Catholic church.

## First Opelousas Fire Co.

OPELOUSAS FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 and Ladder Co. No. 1 is an ornamental scroll hanging in the Fire Hall of the Hope Hook that tells the history in brief of the first fire



The Owen Office Supply is a comparatively new business, this year 1955, only being our fifth year, but we are happy to be here enjoying the fruits of 150 years of progress and achievement. We only hope that we have and may continue to contribute our small part in the future prosperity of Opelousas and St. Landry parish. In our short span we have brought you Mosler safes, Victor Fire Files and equipment, Steel Age files, Lyons shelving and equipment, Royal chairs, Rex rotary & Speed-O-Print electric mimeograph machines, Heyer Spirit duplicators, R. C. Allen Visomatic, the typewriter with a future. We are never undersold in home or business lines. We are also exclusive dealers in Opelousas for Smith-Corona portable typewriters, the world's first and fastest portables. One trial at our store will convince you that it is the finest and most complete office supply store. If you use it in an office we have it. Office supplies is our business—not a side line.

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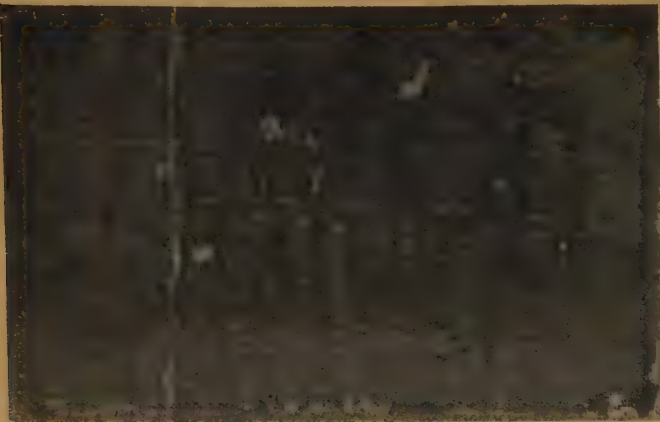
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OPELOUSAS FIRE CO. NO. 1, photographed at some time prior to Sept. 28, 1878, as somebody noted on the back that this was the date of the death of Michel Halphen, extreme right in front row. Part of the top of the picture was torn off, so that all the names written on the back are not available. Those named, are, top row from left, Pierre Gosslin, (next two missing), Charles Pefferkorn, Octave Voorhies, (next one missing), Christian Zweinert and W. A. Sandoz. Bottom row, from left, Alexis Sandoz, (next one missing), Jules Gil, J.B. Sandoz, Albert Vatter, Jean (last name missing) and Michel Halphen.

company in Opelousas - the Opelousas Fire Company No. 1. It was organized Dec. 13, 1828, and the scroll was made on July 8, 1885, and listed the roll of members as on that date. A line at the bottom of the large drawing shows that it was "designed and executed with a lead pencil by Major C. E. Addison.

Of great interest is a picture of the old court house that is a part of the ornamentation on this list. As far as this writer knows, it is the only picture of the old parish court house, which was destroyed by fire in 1886.

The sketch of the old courthouse shows it to have been a classic structure, with a central part surmounted by a tower arched and pillared, and topped with a dome.

At the lower part of the scroll is another and also a most interesting sketch - a four-like Spanish structure. This is standing on a rise, and seems to have several pine trees about it - and it is of much importance. Can this be the old Opelousas Spanish fort, or a sketch made from an old likeness of the fort?

Roll of members of the Fire Company No. 1 is as follows:

L. A. Sandoz, A. J. Perrault, E. Latreyte,

S. M. Peters, Jos. Ducharme, R. M. Littell, S. Hebrard, M. Firnberg, H. D. Larcade, C. Anselm, F. Bolland, E. M. Boagni, Gus. Cahanan, H. Chachere, H. Crawford, C. H. Comeau, A. Dietlein, Aug. Ducharme, H. E. Estorge, M. Halphen, A. Levy, Wm. Lightly, J. Medicis, C. Mornhinveg, F. F. Perrodin, W. C. Perrault, S. C. Price, L. Sandoz, A. Sandoz, J. B. Sandoz, C. Steward, P. Titard, A. Bloch, Honorary members: Y. Bourdin, C. Dietlein, P. Bosselin, J. Perrodin, G. Pulford, A. Perry, A. Ventre.

Prior to the organization in 1871 of the present H. H. and L. Co. No. 1, there were two fire companies in Opelousas - Fire Company No. 1, and Fire Company No. 2. These evidently merged in the next few decades with the present Hope Hook and Latter co. No. 1. In the minute book No. 1 of the present fire co. there are noted on different occasions parades and excursions in which all three fire companies participated, and there was evidently a considerable amount of rivalry between them.

At one meeting it was suggested that the latter co. ask the town council to give a bounty of \$5 to the first fire company to appear at a fire!

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## A. L. LaCOMBE CO.

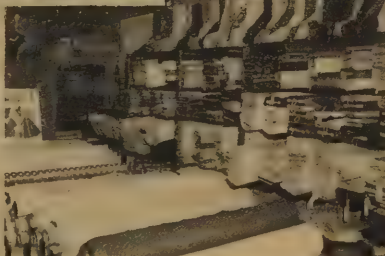
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# Hope Hook & Ladder No. 1

FIRST MINUTE BOOK OF HOPE HOOK AND LADDER CO. NO. 1 HOLDS MUCH DATA ON ORGANIZATION OF PRESENT COMPANY

"Ready For Duty" was the motto given by the Act of Incorporation of the Hope Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1, organized Feb. 7, 1876. The fire company was organized 1871, and incorporated according to the laws of the State on the 7th of February, 1876. The name of the company was changed to the present name, Oscar H. Violet, notary, was the official who notarized the act.

The first officers were: Claudius Vilaseca, Maurice Vilaseca, John T. Healy, Charles Pefferkorn, Solomon Bloch, Emile Pefferkorn, James O. Chachere, C. Brand, William Lightly, Christopher Dietlein, George Pulford, Sr., Thomas W. Lewis, Benjamin A. Guldrey, George W. Hudspeth, William Kerr, George Pulford, Jr., Augustus Gzesheimer, Christian H. Mornhinweg, Samuel Perkins, Eli McDaniel, Elias Pefferkorn, Waiten A. Sandoz, L. Sanders King, Charles R. Deputy, Charles M. Thompson, W. Williams, and Charles Bloch.

By-laws were written into the original charter, which was signed and approved by George W. Hudspeth, the then district attorney for the 8th District. The first officers were: C. Mayo, president; Claudius Vilaseca, foreman; C. Mornhinweg, Jr., assistant foreman; Chas. Pefferkorn, assistant foreman; Sol. Bloch, secretary; W. A. Sandoz, treasurer, and Gus Gzesheimer, steward.

On Feb. 4th, 1884, the first truck was given the name of "Claudius" after the first president.

In 1889 the company had a new hose carriage, and this was given the name of "Isola" after Isola Fontenot (the late Mrs. J. Campbell after members had so voted). Later trucks were also named for young ladies and past presidents of the company, following this early establishment precedent. The names and past presidents of the company, following this early established precedent. One truck with five ladders, twenty-five buckets, two crowbars, three axes (should be four), one pick (should be two), seven hooks and three without handles, making ten hooks in all, one grappling and chain-but no rope, and one speaking trumpet.

At this time Aaron Jacobs was secretary of the fire company.

In 1901 the first building was erected on the property was acquired in 1888) and in

1936 the present brick structure took its place. The late Dr. B. A. Littell was president at the time of the erection of the first fire hall. The late William Alexander Robertson was president at the time of the erection of the present hall.

Both men served in the fire company for many years, heading the volunteer group and helping to develop the present modern company, which is one of the finest of its kind in the state.

All of the trucks are named for individuals who were connected in some way with the fire company: "Sing"—a new truck re-named for the original "Sing" after the late "Sing" Littell (daughter of Dr. B. A. Littell); "Irene," for Irene Shute, a long-time member of the fire company; "Lelle," for the late Mrs. W. A. Robertson (Lelle Dupre), for her courage in helping to fight the famous "court house fire"; "Buster," for Dr. B. A. "Buster" Littell, long-time president of the company; and "Alex" for the late Wm. Alex. Robertson, who, like Dr. Littell, was president and late chief for many years, until his death in 1943.

The present officers of the fire company are President, Charles Mayer; vice-president, John Boagni; secretary-treasurer, Buster Sandoz; assistant secretary-treasurer, Johnnie Haas; chief, Leo LaFleur; assistant chief, Charles Dore; captain, Warren Fontenot sergeant at arms, Nick Dubuisson; steward, Willis Prescott; mascot, Ben Anderson.

Through the minute books may be read the history of the company as it developed during the years. Many fires were fought, and many social events were centered around this volunteer company, which numbered as its members through the years most of the prominent citizens of the town.

Excursions were a popular social diversion in those days, and a number of excursions were planned by members and their families. Balls were held, and basket "Picnics."

Members were also required to attend the funerals of past members in their full uniforms. A number of "funeral tickets" are included in the minute books, and memorial tributes to deceased members were published in local papers and presented to

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# Old-Time Truck, Firemen



"SING"-the truck that was named for Mary Octavie Littell, daughter of "Dr. Buster" Littell, who was Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department for many years, was snapped in front of the fire department.

Pictured standing and sitting on the "Sing" are the late Billy Caharin, the late Win Alexander Robertson (Chief), Velma Pressburg (Mrs. Lloyd Brusse) the late Jules Troscclair, and Roland Chachere (Assistant Chief).

The old "Sing" was retired some years ago, and a new "Sing" has taken its place. In writing a history of this parish, we can scarcely pay enough tribute to those

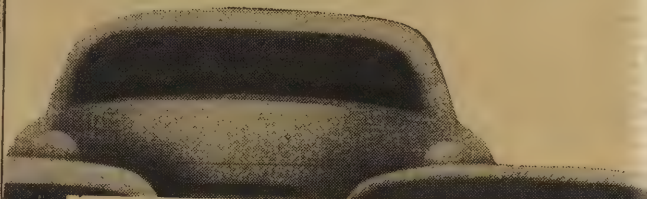
valiant fire-fighters who through the years have volunteered their services in protection of the lives and property of others. Leading citizens of the town have always been members of this splendid company which has been organized since 1871.

The local Hope Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 has also been of great assistance to other neighboring towns, and has helped them to organize Fire Companies of their own. The work that unnamed hundreds of men have done in this field can never be recounted or repaid, for it was done freely-we can only salute all of the men who have helped fight fires in St. Landry.

families of the dead.

At a time when the local company is planned to extend several sub-stations as part of its fire-fighting program, it is interesting to recall the early days of fire company

history in this old town, and to commend again the noble volunteers who through the years have protected life and property not only in the town itself but in neighboring towns and communities.



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# Police Jury Fought Pestilence, Many Troubles

By VERA DUGAL

The first St. Landry Parish police jury was organized in 1811, according to the old minute books, and the first meeting was held on July 18, 1811, or 144 years ago. Members of the "police jury," the archaic title of which is continued to this day, were:

Jacques Dupre, L. Louaillier, William Moore, Robert Burleigh, J. McClalan, Joseph Andrus, James Steele, Samuel McIntire, Robert Taylor, Louis Carriere, James Stelly was secretary pro tem. Louis Chachere was appointed permanent secretary at the second meeting. Minutes of the meetings were entered in both French and English.

First order of business for St. Landry's first police jury as such, was to order the immediate erection of a new jail and the repair of the existing jail. The old, to-be-repaired jail was to house debtors confined, and the new jail was to be for the confining of criminals. Minute details were given for the building of this new jail. The thickness of the walls and even the size of the nails were specified.

The old and the new jails were to be separated by a double wall. The door into the jail for criminals must be "very strong" and lined on the inside with sheet iron.

The Police Jury was concerned early with the building of roads and bridges. Jurors appointed committees from each "quarter" concerned, to lay out the roads and bridges for the approval of the Police Jury. A tax on all property such as horses, cattle, land and slaves were to be levied for the financing of these bridges and roads.

The job of constructing the bridges, roads and the new jail were to be awarded to the lowest bidder. A town crier was to make announcements to this effect for three consecutive Sundays at the church door after the Deacon's office. Advertisements for the purpose were also to be set up in "the most public places."

The undertaking of clearing a passage in "Chafalaya" was awarded to the lowest bidder, James Steele for \$600.

Building of a bridge on the Bayou Caron awarded to lowest bidder, Major Odair, for \$460. Major Odair also was low bidder on the jail. His bid was \$1,250.

At the next meeting, however, the minutes state that:

"Major Odair, not furnishing sufficient security for the bridge adjudged to him which

he was guarantee for six years and alleging that he had not well understood the conditions, was discharged of the undertaking."

Joseph Roy, Jr. was then awarded the job for the sum of \$500.

Police Jury members at this time were James Steele, John Andropom, Robert Burleigh, James McClalan, Jacques Dupre, L. Louaillie R. Louis Carriere, Samuel McIntire, William Moore, Robert Taylor, Etienne Lamorandiere, Louis Chachere, Joseph Andrus.

Public school administrators presented themselves at the meeting asking that the lots reserved for the schools at the time of laying out the town be exchanged for ten arpents at the south extremity of the town.

It was resolved that the exchange be accepted "under the express conditions of reserving the portion for the use of schools and never to be at any time in any manner sold or employed at any other use."

For the evaluation of property in order to levy taxes, slaves were rated at \$300 each, horned cattle a year old and older at \$6, and horses at \$10 a head one year old and older.

James Steele was named to see that no one cut or destroyed any timber on the land of St. Landry Parish.

George King, representing the authorities of the public school, stated that if the 10 arpents exchanged by the Police Jury at the session of December 2 were taken at the south extremity of the town "it would be all wood when wood and prairie are both necessary."

It was resolved that the school authorities be given permission to have their 10 arpents surveyed and laid out at "the place where the house of the actual school stands and in the form they will think the most advantageous to the purpose of the school."

It was resolved that the new jail to be constructed by Major Odair be placed on the lot exchanged with the school administrators and on the north east corner of the lot in such a manner as "to give the fabrics a 20 feet distance from each street." Twenty dollars was allowed to Major Odair to transport the actual jail to the place described.

Building a new jail and moving and repairing the old one presented another problem. "Seeing that while the jail is being built there is no place to keep the prisoners, the sheriff is authorized to rent rooms to lodge them, the rent of which shall be paid by the treasurer of the Parish."

## WARDS CREATED

On July 26, 1813, the parish judge and justices of the peace met to divide the parish into districts, or wards, for the election of Police Jurors. The parish was divided into six districts, each district electing two members of the Police Jury. Present were George King, Parish Judge; Benjamin A. Smith, Daniel J. Sutton, Jean M. Deballou, and Samuel Laughlin, Justices of the Peace.

August 20, 1813 the new police jurors were duly listed in the minute book. Joseph Andrus and William Moore were elected from the first district; Pierre Christian and Jean Castille, second district; William Harthorn and Jacob Harman, third district; Laurent Dupre and Michel Carriere, fourth district; Dennis McDaniel and Andrew Weaver, fifth district; Jean Pansony and Philip J. L. Fontenot, sixth district.

Police jurors present at this meeting besides the ones already mentioned at the earlier meeting were Etienne Landrardin, Clesstin Laverne, and Augustin Gravenigo. Daniel J. Sutton was unanimously elected secretary. The police jury appointed Jean M. Deballou, Louis Carriere, and Samuel Hamilton appraisers for the year.

Benjamin A. Smith was appointed president of the police jury in the absence of the parish judge.

Samuel Hamilton, Harvey Doushe, Seth Singleton and Howell Jones were appointed constables of the parish. Joseph Andrus was appointed treasurer.

## BOUNTY ON WOLVES

One resolution of the August 30, 1813, meeting of the police jury encouraged the destruction of wolves in the parish. Whoever killed a wolf within the parish and could offer proof of such a killing to the satisfaction of a Justice of the Peace would be given a certificate worth \$2 which would be paid him out of the Parish treasury.

Roads were, of course, a major problem.

The police jury passed a resolution to the effect that to keep the public road in repair, all males, white and colored, between the ages of 16 and 50 were subject to the obligation of working on the roads when called, or to provide a substitute.

A director or overseer was appointed to each road. He was to call the persons subject to work on the roads at times he should judge "convenient and necessary." However, he would not call on any inhabitant for more than

one-half of his hands without his consent, nor could he compel a person to work on the roads more than six days in any one year.

Any person refusing to work or to allow his hands to work after being notified three days in advance must pay a fine of \$2 for each hand neglecting to obey the orders of the overseer. In addition, any person called to work on the road must bring with him a spade, hoe, ax, or other tool necessary for working on the road.

January 10, 1814 Jacob Harman and William Harthorn resigned their seats as members of the Police Jury. Phillip Fontenot gave his resignation as a juror a few meetings later.

An election was called to replace members whose terms had expired and to replace those who had resigned.

Elected were Honore Delachaire, first district; Raphael Smith, second district; John Clark Littlell, third district; Dominique Richard, fourth district; Baptist Vidrine, fifth district; Joaquin Orgego, sixth district. They were elected for a two year period.

Elected for one year to replace those members who had retired were William Haslett, first district; Dotrif Andrus, third district; Jean J. Rosseau, sixth district.

It was resolved at this meeting that payment for the killing of wolves would no longer be made after the first day of July. This resolution was passed on June 13, 1814.

The police jury appointed Samuel Hamilton, John Thompson and Benjamin A. Smith as appraisers for one year.

The jury further divided the parish into districts "for the greater convenience of voting at elections." The parish was divided into three districts, "in each of which the Judges of Election shall attend one day to take the votes." The election was to be held the first day at Andrew Weaver's in Grande Prairie, the second day at John Clark Littlell's at Plaquemine and the third day at the Court House.

Baptist Vidrine gave his resignation as a member of the Police Jury.

William Reed was appointed by the Police Jury as one of the constables of the parish.

A committee was appointed "to make such arrangements as they conceive most proper for the support on behalf of the parish of an old man, an invalid."

In June 1815 was recorded the election results of the yearly Police Jury election. Elected were David Todd, first district; Elias Stein, second district; Jacques Dupre,



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The old Delta Theatre was opened April 1, 1934 by Collins Conrad of Breaux Bridge, who operated it for 4 months, after which he sold it to Joe Guillory.

Southern Amusement Co., Inc. of Lake Charles, La., purchased the business in 1936 and the entire property in 1940 and is sole owner and operator.

# DELTA THEATRE

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TODAY



fourth district; Andre Deshotels, fifth district; Jean J. Rousseau, sixth district. They were to serve for two years. Joseph Buller was elected for one year to replace the member who had resigned. There was no returns from the third district and a new election was ordered for that district.

Benjamin A. Smith, John Thompson and Samuel Hamilton were reappointed appraisers for the year.

A petition was presented to the police jury for compensation for the "boarding, lodging and attendance of a poor infirm old man named Pierre Bourbon." The jury allowed him fifty dollars, which was ordered to be paid.

In June 1816 Samuel Hamilton, Hubert Jany, and Louis Chachere were elected appraisers.

It was resolved that "a sum not exceeding \$15 per month be appropriated and paid out of the funds of the parish for the purpose of "procuring boarding, lodging and the necessary clothing of a poor old and infirm man named Barthelemy McDaniel."

It was resolved that for the purpose of more effectually strengthening the criminal part of the parish jail, an additional floor was to be laid over the existing one. Timber used must be not less than nine inches thick, it was specified.

A resolution was passed as a result of a petition from the inhabitants of Grande Coteau that "hereafter, no person in marking his hogs shall be permitted to cut off more than one-half of the ear -- otherwise the hogs thus disfigured shall be considered as not marked."

In July 1816 at a special meeting of the parish judge and justices of the peace, the parish was again divided for the purpose of electing Police Jurors. The parish was divided into nine wards or districts, each district to elect one Police Juror.

Elected were Allan Magruder, first district; William Lyons, second district; Elias Stein, third district; Hubert Jany, fourth district; Bosman Hayes, fifth district; Baptist Johnson, seventh district; Francois C. Villier, sixth district; Charles Fusillier, eighth district, Cessar Hanchett, ninth district. Margruder was elected president.

#### TAKEN TO TASK BY GRAND JURY

In September 1816 The Grand Jury admonished the Police Jury of St. Landry parish for the condition of the roads and bridges of the parish. According to the minutes it was declared "that the present situation of the bridges and roads in said parish is a great grievance to the public and that the great inattention and neglect of those who have the management and control over the same

are evils which loudly call for redress. . ."

The Police Jurors evidently complied with the wishes of the Grand Jury, for there followed a period of bridge building and road repairing all over the parish.

In July of 1816 Hubert Jany resigned his position as Police Juror.

On May 18, 1818, the parish was further divided into 12 wards.

On that same date the Police Jury met and appointed Dr. Theophilus Elmer physician to the public jail. Luke Lesapier attorney for the Parish, and Guy H. Bell, Clerk.

Members present at this meeting were William Moore, William Hasler, Benjamin S. Mudd, Augustin Gradniego, Solomon Cole, William Link, Jean Ponsoy, Louis Gullory, Cessar Hanchett, Resin Bowie, Jr.

Magistrates present were Joseph Andrus, Benjamin A. Smith, Celestin Laverne, L. J. Roupeau, C. Devillier, A.B. Magruder, Samuel Lauglin, E.V. Fusillier and Augustin Gradniego.

At the next meeting Dominique Richard appeared and produced his certificate of election for the fourth district and took his seat.

In August 1818 the following members were recorded as elected to the office of Police Juror:

J.J. Louallier, first district; William Moore, second district; Jacques Arnaud, third district; Benjamin A. Smith, fourth district; Joseph B. Andrus, fifth district; Gabriel Lyons, sixth district; Joseph L. and Alex. B. Fontenot, eighth district. There were no returns from the seventh and ninth districts.

In August 1818, Joseph L. Fontenot resigned his position as Police Juror.

There is a gap of some 43 years at this point in the minute book. The entire jump from Oct. 4, 1819 to Nov. 8, 1862. Whereabouts of these record books is unknown.

The nation was in the midst of the Civil War at this time. In December of 1862 it was resolved that "a committee consisting of M. Burtow, John Lyon and M.L. Melancon be appointed and requested to proceed at once to Atchafalaya Grand River and Plaquemine and ascertain where and how obstructions can be made to prevent the ingress of the enemy and to defend the Country and report to the Military Board of St. Landry so that they can communicate with Gen. Taylor immediately and so that the hands assessed can be usefully employed."

In January 1863 it was resolved to publish a form of the applications which were to be made to the Police Jury by persons claiming relief under the act providing for the support of the families of officers in the Confederate army.

The treasurer of St. Landry Parish was ordered to call in all the notes issued by the parish and to redeem them with Confederate money.

J. Barlow was appointed agent of St. Landry Parish to superintend the working of the salt mines by the free Negroes detailed for that purpose. The salt was to be sold at the rate of four cents in specie, or 50 cents in state money or the new specie of the Confederate States.

F.C. Devillier and Drauzin Breaux were appointed to call on the editor of the Opelousas Courier and make arrangements for the publication of the election for a member of Congress. The committee reported that they could not find the said editor. They were allowed the first Monday of October to make a final report.

Pertaining to salt the Policy Jury ruled that any person hauling salt from the mines was entitled to half of what he hauled. The other half was to be deposited at one of the parish depots and when sold the money was to be paid to the owner of the salt.

The following were appointed as agents of the Parish to deliver and sell salt: Theodore Chachere, Opelousas; Gerard Carriere, Washington; Eugene Petetin, Grand Coteau; William Reed, Ville Platte; G.C. Wolf, Bayou Chicot; Merchel Emonet, Drauzin Breaux and William Elkins.

It was resolved that all persons not able to buy salt "would receive the same gratis, on application to the member of the police jury ward in which they live."

#### PUBLIC FERRY ON TECHE

On March 6, 1865, a public ferry was established on Bayou Teche. A petition was addressed to Henry W. Allen, governor of the state of Louisiana, recommending the detail of Deodate Stelly as ferryman.

Elbert Gantt was appointed president of the Police Jury on July 17, 1865. Members present at this meeting were John Barry, first ward; F. C. Devillier, second ward; Elbert Gantt, third ward; Joseph Fontenot, fourth ward; William Elkins, fifth ward and D. Breaux, sixth ward.

G.D. Runarde was appointed clerk of the police jury. Onizime A. Guidry was appointed treasurer of the parish. John E. King was appointed parish attorney. Dr. James Ray was appointed parish physician. John B. Bihm was appointed parish constable.

A petition was presented to rebuild the bridge on the road leading from Opelousas and Grand Coteau to Vermillionville (later renamed Lafayette). A sum of \$250 was appropriated for this purpose, on condition that the parish of Lafayette appropriate the same amount.

On Sept. 17, 1866, Pierre Mouille was \$660 for building a fence around the parish jail, and was awarded an additional amount for losses sustained while building the fence. The nature of his losses or the manner in which he received them was not made known. The police jury in October of that year recommended that an indigent free woman be recommended to the agents of the Freedmen's Bureau for support, "the bank of Landry being unable to provide for her."

In that same month they resolved "each member of the police jury be authorized to issue certificates of independent freedmen in their respective wards, and certify that the Parish is not able to provide support of indigent freedman."

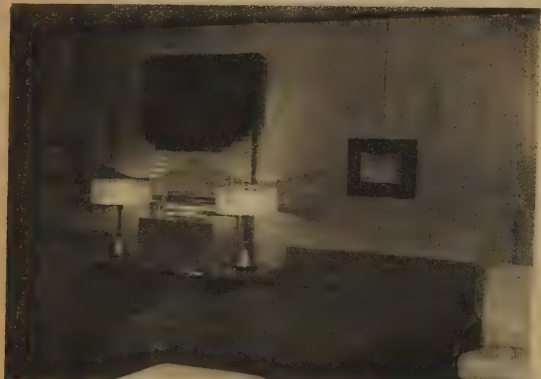
On Feb. 18, 1867, it was resolved that officers of the police jury were to be elected by ballot. A majority of votes (four) necessary for election. Election of officers followed. Joseph D. Richard was elected clerk; T.C. Anderson, treasurer; John King, parish attorney; T. E. Smith, parish constable; Dr. James Ray, parish physician.

In April the Police Jury saw fit to legalize the road laws of the day. The appropriation \$80 to print the pamphlet forms and copies of the road laws in English and same number in French. T.G. Compton given the job of printing the pamphlet.

At this same meeting Edward Veazie and Henry Chachere were recommended to send as beneficiary cadets at the military academy in Alexandria. Each parish was entitled to send a number of beneficiary cadets to the Academy by an act of the legislature of the State of Louisiana. Two months later Westly Harvey was also recommended as beneficiary cadet to the Academy.

Thomas C. Anderson, parish treasurer, reported that, in accordance with an act to organize the free public schools in Louisiana approved March 15, 1855, his records show that he had received up to this date (Oct. 15, 1867) \$4,223.16. Of this he had spent on the public schools, \$3,638.62, leaving a balance for the year of \$584.54.

The police jurors were evidently worried about the lack of interest in voting by the citizens. They resolved that because of "manifest neglect or indifference thus shown by a large portion of the inhabitants of this parish to their registry and qualifications as voters under the military bill arising in a great degree doubtlessly from the accustomed facilities heretofore afforded them for the exercise of their suffrage, induces us as the local representatives of the entire Parish of St. Landry, to request the Board of Registrars to open and hold open after due notice for one day or more



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at discretion in the several election districts, the Registrar so that all entitled to vote may have an opportunity to qualify themselves accordingly."

Members of the Jury at this time were John Barry, Henry S. Dunbar, Joseph Z. Fontenot, Elbert Gantt (president), William Elkins and William Cottrell.

On the resignation of E. Taylor and J. Westly Harvey from the military academy at Alexandria, G.D. Tarlton and Theobald Hawkins were recommended as beneficiary dates.

**TROUBLESOME TIMES**

December 28, 1867, the Police Jury unanimously approved that the following be sent to Gen. W.S. Hancock.

To Major General W.S. Hancock, Commanding Fifth Military District,

Sir: "The undersigned citizens of St. Landry, oppressed with the importance and necessity of the pacific influence of a small organized military force in our midst, respectfully request the commanding general to station, at this place, a company of U.S. Cavalry, under the command of a prudent and discreet officer.

"During the time that Capt. W.W. Webb of Co. E. 4th U. S. Cavalry, was stationed at Opelousas, there were no disturbances; quiet assigned everywhere, and the community felt a sense of perfect security.

"Capt. Webb was eminently qualified for his position. His firmness, justice and discretion, to say nothing of his affable manners, and conciliatory deportment, rendered him generally acceptable, and gave him a commanding influence, which he used for the promotion of the general good.

"When, several weeks ago, Gen. Mower, then commanding, thought proper to remove Capt. Webb's command from this place, our citizens respectfully protested, in a written memorial, of which no notice seems, so far, to have been taken. Reasons were respectfully assigned, in that memorial, to which we beg leave to call your attention.

"In point of numbers, this is the most important rural population in the State. This Parish alone has registered about five thousand voters; and there are probably one thousand more male adults, who could not, or were not, permitted to register.

"This large population is sufficiently compact to admit of easy and rapid concentration. It is about equally divided between the two races, who, under the influence of artful demagogues and designing men, are daily placed in positions

of more decided antagonism. "The failure of the crops of the past year, and the great difficulty of engaging situations for the future, have rendered the colored population restless, dissatisfied and uneasy. They are taught to believe, by unscrupulous leaders, that great injustice is done to them, and that the whites are their enemies. They are becoming more idle and vagrant under these influences, and consequently less obedient to the law. Larceny is becoming epidemic among them, as will be shown by our parish prison and the criminal calendar of our court. They are just now in that condition, when a few incendiary leaders could excite them to deeds of violence and great outrage. This is what we wish to avoid; and we think we are not mistaken in the remedy we suggest.

"Such is the general respect for the authority of the U.S. Government, particularly as administered by the able and patriotic Commander of the Fifth Military District, that the mere presence of a Company of U.S. Cavalry, under a proper officer, would impart a general feeling of security, and effectually prevent the outbreak of any public disturbance.

"We beg leave to assure the commanding general, that it is not from a mere sense of personal fear, as to the result of such an outbreak, to the white population, that we invoke the presence of the military arm of the government; but it is because we think the general interest of the parish, the state, and the nation would, at this juncture, be materially injured by any collision between the races.

"We therefore respectfully request the commanding General, in view of the reasons herein assigned, to station, at the earliest day practicable, a Company of U.S. Cavalry under a proper officer, at this place, in order to prevent the evil with which we think the country is menaced."

**BUILD NEW JAIL**  
On February of the following year, a new jail was ordered built.

Charles Jackson Thompson was recommended as a beneficiary cadet to the military academy in Alexandria if a vacancy existed.

Members of the Police Jury present at the regular meeting August 17, 1868 were H. Frilot, Elbert Gantt, Onzime Tate, John G. Brooks, Philogene Auzene and William Cottrell. John C. Brooks presided.

C. Mayo was elected clerk; T.C. Anderson, parish treasurer; P.C. Smith, constable; Thomas H. Lewis, parish attorney. The office of parish physician was done away with.

The following month, however, the office of parish physician was revived and Dr. Ja-

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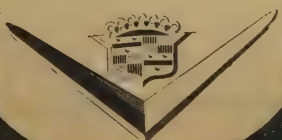
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Opelousas, Louisiana



**PONTIAC**

*Cadillac*



The three Diesl Brothers, Frank, Cyril and J. C. are the authorized dealers for Cadillac and Pontiac automobiles.

Cyril moved to Opelousas from Melville and worked with Mr. McBride (his father-in-law) at his service station and taxi business. In 1939 Mr. McBride went to work for the Post Office and Cyril bought the 707 Service Station from him.

In 1941 J. C. came to Opelousas and went into this business with Cyril. In 1946 in the same location on East Landry St. (now American Dept. Store) Frank joined them and all three started the agency for Hudson cars. Cyril laughs as he recalls that in those days the Hudson cars would be shipped to you without seats and hub caps.

In 1947 they left the agency of Hudson and started the agency with Pontiac and moved to their present location on the corner of Landry and Railroad Ave. In '49 they got the agency of the Cadillac automobile, and are all three still in this business — adjoining their display room is their car lot and in the back is their service department.

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Opelousas, La.





FIRST COMMERCIAL printing plant in St. Landry parish was opened in 1891 by the late Herman Bodemuller, and the business, still bearing the Bodemuller name, continues today. This picture was taken in 1894, and shows the shop, located at Bellevue and Court sts. on the lot on which the old James Hotel building was recently razed. Man at left is the late George Bourdier, printer. The Bodemuller family is not positive of identification of other two. Prior to establishment of Bodemuller's shop, job printing was done by local newspapers. Note "St. Landry Clarion Office" sign in window, indicating that at this time Bodemuller and his plant were connected with the newspaper. (R. L. "Bosco" Wyble, Daily World linotype operator who has been a printer here for more than 50 years says that he is quite certain that the man standing next to Bourdier is the late Raymond Breaux, known as a "fighting" newspaper editor for his often fiery editorials, and the man in the door is the late Mr. Bodemuller).

mes Ray duly elected.  
 On December 3, 1868, it was resolved to publish the proceedings of the Police Jury in the Opelousas Journal.  
 At the same meeting, the police jury donated one acre of land adjoining the Protestant Cemetery to establish a Hebrew Cemetery under the name of "Germiles Hasodin."  
 On August 16, 1869, an acre of land was donated to the Opelousas African Baptist Church for the purpose of erecting a house of worship.  
 In May, 1870, J.M. Thompson, sheriff, reported to the jury that the building rented by him as a parish jail had become so crowded with prisoners that the four guards allowed him were not sufficient for their safe keep-

ing. The Police Jury authorized him to employ two more guards. The parish attorney was instructed to take the necessary legal steps to get possession of the building formerly used as a parish jail, now in the possession of James G. Hayes.

It was resolved to publish the following letter in the Opelousas Journal:  
 "New Orleans, Mobile and Chattanooga Rail Road Company  
 "New Orleans, July 16, 1870  
 "Thomas Mullet, Opelousas, La. --Sir:  
 "Mr. Wm S. Williams, treasurer and member of the executive committee of third company, has arrived from New York. He has authorized me to assure you, and through you

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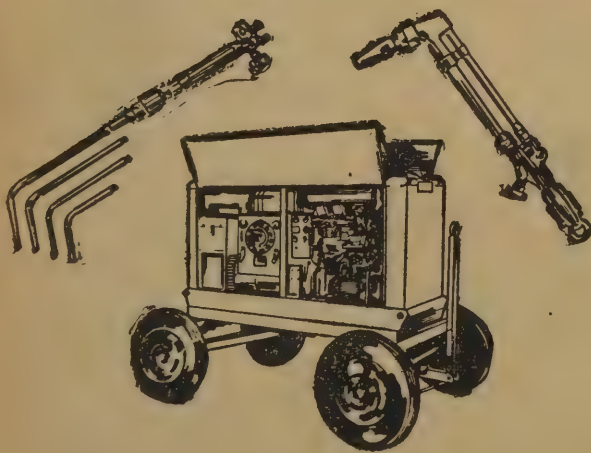
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Andry Parish 150th Anniversary Edition

of Opelousas, and of St. Landry generally, that this company have fully permitted to survey, locate and construct a railroad from the main trunk near Milltown, (now Lafayette) through Opelousas, to Alexandria, and up the river country, without loss of time. It is said further, that this work would be completed and completed simultaneously their main road to Texas, and regard what the companies may do towards the railroads or branches in the same direction.

Respy yours,  
G.W.R. Bayley  
Div. Engineer.

January of 1871, Joseph D. Richard, of the district court, petitioned to have national shelves and pigeonholes made for clerk's office. Petition was granted. In July 1871 members of the Policy Jury were J.M. Thompson, president, John Roy, F. Fontanot and J.L. Morris.

LOW FEVER

That time quarantine regulations were published because of the fear of yellow fever these regulations were to be put into effect "whenever the appearance of the epidemic at the city of New Orleans or elsewhere, shall make it advisable to do so." The provision of the regulations was that there be established a quarantine station at the mouth of the Bayou Courtableau and a physician elected to remain there as long as necessary. He was to have a clerk and three assistants.

After the establishment of this station no boat or passenger or persons would be allowed to pass coming from an infected area, and nothing but provisions would be allowed to pass. The provisions being brought up were to be exposed for 10 days before being reshipped. No coffee whatever was allowed to pass the post.

Quarantine officers elected were Dr. Whitney, physician; J.J. Hicks, clerk; G.O. Elms, John Reed and N. Offutt, assistants.

June 17, 1872 the following preamble and resolution was adopted:

REGULATORS

"Whereas, on the night of the day of May, 1872, a large band of armed men surrounded the cabin of Alphonse Mayfield, on the plantation of John Millard, near Grand Coteau, broke into the same, fired upon the said Mayfield, dangerously wounding him; and, whereas, said band during the said night aforesaid did visit other plantations in the neighborhood aforesaid, in quest of other parties, whom they ordered to leave the Parish within a specified time, under penalty of death; and whereas, on the night of the 30th of May,

a freedman, Willis Jackson, was dragged from his cabin, on the plantation of Theophile Prejean, and brutally murdered by the same, or another band of armed assassins; and whereas, such outrages are disgraceful to our community, and if not unheeded must eventually lead to the destruction and ruin of our agricultural interest, and in bringing upon us the rigors of martial law and social anarchy.

"Therefore, be it resolved that the sum of two hundred dollars each, be and the same is hereby appropriated, for the apprehension of any person or persons, who have been engaged in the commission of said crimes, accompanied with the necessary evidence for their conviction."

On January 20, 1873, newly elected Police Jurors were John Roy, T.S. Fontanot, T.C. Chachere, Theodule Fontanot and Homer Durio.

Officers elected by the Jurors were Roy, president; Thomas C. Anderson, treasurer; C. Mayo, clerk; Thomas H. Lewis, district attorney, pro tem.; Dr. W.M. Thompson, parish physician; M.G. May, parish constable; J.W. Jackson, printer.

The office of parish auditor was created and J.O. Chachere was elected.

A committee appointed to inspect the parish jail reported that it was in such a state of "dilapidation and decay" they recommended to have it torn down and a new one built.

The committee suggested a building 40 feet by 45 feet, two-stories high, fitted on the upper floor with 8 iron cells, seven feet by seven feet, and the lower floor divided into three cells and two rooms. The cost of such a building should not exceed \$16,000, they said.

In 1875 Police Jurors were F. Savoy, president; R.H. Littell, H. Guidry, H.J. Gullory and William Tate.

In March of 1876, police jurors decided to inclose the court house square with a fence. Said the committee appointed to make recommendations:

"We recommend a twelve foot banquet on the east, a ten foot banquet on the north and south, and a fifteen or eighteen feet banquet on the west side, the object of the west side being wider than the others, is for the purpose of changing the entrance to the Market House, so as to allow ample room for the exit of the two fire engines and Hook and Ladder companies.

"We further recommend the following openings to said enclosure to-wit: Two 'turn gates' on the east fronting the court house, two on the south, two on the north, and two on the west with a hinge gate, say ten feet wide."

In December 1876 R.H. Littell, A. Guidry, G.T. Hawkins, H.J. Gullory and F. Savoy

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took their oaths of office.

A committee was appointed to have the bell rope of the court house bell changed so that it could be rung from the passage in front of the court house. Cost of this could not exceed \$25.

In January of 1879 permission was granted to E.P. Veazie and E.S. Taylor to "use the office now occupied by them as magistrates, on condition that they keep the hall and stairway swept out and clean, and close the front entrance door of the court house every evening and deposit the key with the jailor for safe keeping."

Members of the jury in 1779 were Albert Guidry, president, J.J. Thompson, E. Dubuisson, Louis Young, B.E. Clark, T.C. Chachere, Samuel Haas, D. Meche and G.T. Hawkins, Auguste Perrodin, E.W. Sylvester.

The proposed parish jail was still not built in 1880. In November of that year the Grand Jury writes that after a careful examination they are "condemning said jail as being entirely unfit in every respect and unsafe for the keeping of prisoners therein. That with all the humanity and kindness which the officers in charge of said jail may have or bestow on its inmates it is of absolute impossibility for said officers to give to the prisoners the care and comfort to which they are entitled under the law."

By 1882 a jail was under construction. The committee reported:

"We are unable to make any report on the public jail, as at the present, a new one is being constructed, and we hereby fully approve and endorse the action of our police jury in this matter, agreeable to the several reports of the preceding grandjuries who had repeatedly recommended the building of a new jail."

Police jurors in 1887 were Albert Guidry, president, A. Perrodin, D. P. Balzaa, W.C. Gordon, E. Dubuisson, Sam Haas, L. Young, Dr. R.H. Littell and Martin Carron.

Members the following year were E.M. Boagni, president, Paul Stagg, Homer Durio, C.T. Bihm, P. Robin, E.S. Barry, R.W. Heath, S. Haas, E.C. Milburn and L.J. Dossman. Members of the jury for the next several years remained consistently the same.

**REWARD FOR MURDER**

At that time the following resolution is recorded:  
"Resolved that the Police Jury offer a reward of \$250 for any information which will lead to the arrest and conviction of any person or persons, who have been committing murders, and shooting into the houses of people. Said reward to remain good for sixty days."

In 1890 an ordinance was adopted to prevent

gambling along the public roads. All persons found gambling along the public roads and highways and along the banks of navigable streams or rivers, or at railroad depots, were to be fined \$10 for the first offense and \$25 for a subsequent one.

If the fine was not paid the sentence was five days in jail for the first offense and 30 days in jail for a subsequent offense.

Another ordinance at this time made it unlawful to sell cotton in the seed or shelled corn after sundown in the parish.

Members of the Police Jury in 1892 were E.M. Boagni, president, Messrs. Stagg, Robin, Durio, Ward, Dossman, Haas, Bihm, Olivier and Milburn.

In that year it was resolved that because many of the records of the Police Jury were destroyed by the fire which consumed the courthouse in Opelousas in 1886, there was no record of ownership of the graveyard and academy premises on the eastern extremity of the town.

However, they ruled that "we have good and sufficient reason to believe, and do believe that said graveyard and academy premises belong to said town by virtue of an official donation thereof made by this body."

They therefore resolved that "the graveyard commonly called the Opelousas Protestant graveyard and the said ground known as the Academy lot be and they are hereby declared to belong to the town of Opelousas."

A complete turnover of police jury members occurred the following year with the exception of E.M. Boagni, president. New members were Messrs. Buller, McGee, Dupre, Fontenot, Courtney, Bergeron, Guidry, Lafleur and Clopton.

The following year E.H. McGee was president. Members were Messrs. Courtney Guidry, Clopton, Buller, Evans, Quebedeau, Fontenot, Lafleur, and Dupre.

The following year, 1895 revealed two Lafleurs as jurors. McGee was still president. Other members were Dupre, Courtney, Guidry, Clopton, Robert Lafleur, E.T. Lafleur, Evans, Quebedeau and Prescott.

In 1896 McGee still remained president. Other members were W.M. Prescott, Ozeme Fontenot, Diemel Durio, James O. Chachere, Adelman Guidry, E.T. Lafleur, Jules Quebedeau, Robert Burtleigh, Dr. Joseph P. Saizan, Robert Lafleur, and Olibe Manuel.

For the most part of the same members remained on the jury for the next several years. In 1900, jury members were McGee, president, William Prescott, Ozeme Fontenot, J.O. Chachere, Sam Haas, Dr. J.P. Saizan, Olibe Manuel, W.F. Clopton, Homer Savant, E.T. Lafleur, Diemel Durio and Jules Quebedeau.



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En Eunice

# C'Est à Dire

By MARY ALICE FONTENOT

ONCE there was a real estate man named C.C. Duson who had ideas about planning towns. Maybe he had spent some time in Lafayette, and after confusedly driving his horse and buggy around that city in circles, decided to do something by way of compensation for the people of the bayou country.

So he looked the Southwest Louisiana terrain over, decided to lay out a town with straight wide streets, right in the middle of nowhere. This was in 1894. Mr. Duson named his new town Eunice, for his wife.

Now, three score years later, we remember Mr. Duson very kindly for planning our town so precisely. It's so easy to give directions to strangers, and our grandchildren won't ever have to worry with one-way streets.

If Mr. Duson could re-visit Eunice today, I wonder if he would be elated --- or disappointed -- at what has happened to his dream town?

Not knowing how grandiose or ambitious his dreams were, we can only speculate. . .

If he had dreams of a boom town, one that would mushroom into a metropolis overnight, he would certainly be disappointed. And so would we. In fact, I and a bunch of others wouldn't have stayed around this long.

We like our town the way it is. If we didn't we could move to the big towns, just a few hours East or West.

If this re-visit of our founder merely took him through Eunice on Highway 190 (tourists-eye view), and he judged the town from what he could see, again he might be disappointed. Even if he asked a few questions and learned about our industries, churches, schools and the other Chamber of Commerce statistics.

Because our town looks and sounds just about like every other town its size. And everything we can boast of in the way of advantages and improvements can be duplicated by dozens of similar towns throughout Southwest Louisiana.

Our Chamber of Commerce (and dozens of other C. of C.'s) publicizes our industrial plants, paved roads, gas and oil production, rice, livestock and other agricultural products, recreational facilities. And each proudly ups the population figure by a couple of hundred, more or less. This is all good; this is what Chambers of Commerce are for -- to boost our town.

But Mr. Duson, being a promoter himself, would probably be unimpressed by these reports of his founding town.

On the other hand, if he stopped to consider how far we've come in just sixty short years, in spite of being so much more youthful and inexperienced than some of our same-size neighbors, he couldn't help but be pleased with himself. And us.

A few hours' tour of the community would show him how we get our bread buttered so thickly and easily. The well-kept farms, the green rice fields, the fine livestock, the oil derricks. . .

Since the Crowley section with the accent on rice, was Mr. Duson's first interest, he would no doubt be interested -- and surprised -- at the growth of the rice industry in the Eunice area. Rice acreage has more than doubled in the past 25 years, more rice people have come to Eunice, more driers are being built, more farmers plant more rice each year.

And the fluctuations of the rice market are the fluctuations of the community's business. In spite of the oil wealth and diversified agriculture.

But Mr. Duson, or anyone else for that matter, could not possibly learn through a stop-over visit of our town's greatest asset -- our people.

He would have to live here for a while, long enough to know from personal experience the kind of people who populate the town he founded, long enough to absorb some of the flavor of our way of life. To understand something of the "jole de vivre" which is our inheritance from our French-Canadian ancestors.

Being non-Cajun, at first Mr. Duson might not be able to figure out the behavior of the citizens who "pass a heluva good time" on Saturday night, then show up soberly and se-



VIEW OF NORTH SECOND STREET, Eunice, when farmers came to town in wagons drawn by yoked teams of oxen. House shown was known as the Mentor Guillory home, built by Mr. Guillory when the family moved to town about 1905. (Photo courtesy Bevan's Studio)

ately for Sunday morning church services. But he would soon come to appreciate, if not to accept, the local philosophy: "Sure we have a good time on Saturday and go to church on Sunday! What's wrong with going to church on Sunday?"

In our town he would find an unusual amount of getting-a-long-together among the people of different faiths, and an excessive amount of friendliness and good-neighborliness among the people of all faiths.

While here, if he suffered some misfortune, he would find dozens of Eunice people at his door, anxious to help; his ups or downs sympathetically shared by every one of the 12,000 (Chamber of Commerce figures) population.

Somebody would be sure to ask him to go to one of our churches, join the Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, C. of C, Country Club, American Legion, Masonic Lodge or KC's, maybe all of them. After a week or so fellows on the street would be greeting him: "Hi, C.C.! Let's get a cup of coffee. Why don't you join us in Joe's outdoor kitchen tonight for a sauce plquette?"

If he were in need, somebody would be sure to start a "collection" to help him out.

If his house burned down, neighbors would seek him out next day with car loads of clothing, groceries and cash. And when he built his new home the neighbors would invade the place for a "housewarming" party, laden with gifts, food and drink.

If his daughter or son got married, their wedding gifts from friends and neighbors would practically set them up in housekeeping; and said friends would crowd the wedding feast, making certain that nothing remained of the liquid refreshments, but leaving conversation piece memories like "Remember Jeanne's wedding? Cher enfant, we passed a good time!"

If his married daughter moved away to a distant state, still her friends would get together and give her a baby shower at the proper time. And the absentee honoree would have her baby shower, just as all the other new Eunice mothers do except hers would be by courtesy of railway express.

And our founder could not help but notice how reluctantly the oil and gas people leave our town, and how happy they are if their companies send them back.

I know Mr. Duson would like the Eunice of today. I think he would be proud of what has happened to his dream, and I believe the lovely Mrs. Duson would be happy that our town bears her name. . .



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EUNICE, LA.



# The Day the Train Came

"When the train came in that day it was something to see," said Cliff Andrus, Eunice pioneer, recalling the days of '94. "The children set up a terrible howl and ran screaming to their mamas: there were teams hitched all along near the depot, and when that train came pulling in the horses bolted, turned over buggies and wagons. It was a great commotion for a while, especially when some of the older women fainted."



CLIFF ANDRUS, Eunice pioneer, was among the thousands of people who crowded Eunice on the day the first train came to town and the town lots were auctioned. Mr. Andrus was Eunice's first ice man, driving his wagon to Opelousas and back for the ice. Now 74, he was a young man of 20 when this picture was made.

Mr. Andrus was 14 years old in 1894, when Eunice was founded and the first train came in. Having lost both parents, he was making his home with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Leger, of the Tasso community, about eight miles from Eunice.

"My aunt was one of the folks who sold gumbo cake and coffee that day," he said. "Many people did that. They brought their own wood, pots and things, and set up their booths right around the depot. I remember that they put up poles and covered the top with brush to provide shelter for their little cooking booths. They made a fire right on the ground, and cooked the gumbo in cast iron wash pots. My aunt did right well that day. We sold lots of gumbo, cake, pies and coffee."

"We got up at daybreak that day," he recalls, "and loaded up the wagon. There were seven of us, my uncle, aunt, their four children and me. We came to town over a prairie trail, there were no roads at all. There was a great many people. The biggest crowd we had ever seen, I reckon."

"I remember C.C. Duson very well. He was big buddies with Gus Fuselier. I remember that Mr. Duson auctioned off the town lots from a flat car just north of the depot. I don't remember who bought the lots, because I was just a boy didn't know too many people. One didn't get around much in those days, you know."

"Before Eunice was founded we had to go to Opelousas for the things we needed, those we couldn't buy at our country stores. It was quite a trip by buggy or wagon. I used to make the trip every two weeks to buy

blacksmith shop supplies for my uncle.

"There wasn't much you could buy in those days, and we usually bought things like flour, coffee and sugar at our country stores. There was Mr. Fuselier's store, about halfway between Prudhomme and Eunice, the Theo Chachere store about halfway to Opelousas, and a



GEORGE I. GUILLET, left, came to Eunice in 1900, opened Eunice Hardware and Implement company, above, a few years later, the first business of its kind in Eunice. Prior to that Mr. Guillet worked in the Frankel & Mayer store (second building from left). He was the first president of the Eunice Rotary Club, organized in 1924.



Charles J. Sanders, pioneer real estate agent, came to Eunice in 1897, and was associated with C.C. Duson, Eunice's founder, in the real estate business. He was superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School for over a quarter of a century.

## Opelousas Oddity

An odd historic fact about Opelousas is that it is one of the truly ancient communities of the Louisiana territory --- and of the continent, for that matter, which was not founded on a navigable stream. Such towns as New Orleans, Natchitoches, Baton Rouge and all the rest were stream-built settlements.

But the original settlers left the stream and came overland to Opelousas.

This is an observation of Franklin Wright of Arnaudville, who aptly points out that it is a curious fact.

little further on, Mr. Dodd Jenkins' store. They all sold staple groceries, clothing, boots and shoes and liquor. That is, all except Mr. Dodd. There wasn't any liquor sold at his store.

"Then the women folks would buy cloth and things like that from the peddling hacks."



## MOOSA Pontiac & Equipment Companies

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  - Fertilizer
  - Custom Ginning
- EUNICE, LA.

MR. LAURANT FUSELIER, President  
MRS. RUTH H. MANUEL, Sec.-Manager  
DELUES MANUEL, Ass't.-Sec.-Manager



# Eunice Pioneers, a List

(Editor's Note: The following list of the best-remembered business and professional pioneers of the 1894-1910 period was compiled from the recollections of some of the older residents of the community, and may be incomplete. Any omissions are inadvertent.)

Merchants and business men: Gus Fuselier, Louis Mayer, Theogene Reed, Paul Stagg, Ferdinand Tate, Olibe Manuel, "Coon" Lafleur, G. Ardoin, Didier Ardoin, George T. Gullet, A. B. Crow, Abe Boudreaux, A. F. McGee, Sosthene Ardoin, John W. White, Joe Lyman, Henry Lafleur, J. T. Adams, Paul Fuselier, Tony Wyble, Theophile Fuselier, Andre Arceneaux, Tobe Andrews, George Derbes, Theogene Fruge, Athanas Mammel.

Physicians: Dr. M. D. Lewis, Dr. J. J. Stagg, Dr. W. H. Ray.

Postmasters: R. C. Sittig, Hiram Fuselier, Pierre Fuselier.

Mayors: Walter W. Duson, Luke A. Boudreaux, Martin Carron, Hiram Fuselier.

Real Estate: C. J. Sanders, James L. Hammers, S. A. Gournay.

Police Officers: Thomas Higginbotham, Jack Sittig, Josh Reed, Henry Landry.

Painters and Decorators: Jim Bult, George Bult, Max Mang.

Barbers: Homer Vidrine, Chris Johnson.

Jewelers: H. E. King, Sam and F. J. Nacol.

First Booster's Club: Dr. M. D. Lewis, Gus Fuselier, C. A. Sanders, Louis Mayer, George Gullet and others.

Rice Millers: "Lulu" Myers, "Babe" Ledoux.

Cotton Gin: L. O. Wade, Ephraim Guillery.

Railroad Agent: J. E. Porter.

Sewing Machines: V. Barras.

Spoke factory: Milkie & Lewis.

Blacksmith: "Bebe" Savoy.

Lawyers: Judge Jules Gl.

Theatre: L. O. Wade.

Bankers: Jimmie Lewis, Warren Berwick.

Lumbermen: Otto Mayer, Dudley Berwick, Voorhies Bros. Newell Lumber Company.



SHORTY RANSOM demonstrates calisthenics to Eunice's first Boy Scout team. Many of the boys in this group are now Eunice business and professional men. How many can you identify? (Photo courtesy Bevan's Studio)



THIS GAY CROWD of young people went out to Bayou Des Cannes for a picnic and outing. Girl with picture hat sitting with driver is Marie Picou Guillery. Young man standing are Dennis Keller and P. O. Guillery. Others were not identified. (Photo Courtesy Bevan's Studio)



VIEW OF Eunice's main street a few years after the turn of the century. Millinery store is on site of present American Department store. Note water pump near curb. Ladies on horseback are thought to be Mrs. Dudley Berwick and Mrs. Tom Plunkett. Frame building with fancy bannister on second floor porch is site of present Reese Variety store. (Photo courtesy Bevan's Studio)

- First Druggist: A. B. Picou.
- First Insurance: James L. Hammers.
- First Fire Chief: K. Moosa.
- First Mechanic: "Spirin" Read.
- First Photographers: Tom and George Bevan.
- First Catholic Priest: Rev. Father Bachlochi.
- First Baptist Minister: Rev. H. W. Ford.
- First Methodist Minister: Rev. S. D. Howard.
- First School Principal: John F. Launey Sr.
- First Nurse: Lillian Lafleur.
- First Baker: Robert A. Picou.
- First Hotel: E. J. O'Quinn.
- First Undertaker: A. F. McGee.
- First Dentist: Dr. J. W. Bacon.
- First Newspaper Publisher: Joseph A. Gil.
- First Livery Stable and Horse "Taxi": Mack Richards and "Old Man" Roy.
- First Butcher: Frank Lejeune.
- Oldest Present Living Residents: Grandma Fowler, 101; "Nunc Alex" Miller, 95.

## Eunice's Favorite Gathering Spots



Touring can be fun — Come in as you are!!  
 ENJOY GOOD FOOD in  
 Air Conditioned Comfort  
**MUFFOLETTO'S**  
**SPAGHETTI & STEAK HOUSE**  
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 One block North of Highway 190 on Second St.  
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 142 N. Second St. Eunice, La.  
 Air Conditioned for your  
 • Dancing Pleasure  
 Philip Uzzo, owner



# History of Eunice, Mrs. Duson's Namesake

By MARY ALICE FONTENOT  
Eunice, second largest city in St. Landry parish, was incorporated on June 4, 1895, as authorized under Section 6, Act 49 of 1882.

C. C. Duson is credited with founding the new town, in 1894. Mr. Duson was born at Webb's Cove, on the Mermentau river, on August 31, 1846, the son of Cornelius Duson and the daughter of Captain John Webb. He was named Cornelius for his father, but was known all his life as "Curley."

C. C. Duson's father was Canadian by birth, and of English-Scotch ancestry. He changed his name from McNaughton to Duson when he came to Louisiana, because of some political trouble.

Young Duson received his education in this section, and, although his formal education barely went beyond grammar school, he was to become recognized in later years as a shrewd business man and real estate promoter, and his name as a law enforcement officer is legendary among pioneer citizens of Southwest Louisiana.

During Reconstruction days Curley Duson served as a St. Landry parish deputy under Sheriff Hayes. His term as deputy was from 1866 to 1873, when he was elected sheriff. He held the office for 14 years, until 1887, when the large St. Landry area was split up to form the three parishes of St. Landry, Acadia and Evangeline.

### WAS U. S. MARSHALL

His last job as a law enforcement officer was as United States marshal in the Western district of Louisiana, named to this post by President Theodore Roosevelt.

"Curley Duson was a crack shot with the pistol," recalls L. A. Williams of Crowley, an old friend and business associate of Mr. Duson. "This section was a hiding-out place for renegades from all over the nation, and our peace officers had to be tough."

In 1867 Mr. Duson was married to Miss Islara Andrus, and to their union were born eight children: six sons, and two daughters. One of the sons, Dr. Walter Duson, who died in recent years in El Campo, Tex., was Eunice's first mayor. Other sons were Martin, Rodney, Clayton, Jesse and George. Daughters were Lola, and the late Mrs. Meta Duson Mornhinweg of Opelousas.

After his first wife's death, Curley Duson was married to Miss Eunice Pharr. Their two children were C. C. Jr. and William

Hebert.

In 1887 Curley Duson and his brother, W. W. Duson, founded the town of Crowley, the C. C. Dusons lived in homes located on South Avenue F, then later on the corner of Hutchinson Avenue and Avenue H.

Some years later Curley Duson purchased 160 acres of land from Willie Humble of Prairie Facquettaque. At that time Mr. Gus Fuselier's store was a sort of prairie trading post for the scattered homesteaders of the area, and Mr. Fuselier helped Mr. Duson with his real estate venture.

Mr. Duson mapped out his 160 acres as a townsite, laid out in lots 50 by 140 feet, 12 lots to the block. He named the new town Eunice, for his wife.

Then he started promoting Eunice. He persuaded the Southern Pacific railroad to extend their branch railroad from Crowley to Eunice.

While the railroad was under construction, the Duson family lived in a home located where Eunice Hospital is now. This home was later sold to Joseph Bergeron, one of the pioneer citizens of the new town, father of A. E. Bergeron Sr.

### ADVERTISES NEW TOWN

Meanwhile, the advertising and promotion of Eunice continued to stimulate interest in the new town. Mr. Duson evidently secured the services of a resident who wrote a news column about Eunice, which he published in his brother's paper, The Crowley Signal.

June 23, 1894, The Signal carried a column entitled "Eunice Dots," and the writer simply signed himself (or herself) as 'X'. The following are items from this column and one published on July 14, 1894:

"Gus Euselier store is nearly completed. It is a quite pretty building." (The original Fuselier store was on the Opelousas road, located about where the Maxile Savoy farm is now).

Chris Rupert will start his mill soon. He has finished planting his rice crop.

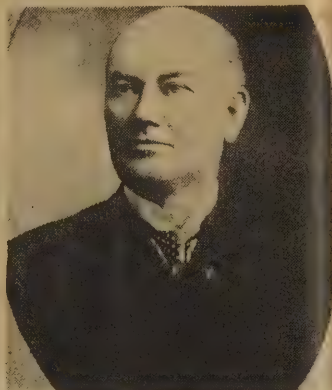
"Messrs. Medicis and Savoir (probably Savoy) are putting in a brick plant. They will have their kiln completed by September 1, in time for the sale."

"The fencing is all being taken off the town site property, preparatory to leveling and grading."

"Mr. F. Savoir will begin building a store in Eunice immediately."



JOSEPH A. GIL was Eunice's first newspaper publisher. Mr. Gil started "The Eunice Gall" in 1903, and prior to that had worked for Sandoz Brothers in Opelousas, in the Courier Printing Office.



C.C. DUSON, former St. Landry sheriff, who founded Eunice in 1894. He mapped out a town site in the middle of a bare expanse of prairie, gave the new town a big shove towards growth and progress by persuading a railroad company to build a railroad to Eunice. (Photo courtesy Crowley Signal)



SCHOOL CHILDREN paraded in 1915, to help sway the voters in a school improvement election. This photo was made on Park Avenue, between Second and Third streets, looking east towards the SP depot. Note large number of little girls in sun bonnets. (Photo courtesy Bevan's Studio)



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EUNICE, LA.  
Phone 3879  
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ST COTTON GIN at Eunice was this large plant, the first place in the city to use electricity. It was operated by L. O. Wade.



L. O. WADE came to Eunice in 1905, bought cotton gin from company of Texas men. Wade was the first Eunice resident to use electricity; he installed an electric plant in 1906. He was also the first movie showing his "moving pictures" in a tent and where City Hall is now.

Mr. Fuselier is laying the foundation for his warehouse 100 x 50 feet."

"There was a picnic in Eunice on the Fourth of July. Everybody and their little ones were out."

"The first drummers came to Eunice on the Fourth of July. They were Messrs. Del Bondio and G. M. Hainkel. They dined at 'the camp' and brought over a chunk of ice, the first ever brought to town."

"Mr. Garvey, the railroad contractor, has completed the switch track and is making a ditch for Mr. Dison."

"Grading is progressing nicely."

The Lake Charles Press carried an article about the new town, in August, 1894:

"Those ambitious and enterprising town builders, the Dison brothers, are busy now making a brand new city up in the woods one third between Welsh and Alexandria. In conjunction with the Southern Pacific company, they have built a railroad from near the former place to a point some 20 miles on a direct line towards the capital of Rapides, which they have named the Midland Branch Road."

"At the terminus, a clearing in the woods, they have platted a town which they call Eunice, and which they propose developing into a town of 3,000 within a year. The new town has places platted for churches, school houses, parks, etc., and is laid out on modern improved ideas. The new road (railroad) enters an entirely unoccupied field, as there is no road within 50 miles on either side."

"Notwithstanding this fact, much of the country is under cultivation and considerable is quite thickly settled. As Eunice is 27 miles from Opelousas, 54 from Alexandria, 22 from



REED'S STORE in Eunice, established in the late 1890s, was a pioneer business there. Theogene Reed was the owner.



"WATCH INSPECTOR For All Railroads" was the advertising slogan of H.E. King, Eunice pioneer jeweler and watch repair man. Mr. King and Mrs. King, Eunice's first seamstress, came to Eunice in 1907, and were among the few pioneer citizens who did not speak French.



THEOGENE REED, pioneer merchant of Eunice, and Mrs. Reed, the former Emmaise Guillory. Mr. Reed's store, later managed by his sons Oliver and Kenneth, was located where the Seale Implement Company is now, on Park Avenue. Mr. Reed came to Eunice in the late '90s, bought the store building from Jim Bult in 1902.

land, it will be seen it has a great future and is bound to spring into a bustling town, an important distributing and receiving point, at once."

The work of laying out the town progressed. Mr. Fuselier's new store, located near the railroad terminus, (the S. P. 'depot') about where the fire station is now, was rapidly

Crowley and 24 from Oberlin and the center of 2,000 miles of naturally rich agricultural

**The Sabatier Company**

**Eunice, La.**

**CONGRATULATES EUNICE**

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**ST. LANDRY PARISH**

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**HISTORY**

**and**

**PROGRESS**

**FOR OVER 30 YEARS..**



**.. Selling The One FINE Car In Its Field!**

**Eunice Motor Company INC.**

**100 N. 2nd St. Phone 2231 Eunice, La.**







OXEN drew log wagons at Eunice in early days, to mill owned by Dudley Berwick. (Bevan's Photo).



DUDLEY BERWICK came to Eunice in 1907, bought a lumber yard from Otto Mayer, also operated a lumber mill. He was a former mayor of Eunice, and known throughout the state as a sportsman and for his interest in wildlife. This photograph was made at the time Mr. Berwick was state Conservation Commissioner.

nearing completion. Other buildings were going up. A Dr. Jones of Long Point said he was going to put up a drug store as soon as he could grab a town lot."

Meanwhile the man who was to become Eunice's first mayor, Dr. W. W. Duson, was an eye, ear, nose and throat specialist in Opelousas. The St. Landry Democrat of February 1894, carried an account of the wedding of Dr. Duson to Miss Augusta Lastrapes at the residence of Dr. V. K. Irion in Opelousas, Rev. Brooks of the Episcopal church officiating.

**HISTORIC DATE**

September 12, 1894, was a historic date for Eunice. On this day the first train came to Eunice; first a special train from Lafayette, then the highly advertised excursion from New Orleans, filled with prospective citizens for the new town. The town lots were to be auctioned off that day, there was to be music and speeches.

The Crowley paper carried glowing descriptions of the town, the real estate bargains to be offered, the week before the big day. In the files of the Signal of September 8, 1894, may be found such items as the following, scattered among the news stories:

"All aboard for Eunice next Wednesday! Special excursion train for Eunice will leave New Orleans next Wednesday at 7 a.m., passing through here (Crowley) at 2:30 p.m."

"Drop your work for one day and take in the Eunice excursion and town lot sale next Wednesday. If you purchase, it will be the biggest day's business of your life, and if you don't buy, you'll have had a nice trip anyway."

An interesting sidelight on that first train trip was furnished by Mr. Williams, Crowley pioneer previously mentioned. Mr. Williams, the only surviving passenger of that excursion who could be located, was a member of



EUNICE'S PIONEER PHYSICIANS were M. D. Lewis and Dr. J. J. Stagg (top, left right), both of whom served the Eunice community as physicians and civic leaders from the earliest days of the town. This medical and civic tradition established by the fathers was carried on by their sons, the late Dr. Charles W. Lewis (lower left) and Dr. J. J. Stagg, (lower right) mayor of Eunice.



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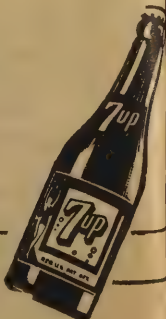


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**It Likes You . . You Like It!**



● KAYO

● GRAPETTE





TOM BEVAN, Eunice's first photographer, came to town in 1907 from Missouri with his brother, George. The two brothers made the trip in the traveling hack shown above. They established their business on north Second street, where it still is today.



DIDIER ARDOIN came to Eunice in the early 1900's, was in business with his brother, G. Ardoin, later with another Eunice pioneer merchant, Abe Boudreaux. In 1922 Mr. Ardoin established the present Ardoin's store.

the Crowley Cornet Band, that made the trip to furnish stirring music for the occasion. The railroad branch to Eunice ran from Crowley West to Midland, then North to Eunice. Mr. Williams recalls that after the train passed the Midland station the train stopped, and a brakeman got off and opened a gate across the track for the train to pass. Then the brakeman closed the gate and boarded the train again.

Evidently the landowner, through whose property the new railroad ran, had given right of way on condition that his gate be left intact, so that his livestock wouldn't get out and roam the prairies.

The September 15, 1894 issue of the Crowley Signal carried a complete account of the big day in Eunice:

"It was a big crowd that assembled at the new town of Eunice on Wednesday and Thursday, on the occasion of the first sale of town lots. The sale had been liberally advertised throughout the State in both the city and country press, and this advertising was not without results. There were people from Mississippi, Alabama, Texas and Louisiana. Scarcely a parish in this State was without representation. Large delegations were there from New Orleans, Morgan City, Houma, New Iberia, Abbeville, Patterson, Lake Charles and Opelousas, while no less than 500 Crowley citizens attended either one or both days of the sale.

"But the big crowd that was there was



MACK RICHARDS owned and operated the first livery stable in Eunice. Even after autos made their appearance on Eunice streets, "Mack Richards place" continued to be a landmark and favorite meeting place for all the old timers of the community.



PIONEER DEVELOPER of Southwest Louisiana, founder of Eunice and other communities in the prairies, was C. C. DUSON.



FIRST MINISTER to be appointed to the Eunice Methodist church was the Rev. S. D. Howard, shown here with his wife and daughter, Alice. (Photo courtesy Mrs. L. O. Howard)

small as compared with what it would have been had fair weather prevailed. The heavy rains all along the line of the Southern Pac-

**Growing With A Progressive People**



**ST. LANDRY BANK & TRUST CO**  
Eunice, La.

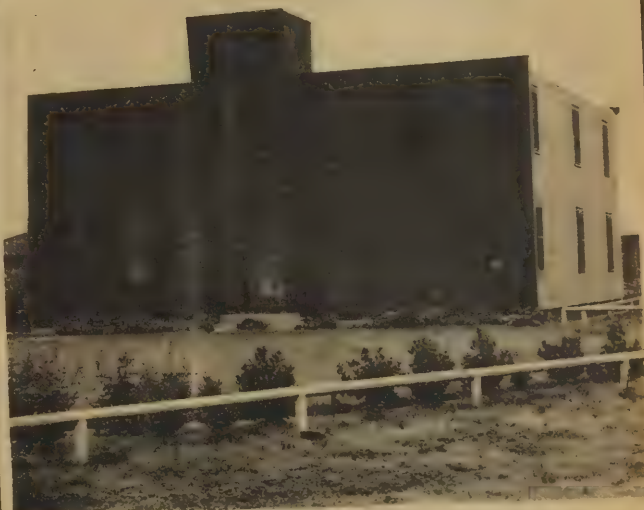
- Member:
- FDIC
  - ABA
  - LBA

**We compliment the people of Eunice and St. Landry Parish for the wonderful progress they've made during the past 150 years.**

OFFICERS:  
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D. A. LAHAYE, VICE-PRESIDENT

OFFICERS EUNICE BRANCH:  
MATHIAS MILLER, MANAGER  
EARL R. STAGG, ASST. MANAGER

**ASHY—STAGG**



**CONSTRUCTION CO.**

- General Oil Field Maintenance
- Pipeline and Drainage Contractors

**Eunice, La.**





THE MODEL - T FORD at lower right in this picture may tell you that this is a picture of the first Tri-Parish Fair, predecessor to the Southwest Louisiana Fair. (Photo courtesy Bevan's Studio)



THE P. O. GUILLORY CONFECTIONERY (located where Picou's Drug Store is now) was where the young people of the town gathered before the World War years. Young men at ease in rear thought to be Rene Tate and Lennie Savoy. (Photo courtesy Bevan's Studio)



JIMMIE LEWIS was Eunice's first banker, helped Dr. M. D. Lewis establish first bank in building located where Lahaye Chevrolet is now located. His picture was reproduced from a cracked glass portrait. He was the father of Mrs. Drew Barret of Opelousas. (Photo courtesy Mrs. Dudley Berwick)

Life for three days was heaviest on Tuesday and prevented many from taking the early trains. Notwithstanding this fact it was a large crowd that went to Eunice on a special Tuesday evening, while Crowley was over run with guests who stopped off to remain over until the day following. After all our hotels had been filled many were the visitors for whom it was necessary to find accommodations in private families.

"The special train starting from Lafayette on Wednesday morning carried more than three hundred Crowley passengers in addition to the large number of visitors who had stopped over here, while several hundred passengers were picked up at other stations along the line. The Crowley brass band and Rayne string band supplied the music for the trip, as well as for the sale and entertainments at Eunice. When this train arrived there was found to be fully 1,500 visitors already on the ground, most of whom were residents of Acadia and St. Landry and who had made the trip on foot, on horseback or in buggies or wagons.

"The visitors spent a few hours in walking over the town site and inspecting its beautiful location. Not until after 3 o'clock did Hon. C. C. Duson mount the auction table and offer the first lot for sale. It was located one square from the main street and was knocked down in short order to Gus Fuselier for \$80. Property was offered for sale in different parts of town and a number of bidders found themselves in possession of choice lots at low figures. No



RICE HARVESTING in the old days was very different to present day harvesting with combines. This harvesting scene was at the Charles Dischler farm south of Eunice. (Bevan's Studio Photo)

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John Chauvin, Mgr.  
Eunice, La.







OLD TIMERS remember "The Eunice Band" used to furnish music for political speeches on the Fourth of July and other occasions, but no one remembers the band members. Drummer at right is thought to be "one of the Arnolds." (Photo Courtesy Bevan's Studio)



THIS IS EUNICE's first ice factory. Before it was built, ice was hauled to Eunice from Opelousas. (Bevan's Studio Photo)

...was lost waiting for bidders to call. The prices at this time ranged from \$100 to \$125. About twenty lots had been sold when the New Orleans excursion arrived having on board fully 1,000 more visitors bringing the total number of visitors on the grounds to 4,000 or more. After a brief delay the sale was continued and better prices ruled. Revenue lots sold at from \$125 to \$205, and residence lots ranged from \$40 to \$101. The sale was continued until dark and nearly one hundred and fifty lots were sold at an average price of about one hundred dollars per lot.



MISS MINNIE CARRON was one of the pioneer school teachers of Eunice. The daughter of a former mayor, Martin Carron, she taught school when there were only three members of the faculty, in a frame building located where the Dr. P.W. Lahaye home is now, on the corner of Oak Avenue and Fifth Street.

SALES TOTAL \$25,000  
The crowd on Thursday was considerably reduced, being divested of that contingency that had made the trip simply to secure benefits of a cheap excursion, and a few of the purchasers who had bought about all they cared to at this time, did not return on the second day. However a good crowd was there and the bidding was spirited. Prices ranged about the same as the preceding day. At no time during the sale was any time lost waiting for bids. Mr. Duson knocked down a number of lots to persons whom he thought desirous of improving, giving the opposition no time to bid. The sales of the two days aggregated about \$25,000, much of the property going to parties who will settle in the new town and assist in making it the leading trade center of a very wide range of country. A second sale will take place next year, probably in October.  
All those who visited Eunice on this



EUNICE BASEBALL Champs of 1913: left to right, seated: Casey Myers, pitcher, Acosta, catcher; 2nd row: Albert R. Picou Sr., Babe Amy, W.C. Bailey, Clem Laffleur, Daig Fuselier; 3rd row: Oliver Reed, Albert Tate, Frank Bennan, Jimmy Hammers, Foster Tate, Thanas Fuselier.

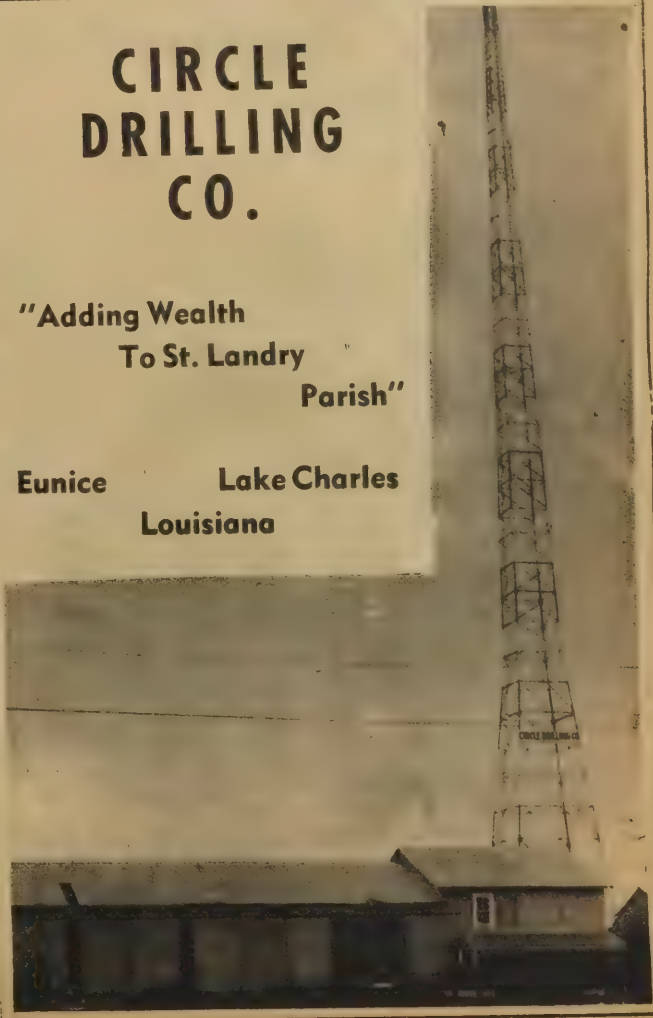


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MAMOU, LA.  
BASILE, LA.

# CIRCLE DRILLING CO.

"Adding Wealth To St. Landry Parish"

Eunice Lake Charles Louisiana







THE DATE this photograph was made is indefinite, but this listing of early Eunice business firms was evidently before automobiles, as no car dealers are shown. Advertisement at lower left was for the carriage and machine shop of "Spitting" Read, the town's first machinist, who also owned the first auto in Eunice. (Photo courtesy Bevan's Studio).



SOMETIME BETWEEN 1908 and 1912, fire destroyed almost an entire block in Eunice's main business district. The only brick building in the block, where Best Flower Shop is now, was the only structure left standing. In frame buildings destroyed by the fire were the Lamar Stag-Ferdinand Tate store, and Homer Vidrine's barber shop. The fire was believed to have originated in the barber shop. (Photo courtesy Bevan's Studio).



FOUR "FIRSTS" in Eunice: At the wheel of the auto is Theophile Moosa, first garage-man; also in front seat is F. J. Nacol, first auto dealer. In back seat is Mr. and Mrs. K. Moosa, who came to Eunice in 1900. Mr. Moosa was Eunice's first volunteer fire chief, Mrs. Moosa, Eunice's first milliner. (Photo courtesy Bevan's Studio).

occasion were surprised and pleased with what they saw there. None expected to see so many buildings as have here been erected in the last six weeks. There were none present but remarked at the excellent drainage of the town, the well grades streets and good sidewalks.

The purchasers of Eunice property came from all parts of Louisiana, and in fact, from several adjoining states. Among the most heavy buyers in the new town were citizens of Crowley. They were after good locations and readily bid the highest prices at which any property was sold, clearly showing the faith and confidence our people have in the new town and in Hon. C. C. and W. W. Duson.

C. C. Duson died in New Orleans in 1910, sixteen years after he founded Eunice, and is buried at Crowley. During those years the little prairie town had grown and prospered, warehouses went up. The grain could now be shipped by train for milling, instead of the long arduous hauling by ox cart or mule team.

There were churches, a school, doctors, a dentist, cotton gins, lumber companies, hotels, livery stables; more railroads, merchandise stores, drug stores; photographer, a jeweler, a "Chinese" laundry.

And as promising a lot of politicians as could be found in any town.



MRS. ROBERT RASBERRY'S Methodist Sunday School class here pose for the "birdie". Little girl third from left, front row, is the former Bessie Cannon. (Photo courtesy Bevan's studio)

# May Brothers Inc.

EUNICE, LOUISIANA



BAROID PRODUCTS - CHEMICALS  
CEMENT FIR TIMBERS  
BOARD ROAD LUMBER

— SERVING THE OIL INDUSTRY SINCE 1932 —



Southwest Louisiana's  
Finest Restaurant & Lounge



Private Dining Room, Completely Air Conditioned; Specializing in Kansas City Steaks, Broiled Chicken, Sea Foods and Mixed Drinks — Mixed the way you like them

**LEDOUX'S**  
Restaurant & Lounge

U. S. Hwy. 190

Eunice, La.





# 1st. Eunice Council Meeting

The first Eunice city council meeting was held June 12, 1895, eight days after the town was incorporated, under the administration of Mayor Walter W. Duson. The aldermen were J. F. Dezauche, later of Opelousas, Cleophas Courville, pioneer merchant and great-uncle of S. D. Courville; Gus Fuselier, Eunice's "parrain" and first merchant; J. E. Porter, first Southern Pacific agent, and D. R. January, son of a pioneer Crowley physician.

A total of 19 ordinances were passed at this first meeting. The ordinances provided for the levying and collecting of business license fees, regular meetings of the council, police regulations, and other regulations for law enforcement in the town.

There was an ordinance passed to prohibit hogs from running at large, also to prohibit pigeons from running (or flying) at large.

Horse racing was prohibited in the town, as was the firing of guns, and fighting and gambling in the streets. Using slingshots within the town limits was forbidden by ordinance.

The sanitation of the town was properly attended to with ordinances providing for the removal of dead livestock, disposing of wastes, and so on.



STANISLAUS "Tony" WYBLE came to Eunice in 1906. He opened the first men's clothing store, and in connection with the store ran the first pressing shop. He was also mayor of Eunice for many years.



THIS WAGON LOAD of happy people was probably headed for a picnic near Bayou Des Cannes, or perhaps a Fourth of July celebration. (Photo courtesy Bevan's Studio)



THIS GROUP of bank directors includes eight of Eunice's pioneer business and professional men. Seated, left to right: C. J. Sanders, Henry Lafleur, L. O. Wade; standing: Abe Boudreaux, D. E. Young, Emile Miller, Dr. Harry Jenkins, Warren Berwick. (Photo Courtesy Bevan's studio)



WHEN NAT GUILLOREY (left) and Henry Landry (right) were police officers in the old days, they caught two strangers breaking into the Lyman-White grocery, called Mr. Tom Bevan to make their picture with the culprits. (Photo Bevan's studio)



1953

- Auto
  - Furniture
  - Signature
- LOANS**

1955

**PACIFIC FINANCE CO.**

T. J. WASHMUTH, Mgr.  
EUNICE, LA.

PHONE 4266

**Built On 26 Years  
Of Dependable Service  
1929 — 1955**



**LaHAYE  
CHEVROLET COMPANY**

**Operated under same management  
Longer than any other Dealership in Eunice**



100 Walnut Avenue

Eunice, La.

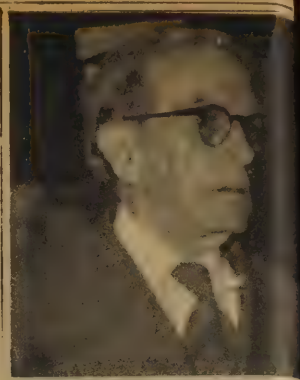




ROBERT "Coco" LAFLEUR, pioneer merchant and politician, came to Eunice in 1898. He was parish treasurer for some years, a former mayor of Eunice, and a member of the police jury. (Photo courtesy Bevan's Studio)



EUNICE CITIZENS did some 'politicin' back in the old days to get their city named parish seat of Evangeline parish. Even then pretty girls were considered the best ornament for an elaborately decorated float. People in picture could not be identified. (Photo Courtesy Bevan's Studio).



ADAM FUSELIER, Eunice pioneer, is son of "The Father of Eunice," Gus Fouselier, who helped C.C. Duson in his work founding the town. Mr. Fouselier is 76, 15 years old when the first train came to Eunice. His recollections of the early days were a great help in collecting data for the history of Eunice.

# MY HOW SHE GREW!

## CITY OF EUNICE

Founded 1895

### St. Landry Parish's Fastest Growing City

Eunice has made great strides during the 60 years since its founding. Its fast growing population and balanced economy have played an important role in the growth and development of St. Landry Parish.

An important center of oil, rice, cotton and cattle, this community has become a modern, progressive, forward-looking city while still retaining the romantic charm of its French ancestry.

There's an interesting future ahead for Eunice.

1960 ?

1950  
Population 8,184

1940  
Population 5,242

1930  
Population 3,597

1920  
Population 2,500

1910  
Population 1,000

Founded 1895



## Reed Gas, Inc.

- Your home owned Butane Dealer
  - Jobber Phillips 66 Petroleum Products
- Eunice, La.

## Snack House

East Maple & Crowley Road  
Eunice, La.  
Regular Meals — Sandwiches  
We specialize in Barbecue  
Drinks of all kinds served in Cocktail Lounge

## Eunice Steam Laundry & Dry Cleaning Co.

Harold O. Reed, Mgr.  
Family & Individual Laundry Service  
North Fourth St.  
Eunice, La.

## Moody's Insurance Agency

P. O. Box 786

Eunice, La.

"The Fastest Growing Agency with the Best Service in the World"



**River Brand**  
The Popular low cost REGULAR GRAIN rice

**Carolina Brand**  
The King Size EXTRA LONG GRAIN rice.

## River Brand Rice Mills, Inc.

New York, N. Y. — Houston, Texas  
Memphis, Tenn. — El Campo, Texas  
Eunice, La. — Jonesboro, Ark.





BACK IN "NINETEEN OUGHT EIGHT" Eunice people had no Calcasieu River camps, and even if they had, the trip by horse and buggy would have been more trouble than it was worth. Instead they camped out on weekends at Bayou Blue Spring. This photo shows a group at the Mentor Guillory family camp at Bayou Blue: Left to right: Mentor Guillory, Mr. Fuselier, Claude Keller and Mrs. Keller. Adius Guillory, Mrs. Guillory and Bertha

Guillory, Frank Fuselier, Mrs. Fuselier and Carrie Fuselier, Omare Guillory and Mrs. Guillory, Mrs. Mentor Guillory, the cook, Mrs. Lydia Bergeaux. In foreground, seated, is Dr. Ozman Fuselier, now a Detroit, Mich., dentist, and Eugene Guillory. Sitting on box at far right are two first cousins, Rt. Rev. Paul M. Fuselier, now of Abbeville, and Stewart Rozas of Eunice. (Photo courtesy Guillory family).



A SPORTSMAN has to go far these days to bring back a string like this, caught near Eunice many years ago by three of the community's best-known sportsmen: Dr. Charlie Lewis, Gerald Parrott, Dudley Berwick. (Bevan's Studio Photo)



AUTOS WERE first sold in Eunice by F. J. Nacol, whose business place is shown here, corner of Second and Walnut. (Bevan's Studio Photo)



A GOOD HORSE and a fiddle was all the equipment this "jeune homme" needed for his weekly trip to town on Saturday. (Photo courtesy Bevan's studio)

**TREIBEL'S**  
**MUSIC SHOP**

Phone 4889      233 W. Laurel  
Eunice, La.



**Your Complete Music Center**

- Band Instruments and accessories
- Fender Guitars, Amplifiers
- Gulbransen Pianos
- Sheet Music
- Records
- Bendix Television

**WASHINGTON DRUG STORE.** **T. M. WATKINS**  
**SADDLER.**

THE undersigned would inform his friends and the Public that he is now receiving from New Orleans, a fresh and complete stock of **DRUGS** and **MEDICINES**, and will continue the business at the store lately occupied by Dr. Hardy, next to the store of T. C. Anderson & Co. He has employed a competent Druggist and chemist to attend to putting up prescriptions, &c., and will take pleasure in waiting upon those who will favor him with their patronage.

**S. D. ALLIS.**

**ANNOUNCE** respectfully to the citizens of St. Landry, that he has just re-opened, corner of Main and Carriere streets, a new and elegant **SADDLERY SHOP**, where he will keep constantly on hand every article concerning his trade. In point of workmanship he defies competition. All orders promptly attended to.

His prices will be moderate, for cash or to punctual dealers on a short credit.

Washington, (La.) July 10th 1852—1y.



# EUNICE

## FASTEST GROWING CITY IN ST. LANDRY PARISH



- The largest school enrollment of any town in St. Landry parish
- Most reasonable tax rates.
- Lowest gas rate of any town in State of Louisiana
- Center of diversified farming and cattle raising.
- St. Landry Parish's oil capitol.
- Rice center of St. Landry parish
- Abundance of labor.
- St. Landry Parish's only municipality with full \$1,000 Homestead Exemption.

**Dr. J. J. Stagg**  
MAYOR

**Wade J. Guillet**  
Clerk and Tax Collector

#### Aldermen:

**Dr. Gerald P. Duplechin**  
**W. H. Foret**  
**L. P. Richard**  
**Ernest Russell**  
**George Stagg**

**Wesley Duplechin, Marshall**  
**C. J. Savoy, Supt. Pub. Utilities**  
**Wesley H. Clanton, Attorney**  
**P. J. Reed, Treasurer**  
**Dr. J. T. Thompson, Physician**

**WATCH EUNICE THRIVE IN '55**



# De la Morandiere Home



**THIS LOVELY OLD HOME** was built by the descendants of one of the original settlers of the Poste des Opelousas - Etienne Robert de la Morandiere. De la Morandiere was one of the French soldiers who established the poste, and was captain of the militia. Probably built about 1830, this residence is a two-storied frame building with a central hallway on both floors, large front rooms on the gallery, and two smaller "cabinets" and these - a typical floor plan of that time. On the lower floor the hall leads to the dining room, and adjacent large kitchen. The walling in the front hall was of wide cypress planks, which have since been covered with wallpaper. Louvered shutters adorn the windows and doors. This home has changed hands many times, being known through the years by the names of the various families that owned it. At one time it was owned by the Mary family, who operated a large syrup mill below the house on the banks of Bayou Courtableau. Some of the foundations of the mill are still to be seen on the terracing leading to the house from the house. The Callahan family also lived here, as did the Baileys and the Fontenots. It is presently owned and resided in by Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Anderson. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

# Stagg-Lazaro Home



**AMONG THE FINE OLD HOMES** in Grand Prairie is this story-and-a-half frame residence, typical of country homes of the period. It was built by Paul Stagg about the middle of the nineteenth century, on land settled by his father, Philip Stagg.

The home of Philip Stagg was recently demolished, but is remembered by many citizens as one of the oldest houses in this section, of poste adobe construction. It is to be regretted that these old landmarks are being continually torn down and that we have but few of them left to show the age of our settlement.

George Stagg, son of Paul Stagg, is a resident of Eunice, one of the prominent citizens of that town, and well-known throughout the state.

Remembered also for other associations is this home, which passed into the hands of the Lazaro family at the end of the nineteenth century.

Dr. Ladislas Lazaro made his home here, and as his residence the old place was the center of much of the civic and social life of the community. Besides being a prominent doctor, he became a Member of Congress from this district, and here reared his family. His son, who bears his name, also a practicing physician of the Parish, is a resident of Opelousas, and is the present owner of this historic old home.

Dr. Lazaro's father was Alexandre Lazaro, a native of Montenegro, who came from his country in 1813, married Elizabeth Vidrine, and settled near Ville Platte, at Tate's Cove. After her death he married Marie Denise Ortego, mother of the present Dr. L. Lazaro.

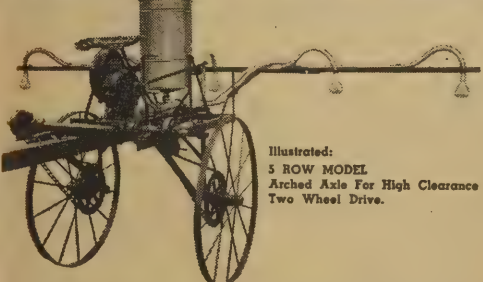


**EARLY PHOTO** of the former home of the Washington State Bank, taken in the 1820s.



**EARLY DAYS** of Washington Public School. Principal Bittle and faculty of the high school department, about 1911.

## THE SIMPLEX HORSE DRAWN INSECTICIDE DUSTER



Illustrated:  
3 ROW MODEL  
Arched Axle For High Clearance  
Two Wheel Drive.

A complete line of horse drawn insecticide dusters to meet the exact requirements and price range of each farmer—3, 5 or 6 row models. Straight axle model for regular growth cotton or plants and arched axle models for taller plants. Distributes even flow of dust. Not too heavy a pull or drag for animals. **FEATURE:** No dust passes through the fan housing at any time. Available with 40" or 52" wheels. **SIMPLE . . . ECONOMICAL . . . EFFECTIVE.**

SEE THE SIMPLEX INSECTICIDE DUSTER ON DISPLAY

**SIMPLEX**  
MIL STEEL  
TRACTOR  
MODELS

**SAVE YOUR CROPS!**  
WRITE FOR LITERATURE

**NEW PORTABLE**  
DUSTER  
Working 2000 ft.  
per hour  
12 ft. 3 row model  
Oil 5 or 6 hours

3 ROW DUSTERS CAN BE ATTACHED TO RIDING CULTIVATORS

See J. C. Doucet at

# Doucet Auto Parts & Garage

Complete Auto Repair & Welding  
Phone 6206 Washington, La.

## Truly A Landmark



The old Schmidt Hotel, pictured above, was built several decades before the Civil War. It is now owned and used as a warehouse by

**Martin Furniture Works**  
Washington, La.



# Quirk Home, Washington



**STANDING** In the town of Washington, near the Catholic Church, is this fine old place. Once a raised house, set on a brick lower floor, it was changed many years ago by removal of the basement section, and was set on brick pillars.

It stands in a grove of moss-hung live oaks, souvenir of the days when Washington was a thriving port. The home of Mrs. Webb Quirk and the late Mr. Quirk it is one of the serene and lovely mementoes of the past that may still be found in the town of Washington.

Mrs. Quirk, nee Rita Wartelle, is a descendant of several of the old French families of the section, and her husband was a direct descendant and namesake of the Webbs and the Quirks who were large plantation owners neighboring Washington.

Her children and grandchildren are prominent citizens of the parish, and she herself is beloved by all of her acquaintance.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH in Washington. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

**BANK**

**LOCALLY**

**Because**

**It Builds  
Your Community**

**WASHINGTON  
STATE BANK**

Established 1893

**Arnaudville Branch**  
Opened in 1937



Your Regular Savings Here  
Will Help Build Your Future

**ARNAUVILLE - WASHINGTON**



**NOW...**

**80,400  
MORE HORSES  
FOR**

**THE DEEP SOUTH**

**POWER**

**FOR PROGRESS**



ASK FOR ...

**Cleco**

**Utility Service**

THE KEY ...

Through the foresight and planning of Central Louisiana Electric Company there is now on the way 80,400 horsepower for "The Teche"—The Evangeline Country of Louisiana's Deep South. In early November '54 ground was broken at the Company's Teche Power Station, Baldwin, La., for the \$5,600,000 expansion program which will more than triple the electric energy available at this plant. When completed in early 1956 it will add 60,000 kilowatts to its present 24,000 kilowatt capability. Also, to insure dependable and adequate electric service, Teche Power Station is tied in with a 138,000 volt transmission line to Coughlin Generating Station at St. Landry, the Company's other main source of power.

Cleco's 80,400 horsepower expansion program is just a forerunner of the good things to come in the heart of Louisiana's Deep South in the forward march of balancing agriculture with industry.

TO

**BETTER LIVING**





# Rosimond Soileau Home

# Old Gantt House



AMONG THE MOST CHARMING houses in the Opelousas area are these small homes that are still to be found here and there in the prairie. This home is in Grand Prairie, and is the residence of Rosimond Soileau, a descendant of some of the earliest French settlers of the Poste des Opelousas.

This is a typical French home, with its open gallery across the front supported by slender cypress posts, braced at the top to hold the sloping roof extension, which forms the porch. This type of house, with variations, may be seen throughout Southwest Louisiana, and is one of the most attractive styles of architecture to develop in the south.

At the rear of the house and connected to it by a small gallery is the kitchen, also a feature typical of this style of home.

Old-time roses and camellias bloom in the yard that is enclosed with a handmade picket fence. Many houses of this style once had adobe fronts, that were later covered with cypress weatherboarding.

Leading to the upstairs loft is the open stair on the front gallery, and in olden times the loft served as a garconiere, or sleeping place for the young boys and bachelors of the family. (Daily World Photo by Deville).



OVERLOOKING the bridge at Bayou Courtableau landing in Washington is one of the oldest structures in the town. This is known by several names. It is called the Gantt house, from the Gantt family who resided there, and it is called the Garland Hotel, for it was at one time used as a hotel during the steamboat days, being owned by Captain Henry L. Garland, and also by one of the Thompson family. Somewhere adjacent to it was a livery stable, where coaches were kept at readiness to transport travelers who arrived by boat and wished to travel inland to Opelousas, Lafayette, or other spots. Conversely, people arriving in Washington to catch a steamer could stable their horses prior to a long trip.

This is certainly one of the oldest and most interesting buildings in the town. On the side of it is a later frame addition. Both buildings face the bayou (north).

The style of architecture is severe and classic, being a two and a half storied brick with chimney at either end of the straight roof. Over the very balanced placement of windows the two chimneys stand like sentinels at each end. Huge cypress lintels are placed over each window, and sustaining rods of large proportion break the otherwise severe outline of brick and window.

For several generations the Gantt family were leading citizens of the parish, outstanding in political activities. They owned and resided in this house for some years.

Captain Garland was one of the well-known figures of St. Landry Parish, descending from a prominent family. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

# Woodland, Thistlethwaite



"Woodland," sometimes called the "Payne House" and also "Macland", is now owned by the Thistlethwaite family. It is situated on the road between Washington and Beggs, a distance north from Bayou Courtableau and a bit east of Bayou Boeuf.

It has an interesting history, of which we will relate some details.

Louis Archibald Webb (b. 1822-d. 1861) built the house in the 1840's. Dr. Webb was the son of Major Amos Webb, and Charlotte Adams, who built and lived in "Arlington," now known as the Plane Home. Dr. Webb was married to Amelia Keller, who was born in

the original home of Dr. Webb stood northwest of the present home; it was a small one, on the banks of Bayou Boeuf. At its site is now a cabin, and nearby is an underground brick cistern, attesting to the age of the place.

The doctor was one of the prominent and learned physicians of the time. His sister, Charlotte Webb, married Thomas Culver Quirk, whose father, Thomas Quirk came from Mercer County, Kentucky.

Doctor Webb died during the War Between the States, and his widow married three years later to Edward Gallegar. After his death, in 1870, the home was in the possession of the Gallegar family, and some parts of the original vast plantation (4,000 acres or more) are in the hands of direct descendants of Thomas Quirk and Charlotte Webb.

During these years of reconstruction the plantation changed hands many times, and was finally bought in the early 1900s by the Thistlethwaite lumbering family, who acquired along with its adjacent woodland. Present owner of the house is the Thistlethwaite Lumbering Co., Ltd., of which Lawrence Thistlethwaite is president. It is resided in by Mrs. Taylor Sr. and her son, J. J. Taylor Jr., manager of the farm operation.

One of the place is a syrup mill, famed for its open-kettle cane syrup, the last one in St. Landry to make "LaCuite".

Members of the Quirk family have many interesting souvenirs and mementoes of the past, as well as family records going back to the builders of the two old old homes, Arlington and Woodland.

Woodland is in a good state of preservation. Brick lower floor supporting the clapboard upper story... typical construction of the period. Departing from the usual trend, it has round plastered brick columns, whose massive simplicity add to the imposing appearance. Iron railings on the second floor gallery are most attractive. A double stairway at the front has lost one of its staircases.

An odd and practical note is added by a carriage drive that extends clear through the front of the lower floor, thus enabling the occupants to descend from their horses and carriages without facing the elements.

Wooden fireplaces warm the great dining room on the lower floor. Finely detailed woodwork and doorways add to the general beauty of this nice old home.

John Thistlethwaite made Woodland his home, and with his wife, nee Charlotte Adams, raised their family here prior to the construction of their home in Opelousas. (Daily World Photo by Deville).



PORTRAIT OF Louis Archibald Webb, pioneer doctor of St. Landry who built Woodland Plantation home, now the Thistlethwaite place (res. of Mrs. J. J. Taylor and son). His portrait hangs in the home of a direct descendant, Lionel Quirk, who lives on part of the original large plantation. Below Dr. Webb's portrait are several interesting guns that belonged to him--and old flintlock rifle, and a small silver-mounted Derringer, the latter elaborately engraved and chased. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

# Unusual Ox-Yoke Decor



ONE OF THE CHARMING small homes in Washington is this residence of Mrs. Alfred Dupre, with an unusual decorative motif on the front gallery, resembling the yoke of an oxen. Neatly painted with an old-time picket fence, it is on the road that leads to Grand Prairie. (Daily world Photo by Deville).



# Prescott Place, Washington



OLD PRESCOTT HOME near Washington. Doric columns, slate roof. (Daily World is two-storied brick residence with six Photos by Deville):



LIVE OAK seen from landscaped courtyard of Prescott home near Washington. Many such oaks lend dignity to place.

Among the well-known families of St. Landry and Louisiana is the Prescott family, members of which have distinguished themselves through several generations, and still comprise a large number of active and prominent citizens.

The original old Prescott home near Washington is still a landmark in the community, and is in splendid condition, having been restored to its original condition by Mr. and Mrs. George Wallace of Baton Rouge, Mrs. Wallace being a direct descendant of the builder, the first William Marshall Prescott.

The late Willis D. Prescott of Opelousas, superintendent of schools of the parish for 28 years, was one of the pioneers in public education of this parish and state, serving his section for many more years than that during the days of development of public education, which in this parish has a fairly recent history.

Among records of the Prescott family, an outstanding personality was Captain Lewis D. Prescott, who commanded Company A, Second Louisiana Cavalry, during the War Between the States, said to be the last organized body of troops to surrender (June 5, 1865).

An interesting account of Captain Prescott was given in a sketch in the St. Landry Trade Review, a special historical and biographical issue edited in December 1896.

Excerpts from the account follow: "The present Commander of R.E. Lee Camp No. 14 U.C.V., is a native of St. Landry Parish and was born on the 27th day of Dec. 1836, near the town of Washington. His father, William Marshall Prescott, was a son of Mary Marshall and Willis Prescott. They emigrated to this state from Edgefield, S.C. His mother was Evalina Moore; her mother was Adelaide Demaret, and her mother was the only child of Felix Navarro, who was one of the earliest settlers in this state and had his home on Bayou Teche, John Moore, the paternal grandfather of the subject, was a native of Virginia and came to this state with his father, Louis Moore, in 1803. His mother was a Henshaw, whose family was prominent in the early history of Virginia. Judge Moore, in ante-bellum days, represented his district in Congress and was a

member of the Secession Convention of Louisiana.

Captain Prescott received his education at the then celebrated institutions of learning, Ben Hallowel of Virginia, University of Nashville, University of Virginia. He then attended the law department of the University of Louisiana, when he was graduated in law.

In order to perfect and more fully equip himself in his chosen profession he went to France, and was there prosecuting his studies when the disruption of the Union took place. He immediately returned to his beloved state and tendered her his services. He was made a secret envoy and entrusted with important dispatches to President Davis from Judge Rost, the minister plenipotentiary to France. Captain Prescott was commissioned and soon raised a company which was attached to the Second Louisiana Cavalry (commanded by Col. W.G. Vincent of New Orleans).

The old Prescott home is a two-storied brick structure having six Doric columns across the facade, with a double gallery, the upper gallery with simple wooden balustrades of an early type. A pitched roof is covered with slate, and a chimney stands at each end.

The home is situated on a rise, with rolling land on either side. Huge oaks lend their dignity to the lovely old place, which was restored with distinction and taste by the Wallaces. Landscaping was done on a large scale to suit the size and beauty of the home. There is mass planting of bulbs, a formal rose garden edged with clipped boxwood, fine camellias and azaleas, and avenues of magnolias that have now reached large size.

When owned by the Wallace family it was suitably furnished with fine antiques -- a home of dignity and serene beauty.

On request Mr. Wallace has furnished the writer with a description of the land of the plantation, and the home as he and Mrs. Wallace found it.

"Of incidents concerning the place, it was occupied by a portion of General Bank's army. Several of these soldiers were supposed to have been buried around the place. In making the repairs, the workmen found one skeleton



FORMAL GARDEN and camellias at old Prescott home near Washington, restored by Mr. and Mrs. George Wallace of Rouge.



MASS PLANTING of old-fashioned bulbs provides unusual beauty to grounds of Prescott home near Washington.

at the north corner of the kitchen, which we re-buried. . . the place was occupied by Indians, after rains they are still finding evidence of that in arrows, pottery, etc."

Following is a description of the land given by Mr. Wallace, and a certified copy of inscriptions on gravestones in the Prescott family cemetery:

The land upon which the old Prescott home is situated, adjoining the corporate limits of the Town of Washington, La., under the ownership of George M. Wallace, comprised 146 and a fraction acres according to aerial surveys made by agencies of the United States. The title, however, called for 84 acres, more or less, but, of course, whatever the acreage, all was included in the sale to Mr. Wallace.

The description of the immediate land upon which the old mansion is situated began with a partition between the widow and heirs of William Marshall Prescott 2d (issue of the marriage of William Marshall Prescott 1st and Evalina S. Moore, daughter of Judge John Moore). The house and the 146 acres were set aside as Lot 4 of the partition, which lot was drawn by Mrs. Mary Celeste Offutt Prescott, widow of the second William Marshall Prescott and mother of Walter B. Prescott, Mrs. Alfred Wartelle and others.

The land was acquired May 18, 1892, from Mrs. Mary Celeste Offutt Prescott, widow of William Marshall Prescott 2d by the Washington State Bank.

The Washington State Bank sold the property to George M. Wallace on December 30, 1898. Mr. Wallace bought the place principally for sentimental reasons, because several direct ascendants of his wife Eleanor Randolph Murphy, had owned the place in whole or part. Mrs. Wallace is the granddaughter of Cpt. Lewis D. Prescott and his wife Lucy Glenn Offutt. Mrs. Mary Celeste Offutt Prescott, who as widow of William Marshall Prescott 2d had acquired the land by partition in kind, was the sister of Mrs. Lewis D. Prescott.

Issue of the marriage between William Marshall Prescott 1st and Evalina S. Moore, were:

Willis B. Prescott, Aaron Prescott, Mary Prescott, Lewis D. Prescott, William Marshall Prescott (2d), Elizabeth Prescott.

Judge John Moore and William Marshall Prescott 1st operated several plantations under the partnership name of Moore & Prescott. These included the home place (which included the present home and the 146 acres which it comprised under the ownership of George M. Wallace) and was known as "Oakland." Mrs. Wallace named the portion of Oakland which was included in Mr. Wallace's purchase, "Magnolia Ridge." Moore and Prescott also operated the plantations known as "Sunflower," "Lone Cypress," "Prescott Springs," and some smaller places. These were sold or divided amongst the heirs of John Moore and William Marshall Prescott in 1878, following the death of Judge Moore in 1867.

The place is situated in Section 70, Township 5 South, Range 4 East of the Louisiana Meridian. Section 70 was either a part of the public domain when the government of the United States came into being or a part

of a Spanish Grant.

According to the records in the Land Office at Baton Rouge, John Wallace was the first owner of Section 70. This section, comprising 646.70 acres, was certified to him on June 8, 1812, by Poley, Secretary of the Board of Commissioners of the Western Land District, the result of its decision in favor of Heirs of John Collins in a contest claimed by Louis Pellerin.

Congress passed an Act, approved March 3, 1807, being an act making compensation to Messrs. Meriwether Lewis and Clarke and their companions in "their prize to the Pacific Ocean", which provided for the issuance of warrants for public lands to Lewis and Clarke and 320 acres of the members of their expedition, including John Collins, U.S. Stats. at Large, Congress, Pvt. Acts, p. 65.

It is possible that John Collins' own warrant for half of this section of other which he had purchased from another member of the expedition, and them on Section 70, which was claimed by Louis Pellerin under either a Spanish land grant. Only a thorough examination of the title would establish the fact.

John Collins was a brother of Thomas Collins. The transactions between the Heirs of John Collins and Moore - William Marshall Prescott's ship could be ascertained only by an examination of the records of St. Landry Parish.

Judge John Moore disposed of the land by will, half to his grandchildren, included Lewis D. Prescott and William Marshall Prescott (2d) and half to his wife Evalina S., who was then the wife of William S. Offutt and Adelaide, then Dr. John F. Leigh, formerly wife of James P. Murphy. Judge Moore had acquired the half interest of William Marshall Prescott 1st prior to the latter's death. Lewis D. Prescott and his brother B. Prescott acquired the whole of the property by purchase from their father, Lewis D. and Willis B. Prescott, sold to William Marshall Prescott 1st.

William Marshall Prescott 1st, his father and mother were William Marshall and Mary Marshall, natives of England, died in December, 1854, and he is buried in the family cemetery located on the Lot 4, upon which the old home stood.

At the time of the purchase of the mansion by Mr. Wallace, it was in a state of utter disrepair. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace in 1899 restored the house as nearly as possible to its original condition. They tore out the sliding doors of a double parlor on the ground floor, converted the entire south portion of which comprised the double parlor, living room; converted the single parlor into one huge fireplace; placed the plain black marble mantel; and especially built in keeping with the architecture of the building; installed



# W.B. Prescott, Educator

WILLIS B. PRESCOTT, prominent educator of St. Landry Parish, began his career in this field two years after graduating from LSU (1895) when in 1897 he began teaching at Washington. He was assistant principal and later principal there, and also in Opelousas. In 1915 was appointed by the School Board to succeed Sup. Thompson, following his death in that year. He served from 1915 to August 12, 1943, a term of twenty-eight years.

A well-known and familiar sight to every school-child was Sup. W. B. Prescott, who was an indefatigable attender of all school affairs, and a requisite for graduations. In the many years of his work as superintendent, the present system developed from the first school at Opelousas to a network of public schools over the large Parish. During these formative years Mr. Prescott gave untiringly of his efforts, and had a large part in the establishment of our Parish Schools.

With his wife, nee Lucille Anderson, he raised a large family and most of their children reside in Opelousas. Of these one son, Marshall Prescott is working in the same field as his father, and is located at Opelousas.



WILLIAM B. PRESCOTT, prominent educator of St. Landry Parish, served a term of twenty-eight years as superintendent. Superintendent Prescott, pictured here from an early photograph, began his career two years after graduating from L. S. U. in 1895.

## Prescott

and three bathrooms; replaced flooring where necessary, and extensively landscaped the grounds, the shrubbery, at this time having grown to be very beautiful and in keeping with the beautiful appearance of the house.

The main portion of the house is of 2 1/2 storeys. There is an ell of two storeys.

The first floor contains the huge living room on the south, and on the north a dining room, breakfast room, butler's pantry and modernized kitchen.

The second floor contains on the south one large bedroom, an adjoining dressing room with closets and a separate bathroom. The dressing room and bathroom were formerly the master's bedroom.

The northern portion of the second floor contains, front to back, the master's bedroom and bathroom; another bedroom, then a bathroom, and still another bedroom, adjoining the bath, in the ell.

The third floor contains two bedrooms, hall and bathroom.

Hallways run through the house on the first, second and third floors.

During the ownership of the Wallace's, the house was furnished entirely with antiques, but this furniture was retained by Mrs. Wallace when the place was sold in 1948 by Mr. Wallace to Mrs. Mayer and her two sons.

Of Mrs. Wallace's direct ancestors who were claimants or owners in whole or part of the land upon which the house stands are the following:

Lewis D. Prescott, grandfather; William Marshall Prescott, great grandfather; Louis Pellerin; de la Houssaye-Murphy, grandfather on the de la Houssaye-Murphy side. Collins and John Moore, there might still be another.

Lloyd Posey, secretary of the Board of Commissioners which certified this land to John Collins, is also a direct ancestor of Mrs. Wallace. So was William J. Offutt, who was the second husband of Evalina S. Moore, widow of William Marshall Prescott 1st.

**COPY OF INSCRIPTIONS ON GRAVESTONES IN PRESCOTT FAMILY CEMETERY AT Magnolia Ridge, WASHINGTON, LA.**

My husband, George M. Wallace, owned this place from 1938 to 1948:

**CAPTAIN LEWIS DEMAREST PRESCOTT**  
Died June 24, 1900  
In his sixty-fourth year

**WILLIS B. PRESCOTT, SR.**  
March 11, 1811.  
Died July 30, 1856.

**WILLIAM MARSHALL PRESCOTT, SR.**  
Born December 10, 1808.  
Died December, 1854.

**WILLIAM MARSHALL PRESCOTT, JR.**  
Born November 21, 1874.  
Died November 29, 1895.

**FRANK OFFUTT PRESCOTT**  
Born June 12, 1882.  
Died October 19, 1895.

**MRS. ADELAIDE DEMAREST**  
Wife of John Moore  
Died December 24, 1836.  
Age 45 years.

**JOHN M. PRESCOTT**  
Born October 25, 1833.  
Died November 23, 1840.

**EVELINA S. PRESCOTT**  
Born 1846  
Died December 31, 1867.

**EVELINA S. MOORE**  
Wife of William Offutt  
Born 1812.  
Died December 12, 1875.

**ELEANOR A. OFFUTT**  
Wife of Willis Prescott  
Born October 11, 1845  
Died July 12, 1879.

**FELIX NAVARRO PRESCOTT**  
Born October 1878.  
Died January 1, 1881.

**WILLIS PRESCOTT**  
Born 1840  
Died January 7, 1891.

**DR. JAMES MURPHY.**  
Born October 29, 1817. Died January 23, 1850.

(S) Mrs. Eleanor Randolph Murphy Wallace. Sworn to and subscribed before me on this the 22d day of January, 1951.

(S) George M. Wallace  
Notary Public.

# 'Arlington' - Splane Home



One of the most beautiful old plantation homes in St. Landry Parish is the Splane place, at Moundville near Washington. It was built in the early 1800's by Major Amos Webb, who came here from Point Coupee parish. He was born in 1789. He was married to Charlotte Adams (b. 1795 in East Feliciana).

Distinguished by round brick columns that support a central portico ornamented with wrought iron railings, the red brick lower floor is surmounted by the upper story of clapboarded brick.

Handsome doorways and woodwork throughout mark this as one of the most finely constructed in the area. The staircase in the central hall is of mahogany, polished to a fine patina. At the top of the second floor ceiling is a skylight which serves to brighten both upper and lower hallways. The double parlor on the second floor is converted into a ballroom by opening the great doors that separate the "parlors".

On the third floor are rooms once used as classrooms by the children of the family, who had their governesses and tutors. The story was told by a late member of the Splane family that one of the governesses went on a vacation trip, met and fell in love with an attractive man, and married him. Years later she came calling with her husband, the late John Dibert, multi-millionaire philanthropist of New Orleans.

A charming old wooden fence with an ornamental gate is now in bad disrepair, but still testifies to the former elegance of the home.

Just south of the house is a small Indian Mound, of which there are several in this locality, hence the name "Moundville".

Miss Mildred Splane, who during her lifetime was known by all of her friends as "Miss Mil," was a gracious hostess at this lovely old place for many decades, and during the writing of several of his books on Louisiana the late Lyle Saxon spent many months visiting at the Splane home while gathering material for his works.

The house was at that time adorned with many family heirlooms brought from Virginia by the Splanes.

Mrs. Peyton Splane, who is a member of the Ogden family, lives in the old home with one of her sons, Beverly. Always a charming lady, she hopes someday to restore this beautiful place to its original loveliness.



# Jim Bowie Was Here

Among the colorful characters that march through the pages of our history, none is more interesting than that tall and handsome pioneer, James J. Bowie -- inventor of the long hunting knife that bore his name.

The Bowie family was from Kentucky, came to Louisiana in the early 1800's. They settled at the Catahoula post, near Bayou Rapides.

Thomas Lasley, a Methodist circuit rider, gave an account of stopping at the house of "Brother Bowie" (also called Captain Bowie) whose son is the inventor of that dreadful weapon called the Bowie knife.

"With this young man," says Lasley, "I was then acquainted - at that time a civil young man."

The name of Regin Bowie is found time and again through the old records that we have searched - police jury, church, (where he witnessed marriages) and it is presumed that he lived in "the Opelousas" for a number of years.

James Bowie went to Texas, where he died at the Alamo, in 1836 along with many other great pioneers of the time.



OLD GERAND CARRIERE HOME in Washington, now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Gantt Nicholson Jr. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

## Two Living Grads

There are two living graduates here of the school conducted in Opelousas during the late 1800s by Father Raymond.

They are Frank Dietlein Sr. and Homer Ventre.

The two were graduated about 1880. A third, Fred Fontenot, died in 1954.





**The Warren**

**Courtableau's Last Steamer**



ALMOST THE MOST PICTURESQUE of all towns in Louisiana is Washington, one of the thriving ports during the Steamboat Era. Among the interesting souvenirs of steamboat days is a picture of the last steamer that came up the Courtableau to Washington. This was the "Warren", and as may be seen in the photograph it was loaded with lumber for its return trip to New Orleans. There were a number of sawmills located at or near Washington.

Captain Trousdale was the commander of the Warren, and his last trip to the town was witnessed by one of its youngest citizens. . . Alice Elise Carriere, then a child of about 4 years old. She remembers being taken to the landing to see the steamer, and taken into the captain's cabin, where she was presented with a bunch of beautiful purple grapes, the first that she had ever seen.

Alice Elise, now Mrs. Archie Dunbar, has preserved many relics of Washington in her

tainly papers, which alone almost constitute a history. She was named for her grandparent, who was Elsie dela Morandiere, wife of Captain Grand Carriere.

The last trip of the Warren was made in or about the year 1897. An interior view of the Warren shows it to have been elegantly appointed, with gilded columns, gilded finials pendant from the ceiling, ornamental doorways, and handsome furnishings. The picture shown is apparently in a long dining room. Chairs and tables seen in the photograph are now collectors items.

**The Poirer Place**



TYPICAL OF plantation houses in the parish is the old Poirer place, built by one of the early French settlers of St. Landry.

The plantation was established by Valentine Poirer, who came originally from France. Standing in a grove of old oaks and magnolias, this home is one of the few remaining landmarks on the road between Opelousas and Ville Platte.

Eight round brick columns support the upper gallery, which has columns of slender octagonal shape, made of cypress. The lower floor is of brick, with a weatherboarded top floor. French doors lead onto both upper and lower galleries.

The house is in good condition, having been restored in the past few decades by the late L.D. Guidry, who with his wife and family made the Poirer Place their home. Following the death of Mr. Guidry, the place changed hands, and is now owned by J. Rourk.

At the side of the house may be seen a small pump house, which was erected in keeping with the architecture of the old building. This was installed to enable the Guidrys to make use of the brick underground cistern, part of the original structure of the home. Many old homes of this type had underground cisterns adjoining them, but this is one of the few existing that was put to use in recent years.

Mr. Guidry came from Church Point, his family being among the early French founders of St. Landry.



# The Trudeau Arrives

"THE STEAMER J.E. TRUDEAU made its last trip to Washington in May 1900," writes A.S. Pierrel of Washington, who was on hand at the time. The photo above is the property of Mrs. Albert Fisher of Washington, heavily tinted with water color, showing the Trudeau going through the steel turntable bridge, then at Washington for the last time. "It was about 140 feet long," continues Mr. Pierrel, "was a passenger and cargo boat, could carry 1,200 bales of cotton fully loaded, and made 12 miles per hour. A.P. Trousdale was master."

"The steamer Warren also made its last trip to Washington in May 1900. It was 192 feet long, 39 feet in beam, and could carry 3,200 bales of cotton. The Warren had fine passenger accommodations and could make 18 miles per hour. The engine room was a show place and had fine carpeting over the entire floor."

"The whistle was 3-chime vertical type and was 8 feet high, and could easily be heard 30 miles. A.P. Trousdale was the master, and would use the Warren when the water was high enough, which was usually from January to May, then the Trudeau in lower stages of water."

The Warren would leave Washington on Saturday and return from New Orleans the following Friday. Round trip fare was \$11 which included board, and the passenger was free to use his stateroom during the stay at New Orleans at no extra cost.



**Lynch's Drug Store**

PRESCRIPTIONS  
DRUGS & SUNDRIES  
Washington, La.

**Dallas Soileau  
Bar & Cafe**  
Washington, La.

**Gennuso & Ehrhardt**  
RADIO & TV SERVICE  
Emerson Sales & Installations  
Washington, La.

remember when...

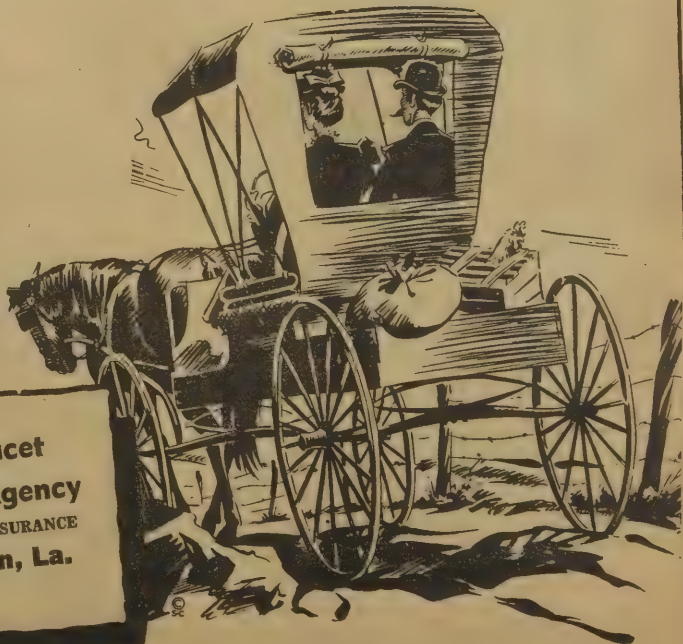
- Corona Cornet Band was playing
- 35c bought a cylinder record for a Gramophone
- 50c bought a Pongee shirt with cuffs & collar
- Washington Bank was robbed of \$4,000

You'll Remember If You Were In  
WASHINGTON In...

**1910**

**The J. C. Fontenot Gin**  
COTTON PRODUCTS, CO., INC.  
Grand Prairie, La.

**Clyde Doucet  
Insurance Agency**  
ALL KINDS OF INSURANCE  
Washington, La.





**Church of the Immaculate Conception**

**Washington Church**



AS NOTED in the general history of the parish, Washington was the location of the first Church in the territory, and this was the first Church of the Opelousas Poste. That it was located here was discovered some time ago by Mr. Roger Baudier, in his research for the History of the Catholic Church in Louisiana.

Old records in the Cabildo were studied, and a map came to light which, after prolonged examination, proved that the church was erected about 1774, as documents revealed that Antoine Mallet, a settler, was summoned by the commandant to build a bridge over the Bayou so that lumber could be hauled to erect the church.

Photostats of the maps and briefs of land claims were furnished by Mr. Baudier to the late Monsignor A. B. Colliard, who realized their importance in establishing the site of the original church. The papers were turned over by Monsignor Colliard to the late Wm. Alex. Robertson, attorney of Opelousas, authority on land matters, and Roy D. Edwards, Opelousas abstractor and authority on lands.

Together they located the church property as being between Bayous Carron and Courtableau, within the corporate limits of the present town of Washington, and near the site of the present church.

In 1797 the church was moved to Opelousas, and timbers from it were used to erect a wooden church on the site of St. Landry Catholic Church.

Since that time there was for many years no Church in Washington. In 1851, a meeting of citizens of Washington was held, and they proposed to erect a church building, to be used by all denominations as there was no church in the town.

When news of this reached Father Ravignol, who was the resident priest in Opelousas, he determined to build a chapel in Washington, which would be a mission church from his parish. For this purpose he secured the east half of a square of ground in Washington bounded by Moundville, Hill, Gardner and Bridge Streets. The latter street led to the old bridge over Bayou Carron. Original grant of land the church had comprised the western portion of the town of Washington, once part of the Courtableau grant.

He constructed a chapel on this land, and was aided in the erection by Mrs. Offit, "a woman of piety and means," who loaned Father Ravignol the use of a number of her slaves who were carpenters.

The building was 32 by 52 feet, and fronted on Moundville St. It was dedicated in 1852. On Easter Sunday, March, 27, 1852, twenty people -- young and old -- made their first communion in the church, which was given the name Church of the Sacred Heart.

In 1853 a terrible scourge of yellow fever struck the town of Washington, and noted in early records of the church are the deaths of one third of the then three hundred occupants of the town.

In 1855 Father Ravignol, being in ill health, was retired to his native France, and was replaced in Opelousas by Father Gilbert Raymond.

In Dec. 1861, Washington received its first parish priest, Father Claude Jacquet. In 1862 Father Jacquet began enlarging the chapel and added a transept, 21 by 50 feet, giving the church the shape of the Egyptian Cross. The altar and sanctuary were moved back into the transept, a new fence was erected in front of the building.

The chapel was dedicated as a church, and renamed "Church of the Immaculate Conception," which name it has retained.

In 1871 after purchasing the west half of the same block of land, Father Jacquet erected a convent consisting of several buildings; and on Sept. 4, 1871 the Sisters of Mount Carmel opened St. Joseph's Academy, which was in use for many years.

In 1919 trustees Eoudreaux and Trouille purchased the then abandoned buildings of the convent, and these were torn down. The lumber was then used to build a chapel at Grand Prairie. For many years this was a mission church, but there is now a resident priest at Grand Prairie.

During the years alterations of minor order have been made, but it is substantially the same since its addition of 1861. It is a charming old building, dignified and "American Gothic" . . . like most of the churches built in this era it has attractive steeples and buttresses on a miniature scale reminiscent of the "Old country."



OLD CRAWFORD HOME in Washington, now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Lynch. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

**Schmidt Hotel**



SOUVENIR OF STEAMBOAT ERA - Built in the early 1800's by Jean Marie Labre the red brick two and half story building known as the Schmidt Hotel is a landmark in the town of Washington. Of symetric design, it is one of the finest edifices in South Louisiana. The masonry is nicely detailed, doorways and lintels well-finished with wooden lights over the deep cypress frames. The original cypress French doors, batted window shutters and doors all are in remarkably good condition, in view of fact that the building is now used only for storage.

A wrought-iron balcony adds to the upper-story, and recent removal of frame addition enables one to see the structure of the gallery and entrance on the opposite side.

During steamboat days, the balcony was a favorite spot for honeymooners. Mr. and Mrs. Martin Schmidt kept a hotel here for years, and "Miss Lizzie" Schmidt lived here after the death of her husband, using the once-filled hotel as a private residence.

The line of roof and sidewall, tall chimney silhouetted against the sky, will never be forgotten by one who has really looked at this splendid old place.



Known as the Joe Bordelon Home for many years, this was originally part of the Dupre property. It was bought by Joe Bordelon from the late Mrs. Leopold Dejean, who was Bernadette Dupre. Mr. Bordelon made his home here for many years. It is located on the old Ville Platte road across from the

Jacques Dupre residence, on a lane joining the Washington and Ville Platte roads.

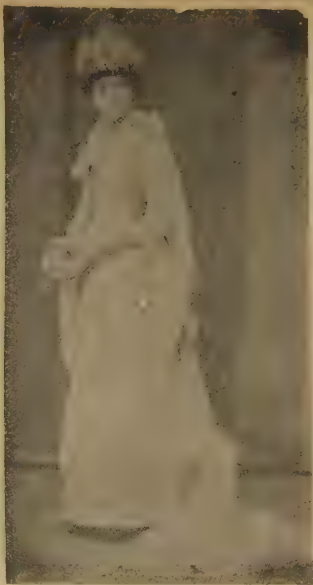
A typical country home of the early 1800's, it is still in a good state of preservation.

It is now the residence of the Tuerling Hargroder family. (Daily World Photo by Deville).





**WASHINGTON BEAUX** Beaux Brummels of Washington, early twentieth century are left, the late John Prescott, and right George Blanchard, present Registrar of Voters for Landry Parish. They are pictured on the banks of the Courtableau. Modern youths could certainly take a tip in elegance from these well-groomed beaux of another generation, who dressed with taste and élan. They are indeed a far cry from the blue-jeaned young gentlemen of today.



**WASHINGTON BELLE**--Pictured above is one of the early "Queens" of Washington... Miss Helen Derbonne, who wears an elaborate gown fashioned with fluted ruffles, lace and furbelows of the late nineteenth century. On her head is a coronet of flowers, and her train is caught to her shoulders with small corsages, which also adorn her bosom and are carried in her hands. Miss Derbonne later became Mrs. John Gustave Carriere, and was the mother of Mrs. Archie Dunbar.

# Steamboat Captain



One of the well-known families who were among early French settlers here is the Carriere family, among whom are numbered many prominent citizens of the Parish through the years. Of these, Captain Gerand Carriere is an example.

He was one of the famous steamboat Captains of the nineteenth century, living a full life--he died in 1895, Jan. 18, at the age of 84 years, seven months and eleven days. Thus he lived during almost the entire nineteenth century.

His career as a pioneer steamboat captain, who guided his boat from Washington to New Orleans, was a colorful one, and when he married, his choice as a wife was the daughter of one of the very earliest commanders of the Opelousas garrison. He wed Elize Roquesbert Dela Morandiere, daughter of Etienne de la Morandiere. She died only a few months before him, at the age of 74.

Their home was built in Washington, on the Main street of the town, and it stands in very good repair today as the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Gantt Nicholson Jr. It is an old-fashioned frame house with a long, open gallery, with louvered shutters on the doors and windows. Nicely proportioned, it has a central hall and large rooms on each side.

Many interesting family pictures of this couple and their children show that they were prominent in social and civic affairs in Washington, which was then a thriving port.

## Deshotel's Home



**STANDING AT THE JUNCTION** of Bayou Boeuf and Cocodrie, where they form Bayou Courtableau, is a brick two-storied home of classic simplicity. Sometimes called the "Frere Home," after the family who resided there some decades past, this is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Deshotels, who are descendants of early French settlers of the Parish.

The house has clean, severe lines, relieved at the front by a double gallery whose unbroken and simple squared columns mark it apart from the usual plantation style. It is from an earlier period, and must have been built about the beginning of the nineteenth century. French doors open onto the upper and lower galleries.

This home is said to have been built by the Collins family, but little is found of its history by the present writer.

Sustaining irons on the side of the masonry may be seen in the accompanying photograph, which is a view looking north from Bayou Cocodrie. Older residents of the area say that the bricks in the home were made from clay on the bayouside. (Daily World Photo by Deville).



**JULY 4, 1912**, was celebrated by a parade in Washington, including this decorated touring car.



**OLD BRIDGE** of steel at Washington, suspended over Bayou Courtableau, can be seen behind old-model boat in foreground.



Above picture, taken in 1912, was the Ozeme Fontenot Gin built in 1905 to replace a horse drawn gin of the era before. Bale in foreground was the last ginned of the season. In the ginning business on the same location for over half a century. Rebuilding the third gin for the 1955 season.

# PARKER GIN

Washington, La.



**WASHINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL**, photographed in 1896.



# Miss Anna Roy's Home



**HIGH ON THE COURTABLEAU** bluff the town of Washington is the home of Mrs. Arthur Hinckley and their family.

Inherited from the late Miss Anna Roy the Hinckleys are owners of something that is almost "gone with the wind" - a home that was preserved from days of the past complete with all of the impediments of the household.

Miss Anna was descended from one of the fine old families in this parish, and left her nephew not only the house but its entire contents, undisturbed by the passage of time for several generations. . . a most unusual condition which has made the house a veritable museum containing priceless antiques and relics of the past.

The residence is an old-fashioned French dwelling, in a beautiful grove of live oak. Leading to the long open gallery is a raised turtle-back walk of bricks withheld by ancient cypress planks. A similar walk at the rear leads to an outdoor kitchen with storehouses, pigeonierres, and a private family graveyard.

There is a quaint old cistern, and original handcarved picket fence of grayed cypress in the old kitchen, which is now used for storage, are many old household articles of a bygone era.

The house itself contains many fine antiques, and a fascinating array of articles and apparel that defy enumeration. . . from capes for millady fashioned of real jet, hoops for the skirts of bygone belles, sheet music and instruments of generations past, garments, books, and everything that you can possibly think of! (Daily World Photos by Deville)

## Sister Aloysia



SISTER ALOYSIA who taught at Mt. Carmel Convent at Washington in late 1800 and early 1900. She helped found the convent said by residents to be the first convent established in St. Landry parish.



**PICTURESQUE OLD COURT HOUSE** of St. Landry parish, built in 1880 to replace the court house which had burned. It stood until 1939, when it was torn down to make way for the present modern building. After this picture was made, in 1909, a wing was added to the north, or right side of picture.



**STEWART'S STAGE LINES** was a pioneer bus line through this area, founded by the late W. T. "Bill" Stewart. It was operated independently for many years, then sold to the Greyhound system. The bus line was founded in 1919, and sold by Mr. Stewart in 1929. The driver Other drivers for Stewart, from Opelousas, were Tom Firnberg, Lee Clary, Preston Dunbar, Ben Pressburg, Paul Gaines, all of Opelousas, and, from Crowley, Louis and "Lollie" White, brother. There were also several drivers from around Forest Hill, one named Dewey Mizell, and another named Penton, said to be still driving buses. Stewart's Stage Lines was a pioneer Louisiana bus line. Photo above is from an old police jury publication setting forth advantages of the parish.



FATHER ROBERT MOISE was pastor at Washington from around 1890 to at least 1893. From New Orleans, he was regarded as a brilliant man, eloquent speaker and accomplished musician. He was a brother of the late Judge Moise.



FATHER TUERLINGS, picture taken Easter Sunday, April 15, 1900, when he was pastor at Washington.



FATHER DOMET was pastor at Washington from 1895 beyond close of the 19th Century. (This photo was made in Rouen, France).





# George Parker Home

**BUILT BY ALEXANDRE FONTENOT, and lived in by his descendants ever since, this old home is one of the landmarks of St. Landry Parish. It is still standing in very good condition, having been in constant occupancy since its erection in the early 1800's. It is situated on a slight rise, which is part of the Grand Coteau Ridge, and commands a nice view of the Prairie.**

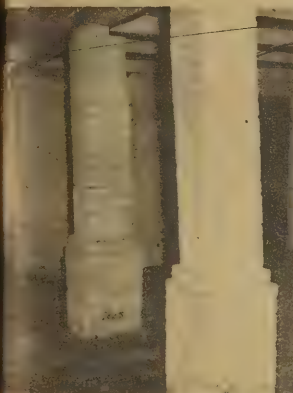
A typical plantation home of the period, it has a lower floor of brick, with clapboard exterior on the second floor. Original battened shutters and iron hardware add interest to the two galleries on the front and to the enclosed gallery at the rear, once called the "carriage entrance."

This old home is set in a lovely garden in which are many fine trees and shrubs. And interesting sight in the yard is the old brick underground cistern.

Ozeme Fontenot, son of Alexandre Fontenot and Hyacinthe Jaubert was married to Ernestine DeBaillon, daughter of Dr. Louis DeBaillon, who was one of the pioneers in medicine in the parish. Dr. DeBaillon was descended from a prominent family, among whom are numbered some of the early legislators and judges of this district.

From this union came one child, Alma, who married Dr. James Parker. Their son, George H. Parker, and his son George H. Parker, Jr., both reside on the original plantation. Mr. and Mrs. George Parker live in the old home, and their son and his wife and family live in a modern home they have recently built nearby.

Their children are the sixth generation to live on the original plantation. (Daily World Photo by Deville).



## LANDRENEAU'S STORE

Washington, La.

**GENERAL MERCHANDISE  
AND LIQUOR STORE**

**"Serving the Public  
for Over 20 Years"**



# NICHOLSON Bros.

**Cotton Ginners and  
Makers of  
Pure Cane Table Syrup  
Serving St. Landry farm-  
ers in flood and drouth,  
through thick and thin  
in the same location  
since 1875  
Washington, La.**

**In Continuous Operation  
Since 1904**



## Theo Doucet Gin

M. J. DOUCET & CHARLES ROY DOUCET  
Present Owners

**6 miles north of Washington  
In Grand Prairie  
Star Route  
Washington, La.**

**Our progress has and  
will be through  
continuous service  
with courtesy**





WASHINGTON, an aerial view taken about five years ago. Bayou Courtableau is at left, or north; view looks east. High school is at upper right; gym had not been built, nor had

new bank building. (Daily World Photo).

# Washington, Then & Now



WASHINGTON MAIN Street scene in 1896. Wolff's and Klaus's stores were landmarks then.



WASHINGTON Today, same place, (Daily World Photo by Deville).

A PHOTOGRAPH of the Main Street of Washington taken in 1896 compared with this recent one shows that little has disturbed the tranquil scene of Washington's Main Street. Two large buildings stand out - Wolff's Store and Klaus's Store. Klaus's Store is on the left - a two storied frame building with store on the lower floor and living quarters upstairs. It was founded by Max Klaus in 1886, and is still a general merchandise store. It is now operated by Mr. Klaus' daughters.

Wolff's Store was established in 1876, and is one of the oldest business houses in continuous use in the Parish. Leon Wolff an outstanding civic worker in Washington, having served as mayor, member of the town council, and vice-president of the Washington state Bank. His son Julian Wolff now operates the business, and is also one of the first citizens of the town - he is and has been Mayor of the town for a number of years and has served the community in many other civic affairs.

In the "new" view of Washington is seen what is now the old Washington State Bank, to the right of Wolff's Store. In the old view a building to the left of Klaus's Store has a barely visible sign that gives us the name of another Washington Newspaper "People's Party Tribune."



MRS. ZULIME CARRIERE DUPRE (with of Lucien Dupre), and daughters Ida and Louise, taken about 1884. Louise, standing right, was the first graduate of the Carmel Convent in Washington. She is still living, in Lafayette, having married many years ago, and is Mrs. Hernando Pinckney. Very active at 87 years, "Miss Lou" is a regular visitor to Washington, where she has many relatives.

## Lake Chas. Founder Here

Charles Sallier, called "LeSavoyard", and founder of the city of Lake Charles, was a native of Savoy, France. He was married to Angelica Fontenot (marriage Book 1, St. Landry Register) and the birth of a son Charles Sallier was recorded by Father Pedro de Zamora in Baptismal Record Book

One. A notation on the side of the birth record by Father Barriere, a later priest, indicated his interest in the fact.

One of the witnesses of the early marriage of Sallier was Etienne de la Morandiere, Captain of Militia of the Poste, indicating the importance of Sallier.

## Old Jail at Washington



HARDY, photographed standing in front of the old jail at Washington. This building is remembered by all of the older people in Washington, as it was torn down in the last few decades. For many years it was used as the voting place for residents of the town.

Note the old-fashioned double-breasted vest worn by the gentleman, and his favorite bound standing at attention with him.

## Typical Old Small Home



TYPICAL OF THE CHARM of the smaller and less pretentious homes at Washington is this residence just off the road to Grand Prairie. There are many homes of this kind

throughout the Tectie country, adding their quaintness to the old towns and villages. (Daily World Photo by Deville).







# Last Steamboat Warehouse



**LAST STEAMBOAT WAREHOUSE** standing at Washington, this large structure is a landmark on Bayou Courtableau, near the bridge. It is adjacent to the old de la Morandiere place, also known as the Callahan home and the Mary home, now owned by the Anderson family.

Strongly constructed with great hewn cypress beams and rafters, it has weathered several "high waters" including the 1927 flood, when water came high in the lower floor of the warehouse. At one time there were many of these warehouses lining the banks of the Bayou at Washington and Port Barre, but all are gone except this one.

On the banks below it is the "swimming hole," where many residents of Washington and neighboring towns have learned to swim. It has long been a meeting place for young people of the town.

For the past few decades, the warehouse has been the property of L. Austin Fontenot, who also owned the home above it. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

## In Washington, Turn of Century

# Steam Locomotive



**AMONG THE PHOTOGRAPHS** in Mrs. Archie Dunbar's family papers is this picture of an old steam locomotive, taken at Washington around the end of the nineteenth century. Taken at the depot in Washington, the water tower and tank are visible. Standing in front of the engine is "Booby" Derbonne.

To the left of Derbonne may be seen a shadowy figure - the negative was a double exposure, and a picture was taken at the same time of Helen Derbonne, who was Queen of the celebration held in Washington at that time. The lower part of a skirt and a parasol are visible to the discerning eye. The main part of the engine is clearly seen in spite of the double exposure.

Note the long extension of the "Cow Catcher" and fancy bell just above and to the left of Derbonne's head.



WASHINGTON public school, high school department, in 1911, had this magnificent body.



**"GAY NINTIES,"** CHACHERES ON A WAGON—Gibson Girls and their escorts. This is a family picture of the Chacheres on a wagon, taken at the Moresel bottling works in Opelousas. Left to right are Dr. Russell Chachere, Clemmie Chachere (Mrs. D. A. Moresel), Charles B. Chachere, Mattie Curtis (a frequent guest of the Chacheres) Charles B. Chachere, Emma Chachere (Mrs. Jim Shute), Emma (Mrs. Bob Chachere), James O. "Mr. Jim" Chachere.

## Leon Wolff & Son



**1874** EIGHTY-FIRST YEAR OF SERVICE **1955**

Since the time that the river boats, steamers Warren, Trudeau and Minnie, traveled Bayou Courtableau to serve this great section, and even before the Southern Pacific railroad was completed from Lafayette to Cheneyville, this firm has been a part of this community and the surrounding area, serving the public with general merchandise at lowest possible prices. In that respect 1955 will be no different from the others. We confidently expect to supply you with brand name lines of merchandise for family, household and farm requirements as befits our tradition FOR BETTER MERCHANDISE AT LOWER PRICES FOR MORE PEOPLE

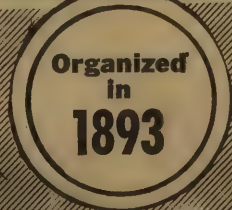
**LEON WOLFF & SON**

Washington, Louisiana



# WASHINGTON STATE BANK

OLDEST BANK IN ST. LANDRY PARISH  
OPERATING UNDER A CONTINUOUS CHARTER



Washington, La.

Arnaudville, La.



# The Settling of Northern St. Landry Parish

By SUE LYLES EAKIN

We fondly hope that this history of north St. Landry parish will reflect something of the measures we have had in accumulating it. We hope that somehow it will catch now and then, at least, the personalities with whom we have had contact who are living in that area now and who have contributed to these notes. For, surely, the rugged, philosophical folk who have wracked their brains to recollect dated events all but forgotten must in some measure indicate to the people their ancestors were so claimed north St. Landry from the wilderness and initiated the process of Americanization of this area.

We want to point out that this is no history meticulously composed within the sanctum of libraries and among yellowed archives. With the relatively short time we had we did take time to check possible written sources at Louisiana State University. If the histories of Melville, Palmetto, LeBeau, Big Cane, Morrow, Lemoyne, Rosa and the country in between has been recorded, we have been unable to locate any references. We aren't saying it hasn't been written -- we're saying simply, that we didn't find it.

We did discover that a small book called "Melville" was printed at some time, but Mrs. F.H. Van Hess (nee Priscilla Blake) who told us about it had no idea where one could be located, and we checked again at LSU - they didn't have it. Mrs. Van Hess once wrote the history of the Melville School, and we telephoned her in New Orleans and she agreed to search for a copy and send it on -- but she feared it had probably got lost during many moves and evidently it had. We failed to retrieve it.

Lacking written sources, we have set out to reconstruct the history of these communities mostly through interviews with "oldtimers" and people who have been interested enough in the various phases of the section's history to remember the miscellany of data of a lifetime.

We have no record of how many people we interviewed, though during the space of one afternoon we interviewed six "oldtimers" between the ages of 78 and 88, all in the same community; we discovered two Negroes -- Miss Figaro of Morrow and Lindsey Williams Lemoyne, both with keen memories, who were able to contribute valuable observations on their recollections of life in these communities.

We traveled to Baton Rouge to interview the last surviving member of her generation of the Morrow family: Mrs. Eloise Stevens, and we finally had a sister-in-law, Mrs. Rose Cochaux of Bunkie, telephone Mrs. Rosa Bernette in California to secure pictures of the woman for whom the community of Rosa was named.

We have sat for hours studying boxes of pictures and borrowed those we thought would contribute to the story -- irreplaceable mementoes of family archeries. Without exception everyone has been glad indeed to contribute to the Daily World's endeavor of cherishing the history of the area into one special edition. Finally, we have taken pictures of many of the interesting personalities we have interviewed, most of whom have themselves contributed, not only to our story, but to the making of the history itself.

We did not have time to reconstruct maps of the area from earliest times to the present -- much of that material possibly might be obtained from U.S. Land Office records, but we decided against the time-consuming task of combing Opelousas court records where undoubtedly much of this phase of the history of the section is outlined.

In such a folk history, we have tried to record faithfully the most reliable verbal information we could obtain, but we would caution our readers to remember that it is only as accurate as the vagaries of the human memory permit. In a number of instances, several people substantiated a fact, although there were discrepancies and differences among the memories of people interviewed, just as one would expect. In any case, we felt that the Daily World has performed an invaluable service in gathering the

history of St. Landry Parish and we trust that the picture we have drawn of the early days in Melville, Palmetto, Morrow, Big Cane, Lemoyne, Rosa and LeBeau is a true one to which may be added additional facts which others may be able to bring to light.

## R Rs, River

Whatever else influenced the settling and growth of the north St. Landry section, the area was dominated most by its means of transportation - the railroad which was laid in 1882, the Bayou Rouge which provided water transportation for the lively trade center of Big Cane, the Atchafalaya River at Melville which was a main thoroughfare for steamboats during the days when the people of the area relied almost entirely upon water transportation, and the bayous and lakes where Melville businessmen made their livelihoods by shipping barrels of fish daily.

At Palmetto, the town's name was changed because of the railroad (there was another stop in the state along the railroad track with the same name as the one originally given the town). Palmetto has built up on the south side of the track because no room was left for expansion on the north side where the town had begun to take shape. The men building the railroad in '82 carved out a deep hunk of Palmetto to build up the track bed, and, if you drive across the track from the main business section, you can see the cavernous ditch left by the excavations.

All of this area was flooded in 1927, and in Melville the entire life of the community seems to be dominated by the presence of the river. Almost any conversation regarding the town invariably carries some reference to one of the memorable floods or the fact of the levees which protect the town, or why the railroad track itself is built atop a levee.

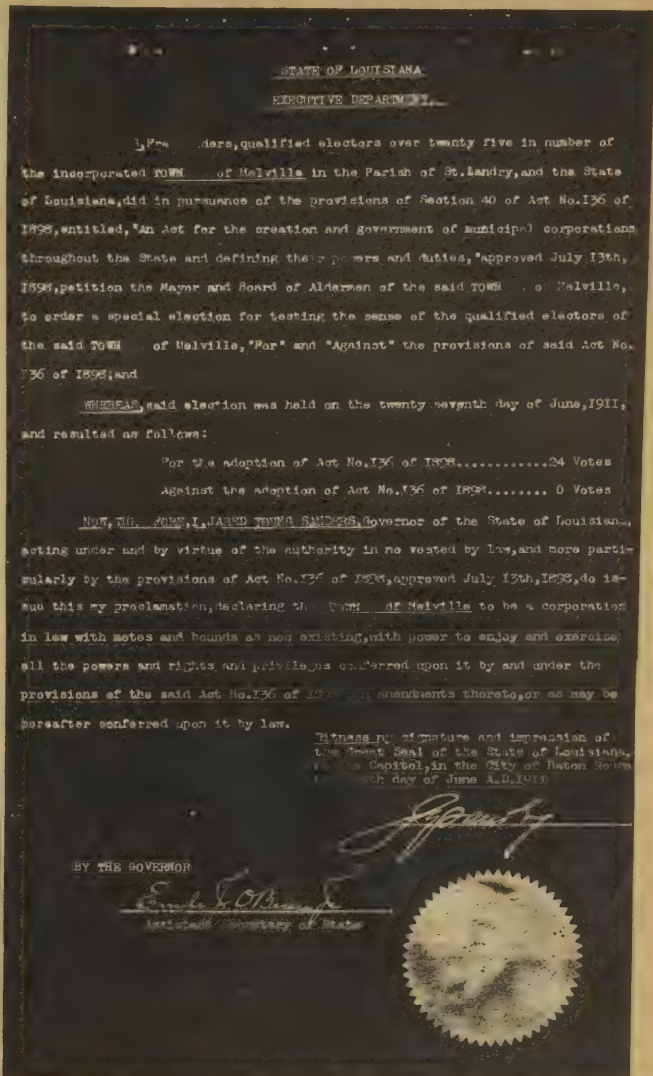
At Big Cane the story of the community is the story of the Bayou Rouge. In the 1800s the Big Cane settlement dominated its section of the parish as a center of commerce with boats loading and unloading provisions at its wharfs. With the advent of the trains and the laying of railroad track in '82, the importance of water transportation receded and of Big Cane as a thriving center.



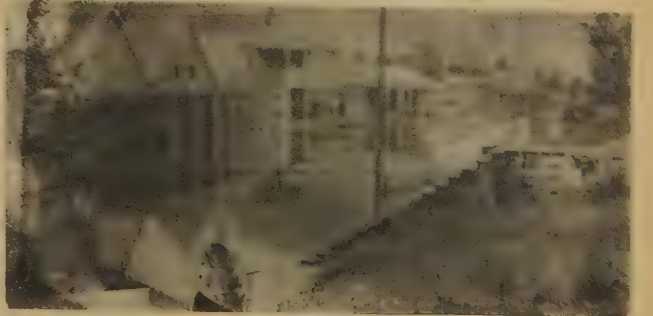
MRS. ADDIE ZERANGUE says that when she came to Melville in '97 "it was just a frog pond". (Daily World photo)



A 1912 VIEW OF MELVILLE'S depot, which did a thriving business then, particularly shipping out fish.



MELVILLE was officially incorporated by the document of which this is a photostat, signed June 28, 1911, by then Gov. J. Y. Sanders. The governor's order reports that the town's citizenry voted 24-0 for incorporation. Most of the early town records were destroyed in the flood of 1927.

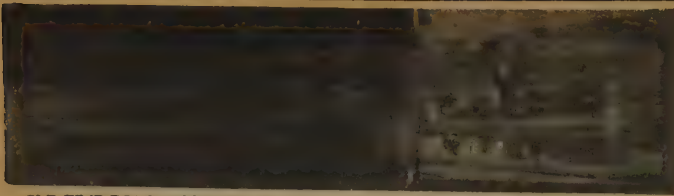


OLD MELVILLE along the levee before the big fire on Oct. 11, 1917 destroyed the river front area above. It was never rebuilt. This was wiped out and 21 houses were burned.



1927 FLOOD WATERS POUR through highway hole in T & P fill in Melville.





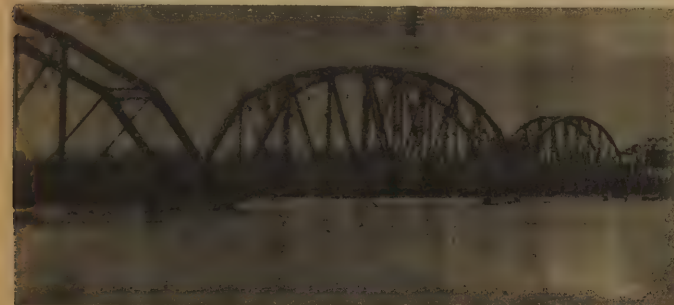
OLD TIME BOATS at Melville in early part of century. Photos a loan from C. R. Thompsons.



TELEPHONE EXCHANGE in Melville, as it looked in May 1927 and, right, as it looks today.



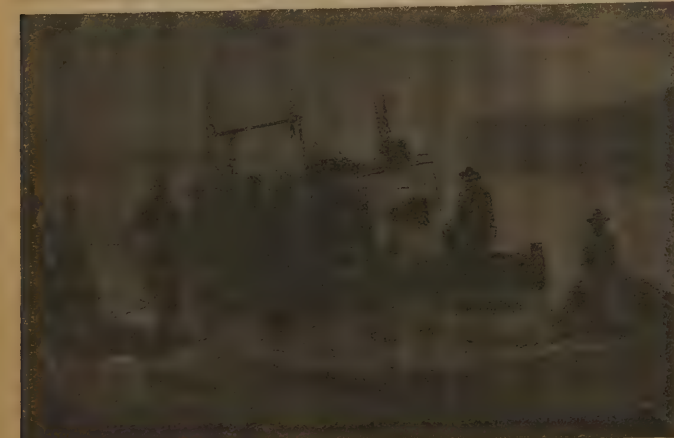
MELVILLE, 1912. This flood was considered "nothing" to the 1927 disaster. Picture a loan from C. Culley.



OLD ATCHAFALAYA river bridge on the T & P railroad at Melville during the 1927 flood. Note train on bridge at far right. A few days after this picture was taken one of the spans toppled into the river, taking two men with it. One was drowned but the other miraculously made it to shore. Picture a loan by Charles Culley.



MELVILLE CREVASSE, photo made May 19, 1912, at 9:30 a.m. Note powerful surge of water at right; poultry taking refuge on levee. Picture a loan by C. Culley.



FISHING BOAT "SUCCESS" evidently lived up to its name, judging by netful of fish, on this day in 1912 when photographed. Fishing was really big business at Melville then. Photo a loan by C. Culley.

# Melville

Melville got its name, best we can find out, from Melville Anderson, the son of Bay Anderson, one of the early owners of vast acres of land in the present town of Melville and an early settler of Washington, La.

Mrs. Antoinette Halbe Hagens who came as a child to Melville in '83 when her father, Victor Halbe, was one of the men working on the railroad bridge, recalls Bay Anderson and his son, Marven. The Victor Hotel now owned by Mrs. Hagens is on property formerly owned by the Andersons.

"The way I always heard it," says Mrs. Hagens, "was that Bay Anderson was asked if he wanted his name on the depot, and he said, 'Name it for my son.' "-- though how Melville was derived from the name Marven, or whether that was a middle name, she doesn't recall.

In any event, the man for whom Melville was named was evidently an Anderson, whose folks originally came from Washington, and whose name was either "Mel", as a nickname, possibly, or Melville.

"When I first remember Melville," recalls Mrs. Minnie Shamp, "There was nothing here but Irishmen's camps and the convicts working on the railroad! The Irishmen," she explained, "had contracted to build the road, and they worked convicts in those days. I remember when they were working on 'the dump' (the hill atop which Melville's railroad track is laid; the railroad track is many feet above the level of the land at Melville.)"

"I was living in Melville in '83 when the bridge was completed," Mrs. Shamp remembers, "and I saw the first train go over. Up until then, they had built the railroad up to the river and transported the trains by boats across the river."

The work of building the bridge was plagued by the gradual but continuous caving in of the river bank. After it was finally completed, several spans have had to be added through the years to the original bridge. In '27, during the Big Flood, two spans of the bridge fell into the river and had to be replaced.

Mrs. Lou Jackson thinks it must have been '84 when the bridge finally was put through. It was then that her father built a hotel here along the new railroad track. Years later the two-story hotel, by now owned by someone else, burned to the ground, but the site of it is now part of the Atchafalaya River which is ever eating out the land and broadening its course.

"We owned a place about two acres deep,"



H. RACHAL offered the shippers cheaper rates by rail than they were getting by shipments on the Atchafalaya--and got in business. (Daily World Photo)

Mrs. Jackson recalls, "and not more than a quarter acre of that place is on dry land now. My ancestors say that they remember when you could throw a picket across the river to walk on it to get to the other side without getting your feet wet!"

"Before the railroad went through," Mrs. Shamp fills in, "we used to travel from our place eight or ten miles above Melville to Washington. There wasn't anything here but woods and those camp-huts where the Irishmen working on the railroad lived. Where the town is, there was a field, cleared and cultivated. The biggest part of town was along the levee and at first there were only the commissaries for the convicts building the railroad. Gradually, men came and put up stores."

Among the men coming into Melville when the bridge was built over the river was Victor Halbe, father of Mrs. Antoinette Halbe Hagens, who moved to the community when the family came here in '83. Her father was one of the men working on the bridge.

The place owned by Mrs. Shamp's father, Elijah Barker, was in Pointe Coupee parish. It was a small store along the river bank where Mrs. Shamp remembers her father laying staves along the bank for the traders on the steamboats to pick up.

"My father had a small store, a saw landing, a moss press and cattle," she says. But her father died when she was small,



Melville, La.



(Arrow) McNeil's Drug Store during flood.

## MCNEIL'S DRUG STORE

(Est. 1918)

Melville, La.

Home Owned and Operated

WE ARE GLAD OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK YOU  
FOR HAVING ALLOWED US TO SERVE YOU  
FOR SO MANY YEARS

### IN BUSINESS FOR YOUR HEALTH



her mother died when she was 8 or 10 years old, so she came to live permanently with relatives in Melville. That was 72 years ago back in 1883, the year after the railroad was laid.

During those same years a girl by the name of Jeramu Cass, the daughter of a Frenchman who had come from France to settle in Big Cane, became acquainted with Melville. Her family lived at Morgan Ferry, about two miles up the levee, where cattle were ferried across the river, and the little Cass girl, now 85-years-old Mrs. Jeff Warden, walked to school in Melville.

Standing on the gallery of her small grocery store, Mrs. Warden recalls the Melville she remembers then.

"This—" she indicates the heart of Melville — "was all woods and marshy and full of sloughs and bayous. Stores that were here were along the levee, and the levee wasn't any more than a potato ridge, about so high. The river was little, like a bayou, and when it rose, the water went out in sloughs and bayous."

"There were flatboats floating in the river then, and my uncle, Ed Stangle, owned one of them. He sold tobacco and stuff like that. . . No, he didn't handle groceries, just stuff like tobacco. I remember Mr. and Mrs. Helm had one of them stores along the river front, and Mr. C.C. Johnson had a store. There was walks along the levee to go into the stores."

Mrs. Addie Zerangue, whom we interviewed on her 83rd birthday on April 5, says that she didn't come to Melville until the year after she married, back in '97, and "Melville was just a frog pond." She refers, said her daughter-in-law, to the multiple bayous and sloughs around the town. Mrs. Zerangue was Addie Viola Johnson of Conway, South Carolina, when she married the native of Melville, La., and came here to live. The Zerangues were in the timber business, and her husband's father, Stanislaus Zerangue, settled in Melville not long after the Civil War. That was around '72 or '73.

When Mrs. Zerangue got here at the turn of the century, she remembers that all of Melville was on the river bank and there were little "cubb houses" on the river. Present Town Clerk Tolson Jones's father, Henry Jones, was busy with his fish business and ice house, and 40 to 50 barrels of fish were shipped out daily from Melville. The fish were caught in the network of lakes and bayous surrounding the town, and men worked with nets and hook and line and furnished the backbone of a lively business in fish.

The railroad had been through Melville more than a decade then, and Mrs. Zerangue says there was once a little roundhouse here for the trains.

Among the early settlers Mrs. Zerangue and her family recall were the Casses, Jones, Butlers, Havards, Rosenbergs, Wardens.

When Addie Butler, daughter of the S.H. Butfers, came to Melville in '92, a Captain Dodge was mayor ("I don't know whether he was the first mayor or not but he must have been one of the first —") and he was also postmaster. Buter, Addie's father, was a bookkeeper, a Justice of the Peace in Melville and a Notary Public.

During the late '80's or '90's, Mrs. Shamp recalls that a Dr. Charlie Joseph built a brick kiln in Melville, and a Dr. Faircloth moved from Port Barre to become the town's first doctor.

It was New Year's Day, 1888, that Mr. and Mrs. W.S. Rowe and their family came to Melville to take over the hotel which Rowe had built four years earlier and which had been operated by one Dick Heatherton. The Rowe's daughter, Lou, now Mrs. Lou Jackson, was 10 years old back in '88 when she arrived in Melville. There were, she estimates, about 10 people in the town then.

"Captain Dodge was the first mayor of Melville," Mrs. Jackson, who is the mother of the present mayor recalls. "And my father was the second mayor. He was mayor in '94, though whether it was for one or for two terms I don't remember."

Like Mrs. Minnie Shamp, Mrs. Jackson recalls that the first teacher in the one room school at Melville was a Mrs. Landrum who



ODENBURG CREVASSE, taken at 9:30 a.m. May 12, 1912. This is considerably north of Melville, but Atchafalaya water flowed down, flooded the town well before the levee broke near here. Somebody pencilled the following notations on the back of this picture. "Wed., May 15, 1912, water started to come in yard. Thurs., June 20, water left yard. Moved to depot May 20, 1912. Moved back home June 11, 1912. This taken May 19, 1912, at 9:30 o'clock, lacked eight inches of being in house."



1912 FLOOD inundated Melville. Picket tips were just poking out. Picture was taken May 27 1912



HOME NOW OWNED by Mr. and Mrs. Ulric Taylor looked like this in May 1912. Note man in water with boy. Picture a loan by C. Culley.



LOOKING DOWN Oak Street in Melville during the 1912 flood. Picture a loan by C. Culley.

later remarried and became Mrs. Alexander. Another early school teacher who made her mark on the town was a Miss Fannie Leatherman.

"We had a Union Church - every denomination was represented, and we all went. We had Sunday School and everything. The Methodist was the first denomination to build a church here —"

"The Methodists and Baptists built brush-covered tents and held meetings at first," Mrs. Shamp said, "and they used these a long while. Finally, the Methodists bought the old Baptist Church at Churchville six miles up the river (called that because the principal

building there was the church) and moved it here to Melville."

Like Henry Jones, like Sjimmans who came from Shreveport, and a man named Murray, Jackson was in the thriving fish business.

"There were five or six fish docks here," Mrs. Jackson remembers. "I believe it was '95 or '96 when the fishing business was at its height. I remember that the train spent a half hour here, loading fish. I know they shipped a good many of the fish to Texas."

"The steamboats docked here weekly, and we made the trip to Washington. It took 12 hours by river, going down the river and up Courtableau, though Courtableau is now filled up with sandbars. They've tried to clear

it out but it always just fills up again, but then it was large enough for steamboats to go through.

(Editor's note: Courtableau is now dyked off by the guide line levee).

"If we went by train to Washington, we had to go to Cheneyville and wait over there until the next day and catch a train to Washington."

"Showboats docked here about once a year. There were two of them — French and Robertson's, and one — I forget which — had two boats. One of the boats carried animals that were penned like in a zoo. I saw my first silent movie on French's showboat back in '98 or '99.

"When the showboats were coming, you could hear the calliope playing 'way around the bend and we children would line up on the levee to see the showboat come up. Everybody went; there was nothing else to do, and we waited for those boats to come!"

"The showboat that carried the animals had elephants and lions and everything." Melville's first mayor was apparently named in the late '80's or early '90's, for when the Rowes arrived in Melville in '88 the town was unincorporated.

No record of the town's incorporation is available until June 11 but oldtimers remember earlier mayors, probably as early as the first years. Melville's official town records were destroyed in the flood of 1927, when, as Town Clerk Tolson Jones recalls, "the water came up higher than we thought. We had put the records on scaffolding in the courthouse but the water came higher than we had planned on, the scaffolding collapsed, and the papers all went into the water. We had to dive for what we could find, and that's all that is left."

"We did not have much contact with the outside world," Mrs. Jackson comments. "We ordered our materials through the stores, and, of course, made our own clothes. The boats and trains provided our only transportation."

"I remember when we had kerosene lanterns for street lamps on the two first streets — Main Street and Church street. They were hand-lighted, of course, and somebody had to light them at night."

Eighty-eight year old Henry Rachal, a retired railroad agent who served Melville for 40 years until he retired about 17 years ago, lives in a two-story house built nearly a half-century ago on the "other" side of the railroad.

"In 1898, when I came here," he says, "the town had about 300 people, I guess, and the boats and the railroads got all the business, you know. There were no good roads then. All of the people from Avoyelles and all out in there came through Melville. Peter Payton was mayor then, and I remember the fish business was flourishing. There were no street lights I can recall."

"I went out to the boat landing and watched to see who was shipping freight on the boats and asked them if they would use the railroad if they got better rates. They said they would and pretty soon they was all using the trains instead. Jimmy Hayes was the biggest merchant then and Mr. Rowe and some others had stores here then. . ."

Mrs. Lud Darnell, an ardent fisherwoman in her day, reminiscences of the old days too. Her husband — "as fine a man as ever breathed" — was town marshal, and you won't be in Melville long before you hear about the cemetery where "a Sheriff guards all the gates." Lud Darnell lies at one gate, — he was "Sheriff" (town marshal, actually) for 19 years, and Oscar Hamilton, another marshal, lies at another gate. There are Methodist, Episcopal and Catholic cemeteries, though the former is the oldest and is generally regarded as a community cemetery.

"People don't die in Melville," they say. "They had to get one killed to start a cemetery!" Back in the '90s a girl hobo was killed on the railroad track and here was the first grave that started the cemetery. Nobody knew who she was or where she came from.

In the language of the people, repeated as through it has been repeated countless times by countless people before them, folks say, "Melville has had tough times — but it



MRS. ANTOINETTE HAIBE HAGENS' father, Victor Haibe, came to Melville to work on the Atchafalaya railroad bridge there in '83. (Daily World Photo).



MRS. JERAMU WARDEN of Melville. When she remembers it first "Melville was all woods and marshy and full of sloughs and bayous." That was more than 75 years ago. (Daily World photo).





MRS. LOU JACKSON -- her father built a hotel in Melville at a point now covered by waters of the Atchafalaya. Her father, W. S. Rowe, was mayor, and her son is presently the mayor. (Daily World photo by Sue Eakin).



HIGH WATER at Melville. Note board walk leading over water to house, lower left. Whole town boated. Old photos a loan by C. R. Thompkins.



LEROY ELLERBE, age 90, is bothered by the fact that, in the old days, the cultivated land and homes were fenced in against the fire, ranging cattle and animals from the woods. Now, so many people have taken over the land until the woods themselves are all fenced-in, and there's precious little woods left, the old timer says. (Daily World photo by Sue Eakin).



MRS. MINNIE SHAMP has probably lived in Melville longer than anybody. She was born up the river a few miles and came to live in the community with relatives when she 8 or 10 years old, making her a citizen of 72 years standing in Melville. (Daily World photo)

never gets so low it doesn't come out again!" Possibly that has come about through the floods and threats of floods the community has encountered throughout its history.

But disasters at Melville have been met with the same kind of enterprise and imagination as a long-ago owner of the Blue Goose, a saloon and gambling house at Melville back before the turn of the century evidenced.

It seems that St. Landry parish "went dry" back there some time, and there were no gambling nor alcoholic liquors available in the parish. But Pointe Coupee was "wet", so the owner of the Blue Goose, doing business in Melville, received the news stoically. He put his business on a houseboat and floated in the waters on the Pointe Coupee side of the river, and what was more, he provided ferry service and ferried his "dry" St. Landry customers back and forth. He built up a lively business, indeed, according to those who remember.

"After '27, we stopped talking about all other floods, but up until then the flood of '82 had been the flood to end all floods. Of course, after '27, that was changed," Mrs. Friscilla Van Heas laughed over the telephone in discussing her recollections of the area.

Folks in Melville speak, casually enough, of another disaster other than the floods. That was "the time the town burned", or the end of the "Old Melville across the levee".

The fire occurred on Oct. 11, 1917 at 2 p.m., and 21 buildings were burned, wiping out the entire business district on the levee.

After that, as the town re-built, the entire town was moved "to this side of the levee", natives say, and the site of the old town was left for the rapidly encroaching river to take.

Folks now try to recollect just which stores were located out on the other side of the levee in "the old part of town" which was destroyed by the fire. According to C.E. Thomasson, those included Tom Capps' saloon, Hill and Haas' grocery stores, Suden Walker's saloon-barbershop and store, and there were businesses belonging to a man named Rial and one belonging to Town Marshal Lud Darnell.

Mrs. Connie Langley recalls that Jasper Artall, Gus Rosenberg, C. W. Stone and Sidney DeLoach, who ran a barber shop, were among those who had businesses on "this side of the levee" in the part that built up to contain the town after the 1917 fire. A paper - "The Melville Tattler," - also carries advertisements of Godchaux, Paul Artall's and Cason-White.

The re-building of the stores did not take place immediately, nor all at one time. But every time a store was added after the fire, it was located on the side now differentiated from that early settlement as "the new part of town".

In 1922, there was grave threat of floods, and sandbags had to be placed on the levee.

"There was a big flood in 1912 -- at least, we thought it was big until '27," Mrs. Zerangue said, and one of her daughter-in-laws commented: "Mama did have some pictures of the 1912 flood, but she lost them in '27."

Eleven to fifteen feet of water covered the town and stayed there for several months that awful spring of '27.

Mrs. Zerangue speaks of that flood as

through it were yesterday. The flood waters went up to the ceiling of their home -- and it is an old-fashioned, high-ceilinged place.

"We had our hogs on scaffolds out there in the back yard, and we drove our cows to the levee," she remembers. Sand and silt were left all over everything, and my husband and the boys came back, as the water fell, and little by little, cleaned the house up.

"I remember during that flood I gathered up my clothes to take to the levee and I met a man who hollered to me, "Miss Addie, I swear to God you're going to kill your fool self!" And I yelled back "My clothes are washed and ironed and paid for -- and I'm going to get 'em to this levee," and I did."

"After the water went down where it was out of the house, boats were going in the streets and there were footpaths fixed to the house. I kept the coffee pot going for the workers, I'd hear 'em coming saying "I small something good" and I'd tell 'em to come on. I served everybody hot coffee."

"Did you know," says Mrs. Constance Conley Langley, "that the telephone operators stayed on the job all through the high water? They worked in the exchange and then when it was moved to the mill, they stayed on. There was Christine Clark and Mrs. Lolly Glaiser (she was chief operator) and I believe Julia Pullens was there then too."

"There was a mill here -- a sawmill close here on Main Street once," explained C.E. Thomasson, "and there was a little old bayou here they filled up with sawdust and logs. Little old bayou went right through town here and they called it Archie's Drain . . . Well, anyway, it was in that little old mill right over there where 20 of us men stayed during the high water. The high water lasted pretty near three months, at least it was that long before the last of the water was gone."

"The crevasse broke in May '27 . . . We dived into nine foot of water in the store on Main Street to get canned goods. We'd come up with the goods all right, but we didn't know what we were going to eat. I remember once we ate crushed pineapple on pan cakes. We didn't know where the syrup was. The labels had all been washed off on the cans. But I stayed through the whole flood, and so did a bunch of other men."

"But the people of Melville weren't discouraged. They wanted to get back home. They told 'em they would have to have a ring of levees around the town, if they went back, and they didn't much like being hemmed in, but rather than leave Melville, they went back and the levees went up around the town . . ."

"It's funny about Melville. Anybody that ever lives there gets attached to it. Those people weren't about to leave their homes and go somewhere else to live!" comments

Mrs. Connie Langley.

By comparison with '27, the 1912 flood hadn't amounted to much but at the time it made history. The flood came as a result of the Odenburg Crevasse at 9:30 a.m. on May 12, 1912.

After the '27 flood and the resumption of normal living in the quiet little town that seems, to a stranger, remarkably self-sufficient with its complete shopping centers, the biggest event on the local scene was the sinking of the Jane Smith, a boat owned by the Oil Transport Co. of New Orleans and used in transporting oil from fields of the Atchafalaya basin.

The "Jane Smith," costing a handsome \$250,000, was on its maiden voyage down river for a load of oil, and carried two empty barges behind it. Reliable sources reported, after investigation, that it was the confusion of the pilot that caused it, but the boat capsized and sank in a matter of

seconds at 9:35 p.m. on May 19, 1950, exactly 38 years almost to the second after the Odenburg Crevasse that caused the 1912 flood.

The barges jackknifed, and the Jane Smith was thrown against the pier of the Texas and Pacific railroad bridge, capsizing the boat and causing it to sink in a matter of seconds. The exact time was noted by the clock in the cabin which stopped at 9:35 p.m.

The following crew members were drowned: William R. Weldon, master, of St. Louis, Mo.; Harold Lynch, cook, of New Orleans; Russell R. Randolph, pilot, of Paducah, Ky.

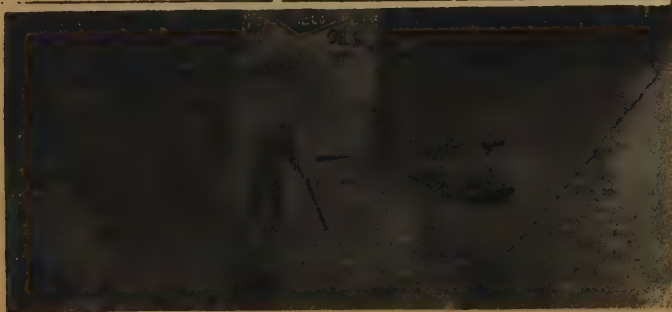


## ELBA GIN CO., INC.

Morgan Goudeau, Jr.,  
Pres. and Gen. Mgr.  
L. M. Coco, Vice-Pres.  
L. W. Beard, Sec. and Treas.

Melville, La.

Organized in 1930 as a corporation by Morgan Goudeau, Sr. Dissolved to a partnership in 1936. Re-organized in 1952 as a corporation.



TRAVEL IN MELVILLE in May 1897 was strictly by boat, unless like man in foreground, a raft is handy.





**FLOOD FURY in 1927 is typified by this view of the crevasse in the levee at Melville. The camera is pointed south. Disaster was everywhere. Light object in foreground is**

**sandbag. Picture a loan by C. Culley.**

Floyd L. Ashley, oiler, of New Orleans, and Timothy Cushing, deckhand, of Gretna, La. The bodies of the first two men were recovered further down the Atchafalaya River shortly after the sinking, and the last three were recovered from the vessel during salvage operations.

The following crew members survived the sinking: Captain Ennis Verret, who floated down river after the sinking and finally made it ashore on a log. He was rescued the day after the wreck. Charles W. Kock, chief engineer of New Orleans; Robert K. Jones, Second Engineer, St. Louis, Mo.; Billy Moore, mate, Pensacola, Fla.; Harvey A. Odom, deckhand of New Orleans, and Vince Matherne, oiler of Larose, La. The last four were rescued immediately following the wreck.

During the years since shortly before World War 1, Melville has had no less than a half dozen weekly newspapers, none of which survived. These include "The Atchafalaya Waves," "The Melville Mosquito," "The Melville Tattler," and "The Melville Star."

The Melville Stave Mill was built in 1919 by P.T. Bolz.

R.E. Schulze, a longtime resident of Opelousas, became the first manager, and although the mill changed ownership, Schulze

continued as manager until his retirement in '39.

The mill was sold to the Wunderlick Stave Co. in 1922 by Bolz.

Wunderlick, in turn, sold it to the Allen Cooperate Co. in 1937 who are presently operating it.

When Highway 71 was paved and a new road cut through the state, Melville was left off the main thoroughfare. Nobody is sure whether it is history or legend that the matter was the result of the late Huey Long's indignation at the community's lack of enthusiasm for him.

Nobody is sure who did it — but the story is that when Long came to Melville to speak, he was handed a soapbox and only a scattered few stayed to hear what he had to say. Even those heckled the late great Kingfish, and he failed to "carry" Melville in the elections that followed. He vowed the town would pay for it by being left off the highway, and, whether that is the reason or not, the road was laid through Krotz Springs and the town was no longer on the main thoroughfare from Shreveport to New Orleans.

Until that time a familiar sight at Melville was the lining up of automobiles to ride the

toll ferry across the Atchafalaya River. The ferry remains, though, of course, business is not what it used to be.

It was moved in 1952.

The Merchants and Farmers Bank was organized in 1908 with Dr. Gordon Morgan as president. The bank has since moved to a new building on Main Street.

## MELVILLE REXALL PHARMACY

Our New Modern Drug Store

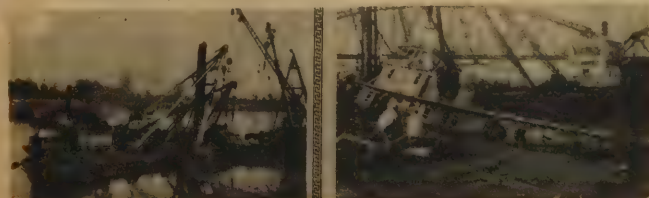
Dedicated to the Health  
of the Community

We Deliver

MELVILLE, LOUISIANA

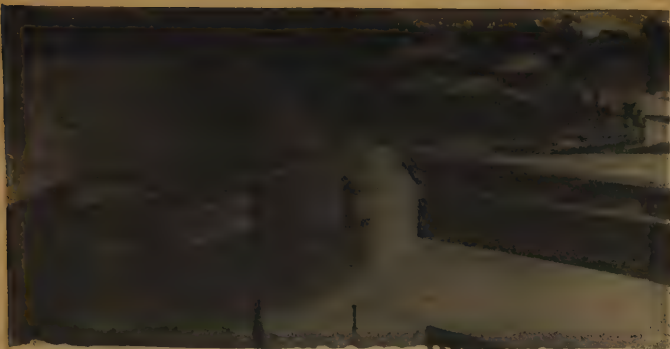


**ANOTHER VIEW of 1927 levee crevasse at Melville, looking south as water pours inland. Row of sandbags on top levee in foreground was futile attempt to stave off disaster.**



**RAISING THE SUNKEN towboat Jane Smith from the deep Atchafalaya at Melville was a monumental salvage job, done by a New Orleans firm, and required months. Photos by Charles Culley.**





SODDEN MELVILLE looked like this in 1927. Godchaux's store is building at lower right. Drug store is across water-filled street.

# 'Waves,' Melville paper

Growing and prosperous Melville had a new weekly newspaper in the year 1908, named "The Atchafalaya Waves," and it was a handsome four-page journal for its day.

The copy at hand (see cut) is the edition of Saturday, Feb. 29, 1908, and is the property of Mrs. L. Austin Fontenot Jr. Originally, from the address on the front, it had been sent to J. B. Sandoz, Opelousas.

The issue we have is Vol. 1, No. 4, hence the paper apparently was first published Feb. 1, 1908.

The editor (the name has been torn from the masthead) made a valiant effort to recount the doings of the Melville locality, and here is a summary of what the Waves found to report for the week ending Feb. 29, 1908: "W. E. Fife has opened a meat market in the new building near his residence.

"Levee Inspector W. C. Gordon returned Saturday from Latannier, where he superintended the work. He reports the work completed as far as the Colorado Southern bridge, where the levee was tied.

"Steamer Robert Dodds went as far as Latannier Sunday where Capt. McQuinn's convicts camped were loaded for White Castle, where they will be located for a few weeks. There were 156 convicts transported to that point.

"There is no better location than Melville for a wholesale grocery house. It could control the river and a large portion of railroad trade out of here.

"MARRIED--At the home of the bride's parents at McCrea P. O., Thursday, Feb. 20, at 7:30 p.m., Willie E. Brown of Lavonia and Miss Irene Patterson, Rev. J. B. Lee officiating. The happy couple will make their home at Lavonia.

"R. E. Flennikan is down with measles. "J. L. LeBlanc's gasoline tug came up Tuesday with 20,735 lbs. of fish.

"Bob Schuler had charge of H. M. Gordon's store while Birt was in New Orleans this week.

"C. W. Krotz, the Melville pusher, spent several days in Opelousas and on the Avoysel-

les division in the interest of the big sale to be put on soon.

"Capt. Hincley of the Frisco system and Mr. McMurry of the firm of Kohlmann and McMurry, who have the contract to build the Frisco bridge over the river at Latannier, were in town Thursday on business.

"C. W. Krotz, the daddy of Melville, is arranging to put on a big sale on the South side in the next 30 days, watch out the next issue.

"Hon. Yves Andrepont and wife of Opelousas were in our city Wednesday on their way to Spring Hill to visit their son who is attending college.

"Lud Darrell, Melville's distinguished peace officer, has been appointed by the Czar to the head of the Russian Secret Place, with headquarters at Palmetto. The "Honorable" Lud is to be congratulated on the high honor that has been conferred on him.--Pica-yune.

"On the first of April a representative of a syndicate from Toledo, Ohio, will meet Mr. Krotz here for the purpose of going into the matter of financing the building of a railroad from this point to Krotz Springs, and will also look into the advisability of extending the road north of here to Columbia, in Caldwell parish. The supposition is that one of the new roads now being built through Krotz Springs is in this deal to build this road, like this branch would be run north to connect with the Rock Island main line. Little information can be secured to assure our readers that a road will be secured shortly from the Springs to our thriving little city. The more railroads we get the quicker we will get civilized.

"BASEBALL--The boys should lose no time in organizing a first class team here to play ball this season. There is some good material here and we could have some interesting match game.

"THE NEW DEPOT--The present traffic over the T & P and its branch to Avoyselles and the O. G. Rey, is such that our little 2 x 4 depot is entirely too small to accommodate the present passenger traffic, and as for the freight it has to be handled out of the cars. Now that the heavy fall traffic has lessened it is to be hoped that the work will be started at once on our new depot.

"J. F. Dezauche of Opelousas Sunday with home folk.

"Dr. W. E. Hawkins of Palmetto was in town Thursday.

"B. F. Cason spent several days in New Orleans this week.

"C. W. Krotz arrived Tuesday from De-fiance, Ohio.

"Rev. Father Pierce gave our office a pleasant call Wednesday.

"Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Richard went to New Orleans yesterday to attend the carnival.

"J. Plonsky of Washington Sunday here

**TCHAFALAYA WAVES**

SWELL LINE SPECIAL price 25c

PEOPLE'S PHARMACY

MELVILLE INSURANCE

The Man Who...  
Let us care for your...  
The Cost of Fire Insurance...  
Here we are Ag...  
All Outings at...  
Unbleached Domestic...  
See Our Prices on...  
Mosquito Bars...  
NEXT WEEK...  
Come and See US...  
While Times are...  
PANICKY...  
C. W. STONER

"THE ATCHAFALAYA WAVES," weekly newspaper, was printed in Melville beginning in February 1908. This is Vol. 1, No. 4, issued Saturday, February 20, 1908.

as the guest of his son-in-law, J. Bloch. "Mayor R. H. Jones, Dr. Joseph and J. L. LeBlanc were in Opelousas Monday on bus-

# Dr. Gordon Morgan

By SUE LYLES EAKIN

MELVILLE, --- "You just can't write a history of Melville without telling about Dr. Morgan!" As we walked the pleasant streets and visited the friendly homes at Melville piecing together as much as we could of the community's past, we heard that admonition over and over again. No, he hadn't done anything spectacular, unless you would say that loving everybody in town -- and being loved in return -- was spectacular, and maybe it is.

Dr. Morgan is gone now. He's been dead now for seven years or so, and folks sometimes comment wistfully that it's a shame he isn't buried in Melville. He loved it so, and he never wanted to be anywhere else.

But Dr. Morgan was 80 when he died, and, what was more important than being buried in Melville, he lived most of his adult life there.

We heard so much about the slight-built doctor who had left such a mark on the town that, once the history was carefully tucked away in the Daily World office, we found ourselves headed back for the quiet streets and the friendly people on a quest of our own. Who, indeed, was this Dr. Morgan?

Did you know Dr. Morgan? We asked a lady at the Able Hotel.

"Know Dr. Morgan! Indeed, I did," she sighed. "He lived alone -- but then he was at somebody's house all the time. EVERYBODY loved him. . . I was thinking the other day about when my children had the measles. It was lightning and stormy, and I called Dr. Morgan, and of course, he came. And he knew I was scared, and he wouldn't leave me. He slipped off his shoes and lay across the foot of the bed and slept that night."

We hunted Dot McNeal who had served as his secretary and driven him around on his calls during the last years of his service to the community.

"Everybody loved Dr. Morgan. He came here in 1917 from Woodside. He had been practicing here for years when I knew him. . . He never collected his bills. People either paid him or they didn't. I'd make out bills and he would take them and tear them up."

"Sometimes I would make them again and send them out anyway without him knowing it -- You know, he took care of patients at Krotz Springs, Rideau, Palmetto, Le-Beau. . .

"He didn't fish nor hunt. He had his whole life built around his practice. Now, he did own two dogs he loved: Toy, a fox terrier, and Tiny Boy, a spitz.

"He loved children and he kept lollipops for them. . . He was very religious, and he attended all the churches -- Methodist, Baptist, all of them, 'tho he himself was Methodist. He used to say he never saw a bad looking woman: they were all symmetrical! Any size or shape, but Dr. Morgan would always say they were symmetrical!"

Dr. Morgan, we gathered from all the people eager to fill out the story of his life, was a native of Opelousas and once served in the state legislature. He had a standing offer to go to Shreveport and practice with a successful physician who was a lifelong friend of his--but he would never go. He had offers to practice in Baton Rouge -- but he couldn't leave Melville. He never bought modern equipment but was content with the simple furnishings he had, and he delivered babies until a few months before he died at 80 years of age.

He loved to eat, and his favorite food was smothered cabbage.

He loved to dance, and he was never too tired to take a carload of young folks to a dance. Nor did he sit on the sidelines and watch. He danced -- he loved it.

We visited the Melville Merchants & Planters Bank where an impressive picture of the beloved old doctor hangs on the wall, and under the picture is a plaque: "1867-1948; First president; 1908-1948; He served well this bank and this community." Dr. Morgan helped organized the bank.

We talked with Mrs. Harold Westerhaus, "Dr. Morgan?" she repeated softly. "He was next to the Lord. When Melville lost Dr. Morgan, we felt like we were lost!"

Harold Westerhaus speaks of Dr. Morgan as though he might walk in the door any minute. "He was an institution here," he says. "There's no doubt about that. He was one man who served the public -- rich or poor, black or white, it didn't make any difference. He went on calls nights just like in the day. Cold or raining. It didn't matter, knowing full well when he was called that there was nothing in it for him but the call. "If he had collected any portion of the money due him, he could have retired many times over."

Dr. Morgan, we learned, had another strange talent: "He was the best driver of an auto in a road full of cows I ever saw. He could weave in and out of a herd of cows, and, somehow, he seldom, if ever, hit one. Yessir, he was a master of winding around cows!" "A liar," Dr. Morgan frequently said, "shall never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!" and in lighter moments he was apt to say, "No sir, that just doesn't hop by me!" And he advised his patients, "You'll always be as young as you feel!"

No, we wouldn't say Dr. Gordon Morgan didn't have a spectacular life -- surely, not many men leave behind such a handsome legacy of beloved memories of their good deeds.

Maybe the nicest way he is remembered is like Aunt Melinda Jackson, an ancient colored woman who was out picking berries in the fields near Melville a few years back, commented, "Does I know Dr. Morgan! I reckon I does. He brided half of Melville."

Squares and Dimension Stock.

**TRUE WOOD PRODUCTS**  
Melville, La.  
Box 415  
Paul Schulze, owner



**MELVILLE MOSQUITO**

**HATS VS. TIES:**

WHICH will sell the BEST?

THOSE BEAUTIFUL HATS AND CAPS, OR THE SMALLER BOYS' WEAR? FOR THE GENTS, SOOTS AND \$1.00 HANDSOME NECK-TIES FOR MEN.

At 30¢ each

**SON-WHITE, Ltd**

Do You Want MONEY?

WE MAKE LOANS ON REAL ESTATE SECURITY.

ANY REASONABLE SECURITY.

JOHN W. HEAR, Cashier

PETER CLASSIE, Manager

Don't forget to fix that little Present, when you go to the Big MOOSE Package Party, Tuesday, Everybody else does.

"ROSENBERG" Drug

**MELVILLE MOSQUITO!**

IT'S HERE TO STAY & MAKE IT'S WAY

**Hurrah For Melville!**

ARE THE MELVILLE BOYS PATRIOTIC? YES, 3 TIMES OVER!

HERE IS THE ROLL OF HONOR:

CLAY HENDRICKS, BROWNIE CLARK, ROBERT AUSTIN, PROF. HENRY G. LEWIS, JAMES SAVAGE, CECILY S. BROWN, SMOY BERRIDGE, VIVIAN JACKSON, CHAS. BAWBY AND CHARLIE CHAPMAN.

"BATT" is a good MOOSE, for he will furnish you "PACKAGES" to go to the entertainment with on Tuesday.

**Do You Want ATICKE**

FOR THE MOST ENTERTAINING GET

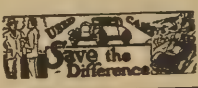
AT THE HOTEL "ROSENBERG" Drug



**Buckhorn Bar AND CAFE**

**Savage USED CAR Lot**

Esso Products  
James Savage, Owner  
Melville, La.



"THE MELVILLE MOSQUITO" was a tiny newspaper, its pages 6x9 inches in size. It was the front (right) and back pages of the little 4-page publication, for Sunday, 15, 1917, reduced to about one-third size. The two inside pages were printed up-down. Capt. C. H. Coffree was listed as editor but there was not news in it, only the front page list of the 10 men who signed for war service, and that one joke in center of the back page. This and the three other papers were a loan by Mrs. Lou Jackson.

G. L. Voorhies of Opelousas was in Friday booking orders for Baldwin & Misses Hattie Cranford and Annie Rayhington are the guests of relatives. Attorneys Austin Fontenot and Robert were business visitors here Saturday. Dr. S. H. Joseph, D. D. G. O., spent Saturday night at Bunkle installing a Masage. Chas. Brown went through here on his way to Church Point, where he is in business.

S. L. A. Williams attended the seventy-anniversary celebration of the Baton Fire Department. She was accompanied by Misses Sarah Louise Richard, Daisy and Stella Havard.

"Prof. Henry G. Lewis, principal of the Plancheville high school, was the guest of the editor Monday. Prof. Lewis was at the head of the St. Mary Academy of Opelousas when the editor was a pupil of the institution, and it was a delight to meet that splendid gentleman and educator, who had been to Opelousas to visit our good friend and school mate, Fritz Sandoz of the U. S. Navy.

"Dr. A. W. Martin and Foster Morgan of Woodside were the guests of friends here Sunday.

"St. Landry is the banner parish of the state, and Melville its coming city."

"The Atchafalaya Waves" was well patronized by the merchants of Melville for a news-

**MELVILLE NEWS**

**MELVILLE NEWS IS BORN**

**Ferry To Soon Be Operating**

The new ferry across the Atchafalaya River, here at Melville, is expected to be put into operation by the latter part of the week, after being tested in St. Francisville.

The first boat crossed near Opelousas in its month, the first time since 1870, when an automobile ran off the boat, and the boat was wrecked near Big Cove, where a customer was overboard with current water crossing with the boat.

**Sunset Boys Will Attend FFA Convention**

Shown above is Max Betty, FFA member, and Edward Oliver will represent the Sunset FFA Chapter at the annual convention of the FFA, August 15-17, at the University of the South, in St. Francisville.

"MELVILLE NEWS" was published weekly from July 30, 1942, to May 6, 1943. Betty Beeching, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Beeching, was editor. The paper was a product of Mrs. Rigby Owen, wife of the then publisher of the Daily World, and it was printed on the Daily World press in Opelousas. This copy and those of the Melville Tattler, Melville Mosquito and The Melville Star were loaned by Mrs. Lou Jackson.

**The Melville Tattler**

MELVILLE, LA. JANUARY 27, 1917. \$1.00 Per Annum.

**SCHOOL BOARD HOLDS MEETING**

PRESENTS RE-ELECTED SUPERVISOR

**DR. DEZ GIVES A LECTURE**

"A TRIP TO MOOSEHEART"

The school board met in a special session at the school building here on Monday night, January 22, 1917. The board was organized by the late W. B. Prescott, school superintendent, and Dr. O. P. Daly as school board president. The center picture and article in this issue tell of the re-election of the late W. B. Prescott as school superintendent and Dr. O. P. Daly as school board president. The center picture and article in this issue tell of the re-election of the late W. B. Prescott as school superintendent and Dr. O. P. Daly as school board president.



**Merchant & Farmers BANK**

- W. E. Harmon  
President
- 
- Allen Budden  
Vice-President
- 
- H. H. Westerhaus  
Cashier

Capital and Surplus  
**\$90,000.00**

Established  
August 22,  
1908

Melville  
La.

"THE MELVILLE TATTLER" was one of at least five newspapers that have been published at one time or another in Melville. This copy, the top half of which is shown here, is dated less than one-third its size, is the second issue of the enterprise, dated January 27, 1917. This issue tells of the re-election of the late W. B. Prescott as school superintendent and Dr. O. P. Daly as school board president. The center picture and article in this issue tell of the re-election of the late W. B. Prescott as school superintendent and Dr. O. P. Daly as school board president. The center picture and article in this issue tell of the re-election of the late W. B. Prescott as school superintendent and Dr. O. P. Daly as school board president.







# Palmetto

... Melville had its fish docks, and Big Cane became a trading center in its day—but Palmetto is hard to beat for its colorful history which has the full favor of the Wild West. Cowboys and cattle thieves may not have roamed the Main Street in Palmetto, but the folks didn't need cattle, apparently, to squabble over. In the old days they were handy at finding something.

"Guess maybe you wouldn't want to print that," extraordinarily handsome Leonard Gaansen told us with his eyes twinkling mischievously. "Anyways, them bad people mostly shot each other out, and you never saw a quieter, more peaceful place than Palmetto is now."

It was William Riley Spears, much better known as "Uncle Bud," the town marshal of Palmetto for 15 years, who commented wryly on early Palmetto incidents. "What they didn't kill off, he (the Justice of the Peace) sent."

Back as long ago as anybody's heard about, according to the oldtimers, the land for miles around Palmetto belonged to Negroes -- free Negroes. Most prominent among these and owner of the land where Palmetto now lies was Prevot Rideau.

The story of Palmetto begins, apparently, with the building of the railroad, though two stores were built across the track from Palmetto Main Street in a position not far from the depot. They were built, as well as anybody can figure, around 1882. The first stores -- if oldtimers are correct -- were built by Simon Essacson and Wesley Budden.

"After the railroad was built in '82," Gaansen recalls, "some French families came into this section. There were, for instance, the Solleaus who built what we call 'the Solleaus Settlement' two miles out of town."

The name of the settlement started by the erection of the small stores and the laying of the railroad track was not Palmetto but "Gochin". The name comes from the Bible . . . "the land of Gochin", but another community along the train route had that name and the folks were advised to find a new one.

"It was a Yankee woman named Mrs. Sylvester," recalls C.R. Robertson, 74, "that named Palmetto. She owned Holly Grove Plantation here, and she told them to let her name it when they went to change the name. She thought so much of these palmettos around here, she named it Palmetto. I remember when they nailed some palmettos up on the depot wall."



ONE ROOM SCHOOL at Big Cane in the late 1880's.--Picture loaned by Mrs. Annie Afton.



C. R. ROBERTSON of Palmetto is a brother-in-law of the late Dr. Robert Hawkins. (Daily World Photo by Sue Eakln).

church at Bayou Jack has been built; the mission church at Coonville, also, and Mission services at Rosa have been carried on regularly under Brother Coates.

There have been over 100 additions under Bro. Coates Ministry.

In presenting this Souvenir of our beloved church on this occasion, we humbly beseech our Lord to continue to bless and direct our efforts to always send the Gospel message to all within our reach.

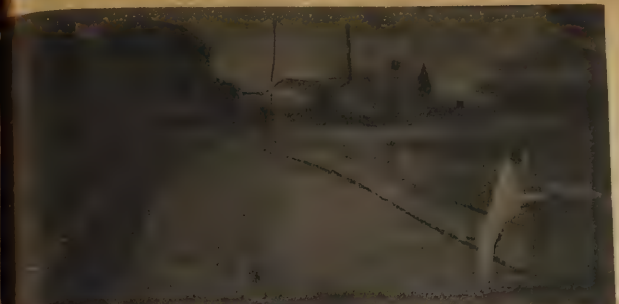
Committee on Church History

O. Q. Foster, Chairman;

Mrs. Lula Fogleman;

Mrs. Lorena Toler, R. F.

Jackson, R. A. Pickett, Jr.



Big Cane as it looked during the latter part of the 19th and first part of the 20th century. A business center on Bayou Rouge. The two-story building in the picture is the store owned by Leopold Godchaux, and there was a cotton gin and other stores located there. The last of these buildings was torn down several years ago.--Picture loaned by Miss Maude Jackson.

15 years ago when Government engineers were dredging the Rouge.

Miss Maude Jackson, descendent of one of the families who homesteaded land at Big Cane lives near the banks of the Bayou close to the point where the steamboats used. As a matter of fact, the iron rod to which the steamboats were tied is on her property.

She is thanks to Miss Maude's hobby of photography that some invaluable pictures of Big Cane exist -- the old Godchaux store, a cotton gin, Masonic Lodge, and a picture of a one-room school where she, Mrs. Annie Jackson, and others attended.

"When an old building was torn down not too long ago, they found an old account book dated 1854," Miss Maude says. "There were names in there we had never heard of." The account book has since been destroyed.

Miss Maude's mother was Jennie Weldon, like her father a native of Big Cane whose parents homesteaded the land on which they lived. Her maternal grandmother, Serphena Lambert Weldon, owned the land where Miss Maude now lives and once had a store here on the Bayou Rouge.

"Big Cane was settled long before Morrow and Bunkie," Miss Maude reminded us.

## Big Cane Baptist Church

On July 21, 1946, the Big Cane Baptist Church celebrated its 100th anniversary. C. Coates was pastor. The church appointed a committee to delve into its church history for the occasion, and here is their report:

July 21, 1846, S. S. Burdett, N. P. Hotchkiss, John O. Quinn and Peter Tanner, after a sermon by S. S. Burdette taken from the 13th Chapter, 18th Verse, of Matthew, organized themselves into a Presbytery and organized a Church of Jesus Christ.

Forty-two whites and six blacks subscribed to this Covenant, all of these members coming from the Bayou Rouge Baptist church, near Evergreen, Louisiana. The church was received into the Louisiana Association at Evergreen, which church had moved to this address during the year 1847, along with the Bayou Des Peres church.

The period of 1860-1865, and on through Reconstruction, were dark years for the church. It seldom met with the Association during that period.

The years of 1872, 1873, and 1874 were revival years in the church when the membership reached 73, and a Sunday School and prayer meetings were carried on regularly. On April 23, 1897, at the request of Fidelity Church, a Council was called for the purpose of ordaining W. L. Stagg to the Ministry. J. O. Fogleman was ordained a Deacon in 1900, and ordained to the Ministry



IRON POST on banks of Bayou Rouge was used for typing steam boats at Big Cane during the 1880s, when that community was a thriving commercial center. (Daily World Photo by Sue Eakln).

early in 1907. July 30, 1904, letters were granted to several members to organize a church at Bayou Jack.

The years of 1911, 1912 and 1913 were revival years again, the membership reaching 160.

The first B. Y. P. U., was organized in 1928. Sunday School additions were built in 1930, and the membership reaches 243.

The Years 1937 and 1938 were years of great progress. A pastors home was purchased in Morrow, La., and the church went on full time with the budget oversubscribed.

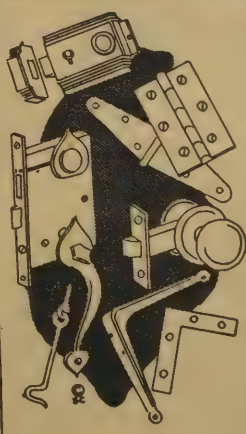
In the year 1939 a joint request for 58 letters, including the Pastor, J. A. Carter, was requested to organize a church at Morrow. These were granted and the Morrow Baptist church was organized.

The year following, 1940, the church was under the leadership of J. T. Toler. There were 81 additions to the church. Brother Toler resigned on August 9, 1942, and the present Pastor, L. C. Coates, became Pastor on October 25, 1942.

The Years 1942-1946 have been great years of Missionary expansion. The Mission



LEOPOLD GODCHAUX, the lad who came to Big Cane from Alsace and started as a pack peddler to make his fortune in north St. Landry Parish. He became the owner of vast acres of land and operated one of the leading stores at Big Cane during the peak of its life as a thriving shipping center on the Bayou Rouge.--Picture loaned by Mrs. Abe Godchaux.



## JACKSON HARDWARE

General Hardware Electrical Appliances

J. M. JACKSON, PROP.

MELVILLE, LA.





FIRST HOME of the late Dr. Robert Hawkins, near Palmetto. (Daily World Photo).

they could put the name up!"  
 But after the railroad track was laid, Palmetto had to move across the track from the north side where the original stores were located. The reason was the men building the railroad had workers dig out an immense pit that stretches, like a coiled snake, on the land across the track from Main street. "There wasn't any place to expand after the railroad dug out that pit," the oldtimers point out ruefully.

The land where Palmetto now lies belonged to Prevot Rideau but in 1904 Rideau sold one Elzie Hatfield the section lying south of the railroad track which includes the present Main Street. "There were four little cabins and a little wagon road there then," recalls Leonard Gaansen. "Martin Hatfield, an heir, sold his interest to Dr. Robert Hawkins, and A. Sliman bought the other half that belonged to a fellow named Stokes."

Wesley Budden figured large in the history of Palmetto before the turn of the century. He was the first postmaster, as well as operating one of the first stores, and it was he who put up the first cotton gin in Palmetto "one of those where you packed the cotton in baskets out of the wagons and into the gin," Mr. Robertson remembers.

In 1902, or 1903, Dr. Hawkins built a modern gin in Palmetto.

It was 1908 before the first store was built on the side of the track where the main business section now is, according to Uncle Bud Spears. That was the general merchandise store belonging to Charlie Joseph. There was, now, a postoffice, depot and saloon on Main Street.

In 1916, says former Town Councillman Gaansen, Palmetto was incorporated and

"Old Man Ike" -- Issacson -- was the first mayor.

"I was on the Council then," Gaansen shakes with merriment as he recalls the old days, "and Old Man Ike was mad because the trains wouldn't slow down and let passengers get on at Palmetto. He wrote to the railroad officials in New Orleans and everything, but nothing did any good."

"Finally, he proposed an ordinance and it passed, making trains slow down to three miles an hour when they came through town. I just knew we didn't have any right to try to regulate the speed of that train and told Old Man Ike so, but, anyway, they voted to regulate the speed to three miles an hour."

"Well, the railroad officials wrote back and told him that the ordinance wouldn't hold. That was in 1919. After that, the men on the train increased their speed when the train passed through Palmetto. They'd wave at Old Man Ike and just die laughing, and Old Man Ike would stand in the door and see 'em and rave and cuss -- but there wasn't nothing he could do about it!"

Over at Morrow, Mrs. Annie Jacobs Afeman adds one footnote to the history of Palmetto: She remembers when the folks in the section spoke of it as "Nigger-Foot" because it was, at that time, an entirely Negro community.



UNCLE BUD SPEARS was town marshal of Palmetto for 23 years and had some harrowing experiences. (Daily World Photo by Sue Eakin).

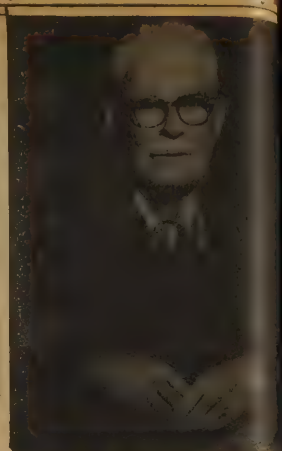
"We had sort of let our option on being incorporated drop," says Uncle Bud Spears, "until we needed to take it up again and have some peace officers when the mill came in '23."

"The Mill" in Palmetto is the Brewer-Nienstedt sawmill which located here in 1923 and milled hardwoods exclusively. There had been smaller sawmills but nothing like the big Brewer-Nienstedt.

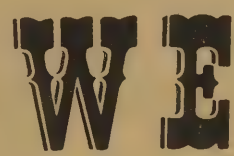
With The Mill came the Beyers, the Bullingtons, the Siglers, the Watsons, the Bushels, the Roberts, the Masons, the Garons, the Burns, and a nightwatchman named Waters. It was not long later that Muse Keller, a pharmacist, opened a drug store in Palmetto and has expanded his operations to include running the postoffice and a large general mercantile store there, as well as a drug store.

The Sliman building was put up on Main Street to take care of the rush of people and activity which came into Palmetto with The Mill. The long wooden building contains many small Palmetto business places today, and in lieu of a bank there is the friendly "advancing" that goes on in the larger of Palmetto stores.

The Methodist Church is the oldest in Palmetto and was erected in 1904. The Baptist came in 1925, and the Catholic worshippers



FORMER COUNCILMAN Leonard Eakin. (Daily World Photo by Sue Eakin).



ARE PROUD OF THE HISTORY AND PROGRESS Made by the people of ST. LANDRY PARISH During The Last 150 Years

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**Palmetto, La.**



# Morrow

story of Morrow begins with the story of Edna ("Edna") Morrow who moved in the wilderness not far from where the depot now stands and homesite that became the vast acres of the Morrow plantation. Morrow brought with him from the Rouge prairie (around Goudeau), his young wife, Ella Dee Goudeau Morrow and their three-months old daughter. That was in April of 1859.

Morrow was three years older than his young husband, who was 23 years old in the spring of '59.

The land was cleared, Earnest Morrow slaves, and, so dense was the wilderness sometimes had to blow on his cow to call the slaves for help in chasing wolves and bears and other wild animals that came up around the plantation settlement at night.

Delia Figaro, a colored woman now living in Morrow, is the daughter of one of those slaves. The slave was named Henry Tompkins and Delia recalls her father saying they worked for Mr. Morrow in the day and at night gradually cleared out spaces and built huts for themselves. There were many slaves, Delia remembers hearing the old slaves say, and they were plenty bad on the plantation.

In the spring Morrow built his house in the wilderness and started carving himself a life out of the wilderness was less than a year before the great Civil War began, but Morrow's reputation for hospitality and self-sufficiency was maintained in the same way as most plantations were.

Ordinarily gone to St. Mary's a few miles away from LeBeau. In addition, there was the Church of Christ, Jehovah's Witnesses, the Pentecostal and the Episcopal churches.

A new jail and a small Town Hall were built within the past few years. Herbert is mayor. There are an estimated 500 people in Palmetto.

At the turn of the century an unpainted house which has been variously used as a school, Masonic Hall, church and residence, was used as the first school, but a fine brick school was built in 1930. A Negro school also been built in Melville, and school bring in children from the surrounding area.

One of the leading businesses in Palmetto is the furniture turned out by the Taylor factory. They specialize in furnishings for homes and churches, and often use cedar for the beds and the like, for retailers.



FANCY SCRIPT taken from a friendship album belonging to Cora, one of the daughters of Earnest Morrow, original settler of Morrow. The time was around 1882. Ink is black and red. This is reduced to one-third original size.

before the war. The slaves evidently stayed, even though they were "free" labor now and could no longer be bought and sold.

Dry Bayou which curves around one side of the Morrow High school grounds now was "like a river" then, the late Mrs. Lydia Morrow Ransome used to say. Mrs. Ransome was one of the 10 children of the first settler, and the old Morrow home was on the very banks of Dry Bayou.

"Don't ask me IF there was water in Dry Bayou," Delia Figaro chuckles nostalgically. "Ask me HOW MUCH water there was! Ask me how many times we waded in that water if we couldn't swim -- we just paddled around in the water and got wet. Yes, it was deep in places, and the boys would swim. Miss Eloise and me used to forever be wading in that bayou. It was just outside her house!" Schooling was often a hit or miss affair, but Earnest Morrow built a tiny schoolhouse -- a one room school -- where his own and the neighbors' children attended.

The Havards, the Bureleighs, the Reynolds, and many others whose names are lost, attended the school where a Mr. Shinn taught. Shinn roomed and boarded, without cost, at the big plantation house of the Morrrows. The Morrow Plantation house was not a



**Taylor**  
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 Phone Melville 5704 Palmetto, La.  
 Makers of Cedar Robes, Cedar Chests, Desks and Church Furniture.

The above cedar robe is sold by Doucet Furniture Co. and Elton Doucet Furniture Co. in Opelousas and by leading furniture companies throughout the parish.

It was  
 a Grand  
 Ole Song  
 they Sang'



...AND THEIR FOLKS BEFORE THEM

150 years ago everything was hustle and bustle as Louisiana birthed a new daughter and called it St. Landry Parish. As the child grew into womanhood, it invited many followers into its cities, towns and communities. We have all grown together. We look into the future of this parish with confidence . . . progressing ever forward toward a happier livelihood as was taught by our ancestors. We render a hearty Salutation to the past and to the future.

- Melville Hotel
- "The Home of Good Food"
- Melville, La.
- W. E.
- Harmon General Merchandise Melville, La.
- Chas. LaShute
- Westinghouse Appliances
- Crane Plumbing
- Melville, La.
- Melville Garage
- & WELDING SERVICE
- Jack A. Vancherie
- Shell Products
- Goodyear Tires
- Melville, La.
- Melville Lions Club
- 1946-1955
- Congratulates Melville and St. Landry parish on their history and progress.





HIGH WATER at Morrow, 1927.

match for Scarlett O'Hara's Tara with its immense white columns, but the Big House was the type more often seen in this section -- high-ceilinged, spacious, having enough beds to take care of a small army and plenty of food for everybody who chanced by.

The plantation itself was worked by a small army of Negroes who raised cotton and cane, and the house was the center of the plantation - community which included dozens of Negro cabins. Endless space in buildings were

afforded by plentiful lumber that need only be cut from the encroaching woods, and there was available plenty of cheap labor to do the work.

Mrs. Eloise Stevens, one of Earnest Morrow's youngest children, is past 90 years old now and lives in Baton Rouge with her daughter. She recalls, vaguely, there was trouble with the free labor on the plantation after the War and her father had to haul loads of soar cane to the bayou bank where it was thrown away, a complete waste. The

Negroes had refused to harvest the crop. But there were many happier days in that relatively uncomplicated life of the last half of the 19th century.

If anyone imagines the naming of "queens" to rule various events and festivities is anything new, it is only because such trivial information has been forgotten in the mass of memories of the times. For the late Mrs. Lydia Morrow Ransome, a belle of her day, liked to recall the gay tournaments when the young folks gathered for miles around from all the plantations.

There was a circular path for the horses, and instead of the decorated cars of the twentieth century, there were decorated horses -- and prizes for the winners. There were riding events and winners in the various classes. Once Mrs. Ransome refused to be queen of such a tournament because she didn't care for the lad who went with the honor as King! Tournaments were most frequently held at the Barlegh Plantation several miles up Bayou Rouge.

"I used to figure I could go to the parties and the tournaments, too," Delia smiles to herself as she rocks on her gallery at Morrow. "All the Morrow girls was a-going and so was I. They used to have them tournaments with the horses running around in circles to see who could run the fastest!"

In 1882, Earnest Morrow gave a strip of land 100 feet wide to the Texas and Pacific Railroad Company, and the depot was named for him; Morrow Station. The original station was a quarter of a mile further south than the present location. The railroad divided the Morrow property in half, the acres of the original plantation stretching out on either side of the track.

It is Delia Figaro to whom we are indebted for a memorable picture of the day the first train went through. "Mr. Morrow he told us ahead of time. There was coaches a-coming down that track they was buildin' and it wasn't going to be pulled by no mules and it wasn't going to be pulled by no horses, but we would see it movin'."

"We was all waitin', white and colored, the day that train come and it wasn't moving fast, not like trains do now, and, now I know, it was just a flatcar that come. It come from toward New Orleans, and it come slowly. Us children ran and followed it to where the bayou starts down there a-ways, and the folks shook their heads and pitted the train.

"They said, 'Lawd, that pore little train! The way it's puffing and puffing and comin' from so fer and ain't pulled by no horses, neither no mules, it sho must be tired!' Yeah, folks figured, it moved so slow, it must be



DELIA FIGARO'S father was a slave plantation of Earnest Morrow, original of Morrow. Delia paints a memorable picture of the first train coming through the country. "Folks said the pore little old train be tired -- coming so far with no horses -- no mules a-pulling it and it a-puffing the way it was!" (Daily World Photo by Sue B.

tired." "Mr. Morrow he looked at hit and he 'I might not be here, but there'll be coaches flying through the air too some day. Just you see them coaches on that railroad, you goin' to see coaches in the air, and people in them coaches -- maybe, be or so people, and them a-flyin'."

"Oh, we'd say, Mister Morrow, we a goin' fly in 'em!" and he'd say no, you not, 'case you're scared but other people will. An' some people will fly and some be killt.

"He lived to see them things, see a triple flying in the air. I remember the first we saw one --

"But Mister Morrow, you know what he would say when he looked at the train coming through. He ain't liked them a tall! He say, "You see them things! They're poison! They're death! You couldn't get him into one. He say a sure-ry and two horses will carry him any wheres he wants to go." As was the custom in those days, the



1920

1955

# CORTE'S

APPLIANCES

GLIDDEN PAINTS

Self-Service Food Dept.

S. A. Corte, Prop.  
MELVILLE, LA.  
A Complete Store

Shoes for the Entire Family





MORROW MAIN STREET in 1900. Picture a loan by Miss Mabel Ransome. It was taken by C. J. Chevalier of New Iberia.



ORIGINAL MORROW HOME in background at left. Mrs. Earnest Morrow, wife of the first settler, had many years ago as she fed her chickens. Photo a loan by Miss Mabel Morrow.

able Morrow family not only boarded the teacher free of charge but there was a constant stream of guests. The conductor on the first train, one Charles Ransome, stayed with the Morrow's when he was in the area, and he fell in love and married Earnest Morrow's daughter, Lydia.

Lydia Morrow was a popular girl, and she kept an album - a friendship album in which she had her friends write mementoes. Melodized with age are yellowed pages of delicate script, each letter a work of art and set off with countless feathery lines -- a pastime evidently much the fad in that day.

Probably just before Lydia left for one of her trips with her conductor-husband to Texas or Florida or Ohio where they stayed at one time or another, a friend wrote in the album on June 19, 1882:

"Three wishes I could well discover  
Wherein my rapture lies  
A bliss how welcome to a lover  
Should each bright wish comprise.

First, that I might be with Thee  
Second, never to part  
Third -- oh, no, there cannot be  
Another in my heart!"

But from Big Cane, Leopold Godchaux early citizen of that community who gave his daughter's name to Rosa, wrote to Lydia Morrow in her album (Godchaux was a widower then and 'interested' in Miss Morrow):

"Token of friendship  
'Tis not excited love  
I bear for thee, my friend

My heart to thee will move  
When days of passion end.  
Tis friendship true and calm  
Unchanging as the sun  
And when you seek that balm  
A friend, O, count me one.  
Big Cane --  
Sept. 30, '82

L. Godchaux  
Another interesting entry in that album is "Learn how to make 'money' -- Signed, Jay Gould."

The first year of public schools in Morrow was 1897, and the first teachers included Mrs. Eta Northrup, Miss Julia Havard of Metairie and Miss Sally Reeder. The public school property was purchased from Earnest Morrow, and, indeed, the site chosen was the one of the private school which he had provided for his own children.

Once a year Morrow went to New Orleans via steamboat down the Bayou Rouge and returned with barrels of whiskey and supplies for the Commissary. There were special treats for his own household, such as dried fruits and canned juices.

It takes Delia Figaro to reflect the position of Earnest Morrow in the community, in a voice like the kind a person might re-



ED AND EARNEST MORROW III, back in 1916, after a fishing trip near Morrow. Picture loaned by Miss Mabel Morrow.



GRAVE OF EARNEST MORROW, original settler of Morrow for whom the community is named, is located at the Catholic cemetery near the site of his early home. He was born Jan. 1, 1836 and died April 16, 1924.--(Daily World photo by Sue Bakin)

serve for speaking of saints, Delia recalls:

"Mr. Morrow was a man among men. There was the time, for instance, when his son got kilt. There was a riot down there and they were shooting at each other right and left and his son got kilt. And they come and told Mr. Morrow about it, and they was still shooting. But he ain't take nothing but his walking cane, and he picked it up and went down there to that saloon.

"And right in the middle of that shooting, he just walked to where his son lay there dead and stood beside him with his walking stick, and he told 'em to bring him home. Folks said it was a wonder they didn't shoot him too -- but they didn't!"

Earnest Morrow died in 1924, and he had seen his plantation develop into a community. The Morrow High school was renovated in the thirties and the fine school plant serves children for miles around.



# CHAS. CANNATELLA SONS

Building  
Materials

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Melville, La.

Hardware  
And  
Appliances

A Complete line of Work and Dress Shoes for Men and Women



# THE ABLE HOTEL IS JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF ITS ROLE IN THE HISTORY OF THE ATCHAFALAYA COUNTRY



There has been scarcely any activity in the history of the Atchafalaya Country that has not called the Able Hotel home.

While not a "swanky" hotel as such are measured today, it has that home-like atmosphere the swanky ones lose. It's hotel register records a treasure-house of friends.

The Able Hotel has seen the levees of the era before 1927, when most every river rise imposed a major flood threat, replaced with a system that virtually insures protection against any conceivable emergency. During these times it has been home for many of the great in the building of this gigantic protective control.

Few people know that more water has been taken care of by the rebuilt levee system than flowed by in 1927. According to Corp. of Engineer data, far more water passed down the Atchafalaya in 1945 than in 1927.

Melville, of today, is protected by a huge levee encircling the town and the chance is remote that it will ever again be flooded.

At 5:30 A.M. May 17, 1927 one of the most disastrous floods this

section ever experienced struck. A desperate fight had been carried on against the river for days. It ended in defeat.

So intense had been his efforts to stem the flood, when the break occurred, the state engineer in charge accepting it as a personal defeat broke down and wept as a child.

For sixty-five days water covered Melville. Transportation was by gas boat and Washington was the port of entry.

Finally the flood receded and history records a long discouraging era of reconstruction, yet today there are few signs of the catastrophe.

The history of the Able Hotel is replete with incidents of the 1927 disaster. One of the most interesting of which pertains to the Mer-

chants and Farmers Bank, of which Mr. H. H. Westerhaus was then, as now, Cashier.

In the few minutes of grace following the break an attempt was made to get the bank's safe to the upper floor of the Hotel. Getting it to the foot of the stairs, it had to be abandoned where it stood covered with water until late July.

The bank carried on its business on the upper floor. When the water receded to the point where the safe could be opened, a certain amount of money was removed every day and spread upon the floor of Room 28 to dry. This operation took about 15 days.

An amusing side light to the bank's plight in the early hours of the flood was that its assets, in a grass sack were transported by canoe down the main street to the ABLE HOTEL.





LEMOYNE POSTOFFICE and grocery store, owned by Sylvan Godchaux, the son of Leopold Godchaux, one of the prominent early settlers of the section. (Daily World Photo by Sue Eakin).

## Lemoyné

Abram Richard settled at this point in northern St. Landry Parish and spread his plantation - community out comfortably over the land for probably as long as a half century. He, too, gave property for the railroad, and he, too, had the depot named in his honor: Richard, La.

Old Abram Richard was a contemporary of Leopold Godchaux and Ernest Morrow and other large planters of that area, who, in time, became patriarch accorded almost reverent respect.

In 1917, however, the plantation was sold to R.C. Andrews and a man named Casper who bought land in the name of Andrews & Casper. Casper, according to information we received, was a railroad man who originally came from Natchitoches, but R.C. Andrews hailed from California. It was Andrews who nostalgically re-named the depot for an evidently beloved town in California: Lemoyné.

It was in 1930 that the Turner Lumber Co., Inc. purchased land for the erection of a sawmill at Lemoyné, and the mill was built in '31. A disastrous fire destroyed the band mill in '48 and from then until '54 a circular mill was in use. Beginning in '55, however, the band mill has been replaced and the new one is presently being used.

Hardwoods -- oak, gum, ash, and cypress -- are shipped all over the United States from the mill which obtains its woods from the central Louisiana area, mostly, says secretary Franklin Kyle, from within 35 or 40 miles of the mill itself.

Officers of the mill include Frank Turn-

er, president; J. A. Turner (of North Carolina), vice president; Kyle, secretary; George C. Barker, treasurer, and Van Landry as assistant Secretary.

Prominent at Lemoyné is the general store and postoffice operated by Sylvan Godchaux, son of Leopold, early settler of the section.



FATHER Pierre Oscar LeBeau, S. S. J. who started the LeBeau Mission in 1897. Picture loaned by Miss Mabel Ransome.

# TURNER LUMBER COMPANY

**Manufacturers**  
**Hardwood and Cypress**  
**Lumber**  
**LEMOYEN, LA.**

F. T. Turner, President

J. A. Turner, Vice-President

F. M. Kyle, Secretary

G. C. Barker, Treasurer

G. W. Harris, Ass't. Sec'y.

V. J. Landry, Ass't. Sec'y.

Circular Mill  
Western Union and  
Long Distance Phone 2228  
BUNKIE, LA.

## TOWN OF MELVILLE



TOWN HALL  
Erected 1913

- Incorporated as a Town, June 28, 1911.
- Population 2,000.
- Municipally owned Electric, Water and Gas plants.
- Lowest Tax Rate in the parish
- On the main line of the Texas & Pacific Railway and on the Atchafalaya River. Accessible by rail, water or black top highways.
- Good Churches, good schools, good stores.
- Kind, courteous and friendly people are its inhabitants.
- Surrounded by the best agricultural lands in the state.
- Good banking facilities.
- Excellent fishing and hunting.

### Officials:

- J. M. JACKSON, Mayor**
- ALDERMEN:**  
 Joe J. Artall  
 Lolis Duplechien  
 Paul Schuize  
 Ulric Taylor  
 Jack A. Vanchiere  
 Clerk and Tax Collector  
 G. Tolson Jones  
 Town Marshal  
 R. A. Darnall





ST. MARY of Immaculate Conception at LeBeau dedicated Dec. 13, 1954. Cost of church, \$70,000. --(Daily World photo by Sue Eakin).

## Le Beau

"LeBeau" means the well-known bus stop at the crossroads in this community to some people, or it means the Church-School-Rectory sandwiched in between Highway 71 and the road to Palmetto. These, the small post-office located on the highway and surrounding farms, form the community of LeBeau.

Originally, the settlement here was known as "Bayou Petite Prairie" from its narrow, winding bayou, but somehow the community came to take the name of a friendly priest who arrived there in '97 and established its first mission.

Rev. Pierre Oscar LeBeau established a mission at Bayou Petite Prairie in '97 and administered the first Baptism there on Sept. 5, 1897. It was on Nov. 15, 1897 that he performed the first marriage ceremony, uniting Edward Thompson and Lucille Booker.

Father LeBeau was well loved by his parishioners, both colored and white, and those who remember him recall his visits as though he were a member of the family who was apt to drop in for a call at any time.

He built a church, rectory and school for the colored at the mission. Father LeBeau called the place Palmetto when a postoffice was opened in the latter community. The school was conducted first by lay teachers but later the Sisters of the Holy Family came from New Orleans and taught school until the convent burned in 1912. Lay teachers were again employed.

The mission was, from the first, unsegregated, and colored and white were both attended. The cemetery which lies just beyond the church and school is spoken of as one of the few cemeteries in the entire South where both colored and white are buried.

Father LeBeau was transferred to New Orleans in 1909, and it was 1912 before Rev. Pacifique Roy arrived here. He took care of missions at Melville, Rideau, Morrow and Bayou Current as well.

Rev. John Mulkeen, S.S.J., was at LeBeau during the devastating flood of '27. It was the next year that he managed to obtain the Sisters of the Holy Ghost from San Antonio to teach at the school.

Rev. Joseph McKee, S.S.J., succeeded Rev. Mulkeen, and Rev. William Reichmeyer was priest at LeBeau after him.

It was during the time that Rev. Bernard Callaghan, S.S.J., was pastor in 1943 that the parish school burned to the ground. By now the mission was known as "LeBeau" and a postoffice bearing the name had been established in the twenties. There were no school buses until 1952 to take the colored children to public schools in the parish and the school Father LeBeau started attracted all the colored children for miles around.

After the fire, the parishioners erected a gymnasium surrounded on two sides by classrooms, a library over the stage, and a cafeteria in the rear. This building was made of cement and concrete blocks with steel frames for the gym.



CONVENT at LeBeau, home of the nuns who teach there. (Daily World Photo).



ANCIENT OAKS form a peaceful setting for the LeBeau church, rectory, and school now as they did when Father LeBeau first came here. (Daily World Photo by Sue Eakin).

The convent which suffered much damage in the '27 flood has been completely renovated, and, finally, the St. Mary's Catholic Church, built at a cost of \$70,000, was dedicated on Dec. 13, 1954.

In spite of the steady stream of traffic on Highway 71, the LeBeau settlement around the Church there manages a serenity and peacefulness that is oddly in contrast to the noise and activity just outside its boundaries. So still and quiet is the place that you have only to pause to hear dozens of birds that live in the trees over Bayou Petite Prairie there.

### PLAISANCE RACE TRACK

In the mid-1800s, the Plaisance Race track near Opelousas was a popular gathering place. Races were run sometimes on Saturdays, sometimes on Sundays. F. L. Pitre was the proprietor. He advertised on Dec. 10, 1853 a race for "united Creole horses;" entrance fee, \$25; admission, for gentlemen 25 cents; buggy 50 cents; hack \$1. Ladies and children, free.

## Old Wikoff Home at Beggs



OLD WIKOFF HOME AT BEGGS--Now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Wikoff Jr., the Wikoff home is one of the oldest on the Bayou Boeuf. Parts of it have been added, but the original home is well over a century old. It was built by Stephen W. Wikoff who was one of the owners of the Opelousas Steamboat Company, which was recognized by legislative act Mar. 1826, and was granted permission "To establish, keep and maintain a steamboat and ferry from Bayou Plaquemine in the Parish of Iberville through the usual route of the Grand River, Atchafalaya and the River Opelousas Courtlaeau to the Junction of the Bayous Crocodile and Bouef." Other members of the steamboat company were Garrigues Flaungeac, George King, Ellakim Little and Bout Vanhill. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

### SALE AT AUCTION.

WILL be sold, without reserve, to the best and highest bidder, at my residence, in the Town of Opelousas, on Saturday the 8th January inst., A LOT OF FURNITURE, BEDS & bedding. Also, a great variety of other household articles.

The conditions will be favorable to purchasers, and made known on the day of sale.

JOHN POSEY.

Opelousas, January 1st, 1853.

### Shingles! Shingles!

THE undersigned has on hand a quantity of Point aux Loups Shingles which he will sell low. Call at his store Plaquemine Brulee or to C. Steel, at the Union Hotel, Opelousas.

JESSE B. CLAR

Plaquemine Brulee, January 1st, 1853

## YOUR **Rexall** STORE



REXALL DRUGS

THE NEW DRUG STORE



## THE NEW DRUG STORE

S. Court St.

Opelousas

L. L. McCarthy, R. Ph., Prop.

- Prescription specialists
- Cosmetics
- Costume Jewelry
- Whitman & Pangburn specialists



ST. MARY'S Catholic school for colored at LeBeau. It was built by the parishioners with their own funds after original school burned. (Daily World Photo by Sue Eakin).





ROSA--Commissary of the Hudspeth Bros., displaying community on roof. (Daily Photo)

ed the acres to an immense plantation. He left three sons to carry on the name and the family tradition -- Veazey, Allen and Willey-- the eldest and youngest of whom operate the more than 1000-acre plantation, syrup mill and cotton gin.

The original commissary was built at Rosa by Ned Hudspeth around 1900 and when the large building burned about 1918, Hudspeth replaced it with a smaller store. In turn, he replaced the small building with the present large Rosa Commissary back in '28 or '29.

Fifteen years ago the Hudspeths moved the syrup mill operated on Dry Bayou to the family plantation, and in '45 it was replaced with a huge mill which produces the well known brand "Easy's Best".

The first cotton gin at Rosa, which was built by Ned Hudspeth, was a one stand gin without the power to suck the cotton up, and the cotton was conveyed from the wagons to the gin by hand. Within the past several years the latest in gin machinery has been purchased for the big Hudspeth Bros. cotton gin.

The Hudspeth plantation, which dominates the community, retains the atmosphere of turn-of-the-century living, in spite of its thoroughly modern improvements. Set off from the highway, across the Texas and Pacific Railway, the plantation has vast acres of cotton, cane, corn, and a few potatoes, a bayou picturesque with cypress knees and overhanging moss, pre-Civil War Negro cabins, winding turning rows, horses saddled and waiting for their rider, the high-ceilinged old commissary.

J. E. Firmin, a resident of Rosa for more than a quarter of a century, operates a grocery store in the community, and there is a fairly recently built Catholic Church in the plantation community.

# Rosa

By SUE LYLES EAKIN

Rosa, says the unofficial "mayor," Hicks says, was undoubtedly settled before the Civil War. "Folks just came in here and started raising crops and children just like anywhere else," he says, and that's a rather fair summary of the history of the community.

The land for the railroad was given by Leopold Godchaux who owned large tracts of land in Big Cane to LeBeau. He named the depot for his eldest daughter, Rosa, who at 84 lives in California.

Names of Richard (the family for whom the depot at Lemoyne was originally named), Hicks (they came from down on the Atchafalaya before the Civil War), and the Thomsons in West Feliciana represent prominent early planters of Rosa.

The first Hicks came into Rosa sometime during the '70s and married a Richard. The Hicks family, relatives of the Cheneyville family by the same name, were early settlers. The name has disappeared from Rosa plantations. The family of Hill, also was prominent once in the Rosa community.

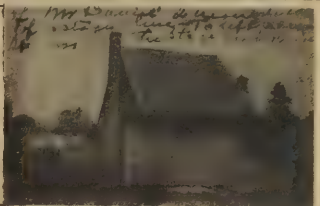
The Hudspeths owned thousands of acres along the Bayou Boeuf, and it was Dan Hudspeth who left the Boeuf and came to Rosa probably shortly before or after the Civil War. Edward Veazey Hudspeth, his son, took over the family farm before the 1900s, and Ned Hudspeth, as he was called, increas-



FOUR WHEELS, all different sizes, grace this "historical relic," contributed by E. V. Hudspeth of Rosa. Hudspeth snapped the picture of the antique but unbowed old cotton-carrier in the yard of his gin at Rosa on Oct. 1, 1952.



"NAME IT ROSA, for my daughter." Thus Leopold Godchaux named the north St. Landry parish community after his eldest daughter. At left is Rosa Godchaux as a youngster and, right, now Mrs. Rosa Barnette, a California resident well beyond 80 years of age. Pictures a loan by Mrs. Rosa Barnette.



FIRST WASHINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL was housed in this building according to Dave J. McNicoll of Rosa, wherein school was taught up to the 6th Reader.

The writing on the picture says: "House to right was residence of Mr. David Quinn, manager of stage line. To left across street was the stage coach barn."

A note written on the back of the picture says: "Miss Beulah Donovan taught public school in this building somewhere about 1884."

In his own handwriting the elderly Mr. McNicoll contributed the following recollections of early Washington schools:

"The building, foreground in snapshot, housed the one teacher public school in Washington, La., somewhere in the early 1880s."

## First Washington Public School

"The teacher was Miss Beulah Donovan, and the school was one of the earliest, if not the earliest, in Washington public school history."

"Location was within a few hundred feet of the present Washington High, on a lot used earlier by a stage coach company. Mr. Daniel Quinn, former manager for the stage line, still lives on the lot, in another building."

"For the next ten or twelve years, or until a permanent public school building was erected on the present Washington High site, one-room, one-teacher public school was taught in various parts of town, ranging in location from the old town hall to a site not far from the old Priscott home."

"As recalled by Dave J. McNicoll."



Above photo is of the old cotton gin which was located on the Hudspeth estate.



Picture to right is of the new modern gin just recently completed.



# HUDSPETH BROTHERS

Dealers in General Merchandise  
Ginners and Cotton Buyers

Rosa, La.

Phone 8521 - Bunkie, La.

W. D. HUDSPETH  
Machinist

E. V. HUDSPETH  
Manager & Postmaster

Owners of "Bessie C" Plantation



To the left is the Hudspeth syrup mill, where Easy's Best pure cane syrup is made.









# Childs Home, Bellevue



BETWEEN LEWISBERG and Church Point the West Bellevue prairie is the residence, deserted, of one of the pioneer doctors that section—Dr. William Childs, who was distinguished physician. One of his sons followed his profession, Dr. A. B. Childs who established a practice in Eunice, and another son, Dr. Leo Childs remained in the Lewisburg region. A third son, Clyde,

was a professor at L. S. U. Grady Childs, who was the youngest son, is still living nearby. The spacious home was built in the latter half of the nineteenth century, with central Classic portico and wings typical of that period. There is nice detailing on the portico and gables.



OLD-TIME Y hotel at Church Point.

Established 1892  
**WE CAN REMEMBER**  
When

Serving  
the General  
Public  
for the  
Past  
**63 Years**



**Packers And Shippers of**  
**Peter Piper and C. B. Brands**  
**SWEET POTATOES**  
**CHARLES BOURQUE**

DEALER IN  
**GENERAL MERCHANDISE**  
COTTON GIN IN CONNECTION  
Shipping Point: LEWISBURG, LA., T. & P. R. R.  
R. F. D. No. 1      Phones 3121 and 2741  
OPELOUSAS, LA.

## LOUIS AND IRA BURLEIGH

**Produce Shippers**

Route 1, Box 64

Opeλουςas, Louisiana

Phone 7938



Above photo, left to right are Louis and Ira Burleigh checking over their five brands of sweet potatoes before going to market.



Left to right, Ira Burleigh, Herman Boudreau, Philip Arnold and Louis Burleigh packing sweet potatoes.



Left to right Louis and Ira Burleigh, loading out a truck load of their brands of sweet potatoes.





OSCAR MESTRIC residence on Bayou Teche near Leonville. (Daily World Photo by Deville).



OLD MESTRIC HOME in Leonville, now the LaHays residence. (Daily World Photo by Deville).



16 YEARS SERVING  
ST. LANDRY PARISH  
1939 - - - - 1955

**DALFREY'S GIN**

Leonville, La.  
New and Modern Equipment being  
Installed For 1955 Ginning Season



The Little Flower Hall—Built by Msgr. L. Massebiau in 1936-37, and dedicated with impressive ceremonies. This became a welcome center for various activities in the parish.

# 102 YEARS

Leaving our mark on  
ARNAUDVILLE



The Little Flower School — built in 1947.



The Little Flower Convent—built in 1947 by Fr. Bernard. The Home has five cells, Community room, kitchen and most important of all . . . a Chapel where the Blessed Sacrament is kept night and day. The Altar was given by J. K. Phelan of Beaumont, Texas.



Rt. Rev. Msgr. Daniel L. Bernard, ordained a priest April 2, 1938. Became Assistant at St. Francis Regis Church on April 5, 1938. Appointed Pastor of this Parish January 1, 1944.

## St. Francis Regis Catholic Church Arnaudville, La.



The New St. Francis Regis Church built in 1948, and dedicated on February 9, 1949.



# 4 STORES... PROGRESSING WITH OUR NEIGHBORS!

## Austin J. Fontenot's

General Mdse. and Market — Lewisburg  
Fontenot & Guidry — Arnauville  
Church Point  
Austin & Abb's — Opelousas



Austin J. Fontenot's first store 1937



AUSTIN J. FONTENOT  
Farmer and Businessman

From farm boy to small businessman to successful chief executive of four stores in the St. Landry area is the story of Austin J. Fontenot's activities during the past 18 years.

After spending his early years farming, Mr. Fontenot branched away in 1937 by opening a 1-room store in the home where he was raised at Lewisburg. In 1942 he moved into larger quarters at his present location. In 1944 he increased the size of his store, and again in 1948 the facilities were enlarged to its present size. In 1950 Mr. Fontenot rented the Paul Koury Dept. store in Church Point with his brother-in-law, Huey J. Guidry and founded the Fontenot and Guidry Department store with Mr. Guidry as manager. Two years later they purchased the property and building. The Church Point store was completely remodeled and air conditioned early in 1955.

Feeling there was a need for a store in Arnauville, they opened the Fontenot and Guidry Department store there in April 1953 with Allen Guidry as manager. The next year, in August, 1954 Mr. Fontenot opened Austin & Abb's Men's and Boy's Wear in Opelousas with Abb Hargroder, well-known Opelousas men's wear buyer and salesman.

All of these stores are widely known for catering to the needs of their neighbors with quality merchandise and fair prices amid a friendly atmosphere.

Besides his store operations, Austin J. Fontenot is a stockholder and member of the board of directors of the Church Point Bank & Trust Co. He also has a 57-acre farm adjacent to his home on the Sunset highway. Here he raises cotton, sweet potatoes, cattle and hogs.



1955 — Austin J. Fontenot's Market and General-Merchandise in Lewisburg.



Newly remodeled and air-conditioned Fontenot & Guidry Department Store in Church Point. Huey Guidry, manager.



Austin & Abb's Men's and Boy's Wear, 122 S. Court, Opelousas. A completely air-conditioned store for men and boys. Abb Hargroder, manager.



Fontenot & Guidry Department store in Arnauville. Allen Guidry, manager.



# Devilliers Home, on Teche



ON THE BAYOU ROAD from Port Barre to Leonville, overlooking the beginnings of the Teche, is the old Noley deVilliers home.

Noley deVilliers was the son of Francois Coulon deVilliers who was the son of Chevalier Francois Coulon deVilliers, Knight of the Order of St. Louis and one of the early French officials of Louisiana.

Francois Coulon deVilliers settled in the area known as Noleyville, which was named after his son, Noley, who was one of several children. Another was named Villiers deVilliers. The old home pictured in this photograph was built by Noley deVilliers, and was inherited by his son Clifford deVilliers. Other children were "Fils", Blanch Argentine, Armide, and Aida. Neither Cliff nor "Fils" married.

The home is owned by Alcee Rivette, a great-grandson of Noley deVilliers. Alcee Rivette's son, David, owns and operates a store nearby at the crossroads.

In the old part of the Opelousas cemetery is the grave of Francois Coulon de Villiers with a touching epitaph written in French, and enduring testimonial to the forefathers of the large deVilliers family, paying tribute to a noble founder of the parish.

The home as pictured is an old-fashioned country home with an open gallery across the front, ornamented by finely cut cypress railings and set with quatrefoils at the top of each column. These are simply made, squared. The louvered shutters at doors and windows are added attractions, and a large liveoak bends over the house on one side and leans to the bayou on the other.

The handmade picket fence surrounds the traditional "Pied a terre" of the old home. (Daily World Photo by Deville.)



SIMPLE PIONEER HOME of Lastie Dupre in Prairie Ronde is pictured before its recent reconstruction. Home site is now owned by Mrs. Fremont Dupre and her daughter, Mrs. Lessie Dupre Mistic. The home was a one story frame dwelling with a long gallery across the front.

## Birth of Town of Mamou

Two yellowed newspaper pages tell better than any long story about the birth of Mamou.

### Courtois & Didier, COOKS & PASTRY COOKS.

RESPECTFULLY announce to the public that they have established themselves in Opelousas, and that they offer their services as Cooks and Pastry Cooks to the citizens of Opelousas.

They will receive orders for Wedding Entertainments complete, Banquets, also for Cakes and Bontons for evening parties. They solicit a share of public patronage. Opelousas, 11th Dec. 1852.—1y.

### TO HUNTERS.

FROM this date, I give notice to the public in general, that I forbid positively any from shooting or hunting in my field, and that I am decided to sue any one I will find in contravention with this notice.

HENRY L. GARLAND.

Opelousas, November 20th 1852.

The first advertises a sale, Monday Dec. 1908 - "Go West Young Man" - for lots of the new town of Mamou. The advertisement was put out by the Mamou Townsite Co., of which the most prominent member was C. C. Duson, celebrated politician and town builder of St. Landry Parish.

The second page was published on Jan. 1909 (both from the Opelousas Courier). A cloudburst seems to have attended the great sale day, and a new "Free excursion and Auction Sale" - "Free Barbecue" - was advertised.

Thus was the town of Mamou created, a critical time in St. Landry history - Parish Division. Since the site of the new parish seat was not yet chosen, Mamou might have been selected for the honor, but Ville Platte won out.

In a short few decades, Mamou has grown into a sizable town, with large stores, attractive homes and gardens. Schools, churches and all that go to make up a town have grown through the short time since full-page ad was published in the Courier.

C. C. Duson, longtime Sheriff of Imperial St. Landry, was the town-buildingest man in St. Landry, with Crowley, Eunice and Mamou to his credit.



## Arnaudville Service Co-operative INC.

Yam and Cabbage Shippers

Phone 2412

Arnaudville, La.



## Franklin P. Wright FEED MILL

Phone 2591

Arnaudville, La.



Left to right: George Malorin, Chief of Police; Emery Mallet, Town Clerk; Alton Olivier, Alderman; George Scott, Jr., Alderman; James P. Huval, Mayor. (Absent from picture) Remi Kidder, Alderman.

## ARNAUVILLE

A FARMING CENTER

Sweet Potatoes —

Cabbage - Rice —

Shallots - Cane —

Cotton —

### COMMERCIAL FISHING

J. P. HUVAL, Mayor

— Aldermen —

ALTON OLIVIER — GEORGE SCOTT — REMI KIDDER

GEORGE MALORIN, Marshal

Municipally owned Natural Gas and Water Systems



# B. J. ANGELLE

Packer and Shipper  
ARNAUDVILLE, LA.



B. J. Angelle is shown with first carload of Louisiana Golden Yams to be shipped in 1955. Shipping date was Monday, June 20 from his shed in Arnaudville. This is believed to be the earliest shipment ever. In 1954, Angelle also shipped the first carload of potatoes to market.



Looking over some of the Yams that made up the first carload are Albert Olivier, left, Arnaudville farmer who grew the L-240 Early Ports, and Mr. Angelle.

In 1925, B. J. Angelle started in the sweet potato business in Arnaudville working for the potato firm of Singleton and Mistrot. At that time, the industry was small. All potatoes were shipped in sacks, roughly handled and they didn't hold up for shipping to the Texas and Eastern markets. When the depression hit, the potato business went down pretty hard also.

After marrying in 1928, Mr. Angelle went to Texas and worked there for a time, returning to Louisiana to work with the Texas Company and later with the WPA.

In 1934, he started buying sweet potatoes for Luke Leblanc and company at Scott on commission. Determined to someday go into business for himself, he built a shed in his yard and in his spare time bought a few crates of potatoes for speculation. He borrowed money from friends and some banks and kept increasing his sparetime potato business every year, building more kilns and buying more potatoes.

During 1934 he hired Leon Hardy, who had previous experience in potatoes, as his foreman, and by 1936, Angelle had grown enough to start shipping small quantities of sweet potatoes for himself. Business slowly grew and during the war years the industry flourished and B. J. Angelle with it. As his business increased, Hardy, who had been field man buying potatoes in the field, took charge of the packing shed, relieving Mr. Angelle, and then he later went into sales.

From that small beginning in 1934, B. J. Angelle has grown into one of the leading shippers in the state, annually shipping from 350 to 450 cars. Most of his potatoes are shipped by truck to eastern and midwestern markets. Mr. Angelle is known for the high standard he maintains in his packing which he does through selective buying. His years in the business taught him that "you have to pack good quality and I still follow that rule today with my "Teche Brand" and "My Own Plantation" potatoes."

"However," Mr. Angelle says, "my success in the sweet potato business is not only due to my good packing, but through the fine help of my good employees and good receivers."

Through the years of his successful operations B. J. Angelle invested money in land and now owns several hundred acres. He has a few head of cattle and considers the cattle business as his hobby.



Leon Hardy, manager of B. J. Angelle potato shed, has been with Mr. Angelle since 1934. He has been in the potato business about 25 years.



Yams are graded at the Angelle potato shed in Arnaudville prior to shipment to Eastern markets. The Angelle firm ships from 350 to 450 cars per year.



# Church Became Rectory



BUILT IN 1897, the first Catholic Church of St. Leon (St. Leo) is still standing, converted into a rectory with changes of gallery, kitchen, and partitions. The original part of the church may still clearly be seen, and in the upper windows are still some stained glass planes.

Adjacent to this stand the old and new churches of St. Leon, side by side, one erected 1909 by the Rev. Eugene Livorel, the new church, recently blessed, constructed under the direction of the present pastor, the Rev. Alfred Gaudet.

The old steeple was long a landmark in Leonville, standing high among the trees on the side of the winding Teche. It will soon be demolished.

# Cankton - - It's Origin

By Mrs. L. A. (Cank) Guldry

Turning back the pages of time we see a little barefoot, country boy by the name of Louis Aristide Guidry, always carrying a gun and duck caller, roaming the then sparsely populated Coulee Croche section of St. Landry Parish. Ducks and other game were very plentiful in the "good old days" (and no game wardens).

After each hunt, as he neared his home, he would give the signal that he was back by using the duck call, "Cank, cank, cank." His folks would say, "Cank et revenie." Therefore, he kept the name of "Cank."

When Cank Guldry finished high school at St. Stanislaus in Bay St. Louis, Miss., he

went to Tulane University in New Orleans to study medicine. After receiving his Doctor of Medicine degree, there seemed to be no other place in the world in which to practice than in his old stomping ground, Coulee Croche. He was then known as "Dr. Cank."

He married the former Cecile Durio of Opelousas and there they settled in Coulee Croche. Besides the doctor's home a few more homes and one-room school house were built. Later a church was erected.

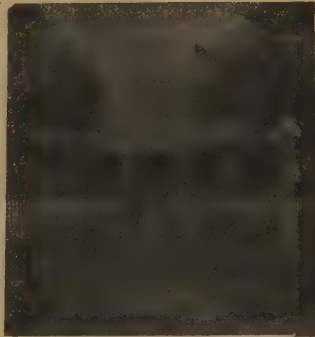
As the little hamlet grew someone suggested giving it another name than Coulee Croche, as Coulee Croche comprised such a large territory that was still not yet inhabited. Different names were suggested, but none

# Frilot Home at Leonville



ONE OF THE FEW old places left at Leonville is the Frilot home, built about the end of the eighteenth century by a family of free men of color, who were among the early settlers of the Leonville section.

A giant live oak shelters the house, which is of poste adobe construction, with original banded shutters and doors. Cypress weatherboarding protects the sides. As in most of these houses, the shingle roof has been covered with one of corrugated iron. (Daily World Photo by Deville).



TINTYPE made many years ago of old Diomel Durio home in Prairie Ronde.



seemed more suitable than Cankton, for the Dr. Cank whom everyone turned to for counsel. Thus the name of Cankton originated. The late Louis Aristide Guidry, M. D., was always proud of his little town.

DIOMEL DURIO, a prominent pioneer citizen of St. Landry parish.



MAJOR LOUIS PRADOS, grandfather of James Prados of Opelousas, was a hero of the Confederate forces during the War Between the States. He was from New Orleans. Elsewhere in this edition will be found an article about him, written for New Orleans newspapers by a comrade in arms, at the time of the major's death.

# Founded 1884

BY THE LATE MR. LEONCE DARBY



Shown above is the late Mr. Leonce Darby, Sr. and the original gin, which he built in 1884.



This new, modern gin replaced the old gin in 1952. It owned and operated by Felix, Jules and Leonce Darby, Jr.

**DARBY'S GIN**  
Arnaudville, La.



# Prompt Succour



BUILT BY THE NOBLE LeBourgeois family, Prompt Succour is a large mansion, with elaborate woodwork ornamenting the brick facade.

The upper floor is partly obscured by screening, but a wrought iron balcony runs across the upstairs gallery. The entire home has unusually fine woodwork, nice staircases, and ornamental rosettes on the high ceilings.

Presently owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Guy Jackson, who are repairing and restoring the once-grand home, Prompt Succour is a landmark of the Leonville area. It is situated on Bayou Teche, some distance back from the graveled bayou road, an is approached through an avenue of oaks and azaleas.

Rooms in the house are large and well-proportioned, airy and light because of the huge windows.

Once part of an enormous plantation, Prompt Succour still has several hundred acres of the original plantation grant.

Among the interesting features of the interior are the porcelain doorknobs and the silver-plated keyholes and hardware.

Mrs. Jackson is furnishing the home with lovely antiques, which are made additionally nice by her artistic needlepoint and crochet and other handwork. She and her husband are doing a very thorough and painstaking job of removing layers of paint from the woodwork and plaster, to restore this handsome old place.



BA YOU COURTABLEAU VIEW near Port Barre, seen from bridge over bayou. (Daily World Photo by Deville)



MAGNIFICENT spreading oak at Port Barre, near Bayou Courtableau. Note picnic table, steel drum barbeque pit, swings beneath its boughs. (Daily World Photo by Deville).



## ABOVE PHOTO WALTER J. CHAMPAGNE CO.

PORT BARRE, LA. LEONVILLE, LA.  
General Merchandise-Furniture & Appliances  
Making History in St. Landry Parish  
In Port Barre Since 1912  
In Leonville Since 1926





**J. D. NEZAT'S  
GROCERY**

**Port Barre, La.**  
MobilGas and Oil  
Weber-King Brand Fertilizers  
Gibbons Feeds  
Belt Brand Garden Seeds  
Borden's Ice Cream



*Drive in at  
the sign of  
Friendly  
Service!*



# Port Barre -- Birthplace of the Teche



VENERABLE live oaks at Port Barre, these in the yard of the former old Dr. Sarzan home. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

PORT BARRE. --- Where the Teche begins, starting full grown as a child of Bayou Courtableau. The Teche winds down through Leonville, Arnaudville, Cecilia, Breaux's Bridge and on past Lafayette, St. Martinsville and New Iberia. The name "Teche" is said to mean snake, and an old Indian legend has it that an enormous snake was cast up on the banks and from this episode the bayou came to be called "Snake". Others attribute the name "Snake" to the winding and snakelike trail of the Teche on its way to the Gulf.

Sung in verse and story, the Teche has acquired a glamour and tradition, and legends are legion about this sleepy little bayou which was a road to our forebears. Port Barre sprang up at the junction of Courtableau and Teche. Busting in steamboat days as a busy port, it derived its name from the family "Barre" who owned acreage along the bayou, purchased by Sieur Jacques Courtableau, first Comander of the Poste of Opelousas.

Little is left of old Port Barre -- are new homes and buildings and Churches. Only the great oaks still in the town and hang over the bayou, their festoons of Spanish moss into the waters where steamboats once moved grandly, and where Indians glided in canoes "dugout" of giant Bald Cypress.

Out on the environs of Port Barre sprang up an oil field, one of the oldest most productive in the region, and a lumber company, Port Barre has put its growth, becoming once again a busy little town with two bayous running through it.



PORT BARRE, on Bayou Courtableau, was indeed once a port, and quite a busy one when riverboats plied the bayou. River boating stopped after repeated log jams in the Courtableau near its junction with the Atchafalaya river not only jammed the bayou but silted the stream bed up. That was in 1906. In photo, U. S. Highway 190 is across top, and a substantial portion of the town has grown up along it, out of picture at upper right. White building in upper center is school gymnasium. (Daily World Photo by Bourdier).



OAK TREE shading road along Bayou Courtableau at Port Barre. (Daily World Photo by Deville).



Welded Oil Field Rig Fabricated by us and Ready For Delivery



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**WELDERS - FABRICATORS**  
PORTABLE WELDING EQUIPMENT  
24 Hour Service  
Port Barre, La.



# FRED J. WYBLE

## Oil Field Contractor, Port Barre "Right Hand" to major Oil Companies For 14 Years

In 1941, Fred Wyble started his oil contracting business on a small scale with his office in his home in Port Barre. His first contract was with Sid Richardson, a Texas oil man. Today he does work for Gulf Oil Co., The Texas Co., Pan American, William Helis, Freeport Sulphur and many others. The firm clears timber for road right-of-ways and oil wells; builds dirt fills and gravel roads and prepares the location around the oil wells. General lease maintenance and the construction of concrete foundations is also performed. His fleet of 36 trucks, 5 bulldozers and 3 draglines are used for this work.



Present office in Port Barre is in the old Wyble home which served as both office and home when business was founded in 1941. At that time Mrs. Wyble was his secretary and bookkeeper.



Fred Wyble began his career at 21 doing logging work for various employers. A wide range of experiences followed including a job as guard for a refugee camp during the 1927 flood, working for a bridge gang for Missouri Pacific, labor gang with the Texas Company, on the Atchafalaya River Bridge in 1932, and with Joe Elder, Sam Grimmett in Port Barre and with the Gulf Oil Co. In 1938 he built houses for Joe Elder and became a partner the next year. And finally in 1941 began his own contracting business.

Today Fred Wyble is also a well-known cattleman and rancher. His work with the Cattleman's Association, FFA and 4-H has been among the leading factors in the development of the cattle industry in St. Landry parish.

Well-known for his civic and charity work, Fred Wyble was named "Citizen of the Year" by the Opelousas Association of Commerce for 1953. He built a rodeo arena on his ranch near Opelousas which has been dedicated entirely for school and charity purposes.



The Wyble home today is on the spacious 169-acre, JP4 ranch on old Port Barre road. Aerial view shows home, stable and modern rodeo arena Mr. Wyble built. It is the scene of several outstanding rodeos a year held for school and charity benefits.



# Krotz Springs History

The history of Krotz Springs as a settlement began around the turn of the century, with the coming to Louisiana of C. W. Krotz. Situated on the banks of the Atchafalaya river, which at that time had no levee sprang up one of the most colorful and unusual towns in local history.

C. W. Krotz was a promoter, who operated in large-scale land deals in his native territory in the middle-western United States--Ohio, Indiana, Illinois. He was born in De-fiance, Ohio. He speculated in many fields.

In about 1898 or '99 he got wind of a huge tract of land in Louisiana that was available for a very modest price, the land was near Marksville in Avoyelles parish, and contained immensely valuable forests of giant virgin timber. He came down to Louisiana and took an option of the tract, which was the fantastic amount on 109,000 acres of land. For \$2,000 cash he held a 10-day option on the land, and when the option expired and he had not been able to raise sufficient funds to buy, he brought a suit in court and was able to delay the action until sufficient time had elapsed for him to raise the necessary amount of money, some of which he obtained from friends and backers in his native state.

He made a substantial amount on this deal, and soon got word of another valuable timber tract in St. Landry--the Soniat-Lyons tract, comprising about 20,000 acres of woodland in the Atchafalaya swamp.

So in about 1900 he acquired the Soniat-Lyons tract, and, backed by the Soniat lumber industry, a sawmill was soon established near the present site of sawmill. John DeBlieux was for many years in charge of the lumber in this region.

Krotz Springs was set up on the natural banks of the Atchafalaya, which had silted up at this point to form a slight rise and continued elevation for some distance. A few homes were hastily thrown up around the sawmill.

Mr. Krotz was a pioneer in another field of operations--oil. He soon became aware that Krotz Springs area could have possible oil developments. So he made connections with a firm of wildcat drillers and put down the first oil well in St. Landry Parish, at the same time one of the earliest oil wells in the entire State of Louisiana.

The primitive wooden rig was begun on the banks of the river, not far from the present

railroad bridge, and now inside of the levee. The river has encroached on the well-site, which was then about 400 feet from the river banks.

When the well got down to about 2,400 feet, it blew - a gusher - but of water, not oil. They had struck an artesian well of terrific pressure. With this dramatic end, the oil well became a water supply for the town that gradually began to develop around the sawmill. It was put down in 1900, one year before the Jennings' oil well came in to begin a great field in Louisiana.

In 1909, the railroad came to Krotz Springs, and by 1910 the crossing over the river was complete.

In 1916 the first school was built, a simple frame structure with only 10 pupils a month by the highest count. This attempt at a school was thought by many to be a fool-hardy venture, but soon families began to move in, and in a few years there were 18 or 20 families well established. Thus the town began to take shape.

Mr. Krotz and his wife never lived in Krotz Springs, spending most of their time in New Orleans, and occasionally coming to Opelousas. When Mr. Krotz died, he was in Opelousas, at the residence of Mrs. Corinne LaCombe.

C. W. Krotz, Jr. is now residing in the town founded by his father, and is in business there.



KROTZ SPRINGS, on the banks of the fast-flowing Atchafalaya river, is enjoying growth, spurred by huge gas-oil field nearby. U. S. Highway 190 is in foreground. Elevated railroad. Town is slated to get protection of a ring levee, which is being built at ground level, to the approval of merchants. This is in the Atchafalaya Floodway, hence the levee need. Community leaders are working on establishing port facilities and having the lower Atchafalaya dredged for year barge service. (Daily World Photo by Bourdier).

REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICE  
BETWEEN  
**OPELOUSAS & NEW ORLEANS.**  
THE STEAMER  
**CLEONA.**

G. CARRIERE, Master, Batiste Schmidt Clerk, will leave Washington every Wednesday, as usual, at 10 o'clock A. M. and New Orleans every Saturday at 5 P. M.

All freight consigned to Pire & Carriere or to O. Hinckley & Son, at Washington, will be promptly delivered and strictly attended to.

Freight taken on this boat is low as any other boat in the trade, and the price of freight shall not be raised in low water season as long as said boat can pass the bar without extra expense.

The most particular attention will be paid to all way freight and business.

Mr. Theodore Chacheré, of Opelousas, is hereby constituted our agent for the transaction of all business concerning the Cleona. A manifest of the Opelousas freight and the letters and packages for said Town and vicinity will be sent there at each trip of the boat.

C. C. PICKETT.  
Washington, July 6th, 1867. 4c

**HATS  
OFF  
TO ST. LANDRY  
PARISH ON ITS  
150th ANNIVERSARY!**



Photo above Port Barre Town Hall, erected in 1938. Nick Robin, right of building, town clerk . . . The town of Port Barre was founded July 1898, owns its water plant and gas system. Has an estimated population of 1700. Port Barre pioneered in oil-field activities as early as 1932 and is one of the first oil-fields to be developed in St. Landry Parish. Port Barre is centered in the St. Landry Parish Fire District No. 2 which has a radius of 5 miles. Said Fire District has 20 pumping units and will have paid firemen on duty 24 hours daily.

Town officials of Port Barre are as follows: Mayor, Elvie Lancelos; Marshal, Claude Guidry; Town Clerk, Nick Robin; Aldermen: E. D. Bruner, Dave Dup-lechain, Oliver. D. LeBlanc, Vernon LeBlanc and W. B. Traylor

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All kinds of insurance  
Port Barre, La.

**John C. Dunbar**  
Automotive, Radio, TV  
and Refrigerator  
**REPAIRS**  
Port Barre, La.

**Dup's Theatre**  
A fine place of amusement  
Port Barre's only theatre  
Port Barre, La.





HOME OF CECILE AND ISAURE DEJEAN, Daughters of Felix Dejean—Still standing on the corner of Market and Groles, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Camille Istre was the home of two daughters of Felix Dejean and Azelie Louallier. They were sisters of Ernest, Edmond, etc. Isaura Dejean stands on the gallery with the late Ben Dejean.



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Next to Planters Bank  
OPELOUSAS, LA.

**The Dejean Family - 'Frenchman from France'**

One of the large and prominent families of St. Landry is the Dejean family, descended from Bartholome Dejean of Toulouse, France. Bartholome Dejean married Felicite Magdalene Boisdore at the St. Landry Catholic church in Opelousas, as early archives of the Church testify. They were married on June 16, 1791. He was the son of Bartholome Dejean and Anne Gilet of Toulouse, France. She was the daughter of Antoine Boisdore and Marie Francoise Veillon, who were early pioneers of St. Landry. Antoine Boisdore and his wife were married in New Orleans, and settled near Opelousas, where they obtained large land grants in Fakataique prairie, and L'Ance Bleu. They

also held land in Chicot. Bartholome Dejean owned large tracts of land in St. Landry Parish, lying in the Opelousas area - some on Teche, some on Courtableau, and some on "the Bayou Crocodile." The location of his home was found by Roy D. Edwards, an abstractor and expert on land matters. He lived in the "Phillips home," which lies off the Ville Platte road, and between Opelousas and Washington. It is described elsewhere in this history and once belonged to Captain Powers in ante-bellum days. This home has an interesting history. As we may assume it to have been built anywhere between 1760 and 1800, it is one of the old homes of this vicinity, along

**A LANDMARK MAKES WAY FOR PROGRESS**



1893



1955

**THE 'NEW' PALACE CAFE**

(But the same Fine Food for Which The Palace Cafe Has Always Been Famous)

Mr. George Doucas bought the Palace Sandwich Shop in October, 1927 and converted it into the Palace Cafe. It was remodeled in 1938.

July 1, 1946 Pete and Steve Doucas, sons, just out of the service, acquired the cafe, thus keeping it in the hands of

the original owners.

The old building was torn down in 1954 and replaced with the new one shown in picture. It is very modern, built of Norman brick, fireproof and air conditioned. It was opened December 23, 1954.

**REGULAR DINNERS - STEAK - CHICKEN SEAFOODS - NORTHERN & FRENCH COFFEE**  
Phone 2142  
Highway 190 - Corner Market & Landry  
**OPELOUSAS**

**Excellent Service**

**Air Conditioned**

**"Where Your Patronage Is Appreciated"**



with half a dozen others of its type in this area. A two storied dwelling, with the lower floor of brick and the upper level covered with cypress weatherboarding, it is set in a grove of magnificent live oaks. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Phillips, the present owners, have made some repairs on the exterior and interior and it is in rather good condition. A long avenue of oaks leads to the house.

Bartholome Dejean apparently lived here until his death, and the property was then sold to Benoit Vanhille. The original land grant of this tract was given Martin Duralde, who was one of the early French soldiers of this poste and that of Attakapas. Duralde held large tracts of land all over Southwest Louisiana. His name is frequently seen in old documents that are preserved in the archives of the St. Landry Parish courthouse and the St. Landry Church.

Duralde sold this particular tract of land to W. C. Claiborne, territorial Louisiana Governor after the Purchase and first governor after Louisiana was admitted to the Union.

Claiborne sold to Augustin Gradenigo, who sold to Bartholome Dejean in the American State Papers it may be seen that Dejean owned a number of tracts of land, claimed in the 1780's.

This plantation after Vanhille's death passed into the ownership of his wife, Caroline Vanhille, who subsequently sold to the Wikoffs. It was also owned at one time by James Hill, son of the pioneer doctors of this parish - Dr. George Hill.

Some of the children of Bartholome Dejean as located in Baptism Book One and Four, St. Landry Church records, are given below.

Pedro (Pierre) was born Oct. 11 1801. His godparents were Santiago Roman and his wife.

The same records show that four children were baptised on one day - indicating the long absence of a priest in the parish. They were all baptised on Oct. 1, 1815. They were Evariste (born Aug. 15, 1809);

Auguste (born Sept. 5, 1811); Felcineus (born Aug. 13, 1814); Aloyse (born Aug. 15, 1815.)

On the same day a grandchild of Bartholome Dejean and Felicite



**CELIZE CARRIERE**, Mother of Azelie Louallier and wife of Jean Joseph Louallier, descended from a distinguished Frenchman and a Venetian nobleman, she married a son of Louis Louallier. Their marriage is recorded in 1816, in the St. Landry Church Records. A daughter of Louis Carriere of New Orleans, who settled here, and Louise Gradenigo, whose father was descended from a Doge of Venice, she was photographed in her old age by Moses of New Orleans.

Boisdore was baptised - Bartholome Canterel - son of Joseph Zavier Silvere Canterel, native of St. Jacques, and Louis Dejean. The latter was a daughter of Bartholome Dejean. Canterel was a son of Michel Canterel, commander and judge of St. Jacques, and Celeste Audry.

In 1818 another grandchild is listed in the Baptismal Book I V p. 139. This was Clara Dejean, daughter of Jean Baptiste Dejean and Felonise Escoffier. The marriage of the couple is found on page 206, M.B.I. Felonise Escoffier was the daughter of Jean Francoise Escoffier and Marie Francoise LaMotte.

In M. B. I. Page 489 is recorded the second marriage of Jean Baptiste Dejean to Celestine Peytavin of Attakapas - daughter of Jean Baptiste DuLiques Petavin and Louise Boisdore. Children of this marriage were listed by Francis



1948

1955

Mr. and Mrs. Carey E. Walton opened Walton's Jewelry Store in Opelousas on August, 29, 1948. The original jewelry store was located at 226 E. Landry Street, and on March 19, 1955, they moved to larger quarters at 158 South Main Street. Both were originally from Melville.

Walton graduated from Western Pennsylvania Horological Institute of Pittsburg and has taken special courses in diamond grading in California and Kansas City, Mo.

## Walton's Jewelry Store

158 S. Main

Phone 4413

## BEAUTY for the HOMES of Our PARISH



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Bedding . . . . . Carpet  
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OPELOUSAS, LA.



B. Grevenberg (grandfather of present Col. Frank Grevenberg) who will be seen to be connected with this line and who gave a copy of his research to his cousin, Mrs. E. V. Barre of Grand Coteau.

The children of Jean Baptiste Dejean and Celeste Petavin were Benjamin, Anals (married Carlos Alexandre Grevenberg), Edmond, Mathilde (wife of Arthur Simon), Alexandre, Laure, and Marie (first wife of Arthur Simon.)

Children of Benjamin Dejean and Olympe Dejean were Dubousquet, Leopold, Armand, Marie Ben, and Sidney.

Leopold Dejean married Bernadette Dupre in 1896. Their children are Howard Benjamin ("Pete"), Ethel Louisa, Marion Alton, L. Margorie, and Reginald (Tecos) R. Dejean. The late Mrs. Leopold Dejean was a cultured and highly educated woman, and wrote many interesting accounts of her family, and their connections.

Dubousquet Dejean married Louise Voorhies (another fine old Louisiana family) and they lived in one of the old and historic homes of Opelousas - now the residence of the Tuerrlings "Took" La Fleurs. This home stands just across from St. Landry Catholic church, and at one time was used as a residence for the parish priest.

The children of Dubousquet Dejean and Louise Voorhies are Lec Alfred Dejean, who married Margaret Coxie and lives in Shreveport, Olympe, who married Charles Caffey and lives in Parchman, Miss. Verlie, who married Dudley Foreman and lives in Lafayette; Hubert who married Lois Welner and lives in New Orleans Louise who married first Rudolph Young and second Frank Stuts and lives in Lafayette, and Norma, who married Harry Berth Ortega and lives in Opelousas.

Bert Ortega is descended from one of the Spanish officers of the old Spanish fort at the Poste of Opelousas - Don Joachim Ortega de Castille. Don Joachim's name is found throughout the early records as witness of many land transactions, marriages and the like. The wife of Don Joachim was named Maria Damacin de Soto.



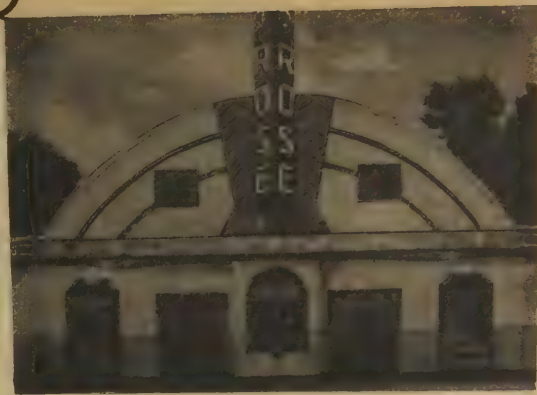
**ADOLPHE GARRIGUES, son of Gen. Garrigues de Flaageac, one of Napoleon's generals, and Marie Louise Fontenot. Adolphe was judge of St. Landry parish in the late 1840s and 1850s. This was painted in Paris, France, a miniature oil on ivory, while he was there studying. It belongs to his great-granddaughter, Mrs. John Edward Zoder, whose grandmother was Amelie Garrigues.**

Don Joachim Ortega was one of the witnesses at the marriage of James Rezin Bowie to Margaret Nevil, in 1814.

Armand Dejean married Louise McGinley. The late Mr. Dejean was a prominent cotton broker of this city.

Children of this union are Yvonne, first married to James Salzan of Opelousas and now the wife of Martin Shevvin, well-known lawyer of Alexandria, and Romayne, married to Bill Morgan, prominent wholesale merchant of Alexandria. Yvonne Dejean is written up elsewhere in this history, as she was queen of the first Cotton Carnival in St. Landry, held at Opelousas in 1922. Mrs. Armand Dejean resides in this city.

The late Ben Dejean married his cousin Cettie Dejean - daughter of



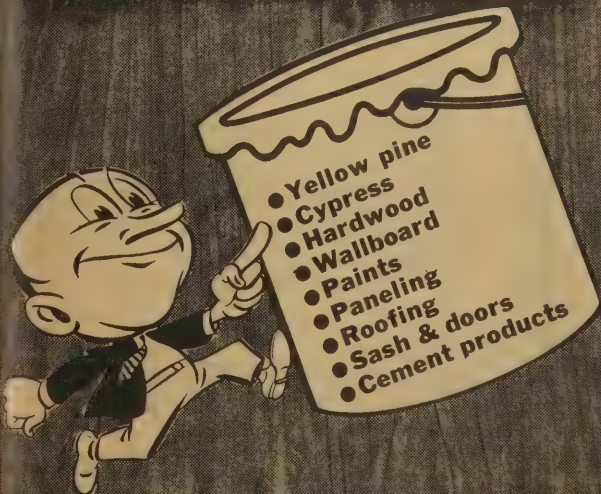
1947

1955

The Rose Theatre was constructed in Opelousas in 1947. It has continuously offered the people of St. Landry Parish the finest in motion picture entertainment. The Rose Theatre has recently installed a wall to wall screen and the latest in Cinemascope, Stereophonic sound and Air-Condition equipment.

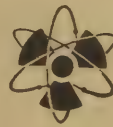
Rose Theatre  
Opelousas, La

Harold Hill  
Comeaux, Mgr.



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President  
Opelousas, La.

Joe R. Wier  
Vice President and  
General Manager  
Commerce Building  
Houston, Texas



Edmond Dejean and Lise Garrigues. Their first son Garrigues was a pilot in the U. S. Air Force in World War II, and gave his life for his country Feb. 4, 1944. Captain Dejean had not been married. A second son, Albert Benjamin, is married to Jackie Savoy and lives in Elton; a daughter Peggy Lise is married to Ray Hamm and lives in Columbia, Tex. Ben Dejean was connected with the grocery business for many years. His widow lives in Opelousas.

Sidney never married. He died as this was being written.

Joseph Duprelon Dejean was a son of Bartholome Dejean and Felicite Boisdore. In 1813 (M. B. 1, p. 240) he married Arsene Guidri, daughter of David Guidri and Marie Borda. To this union was born a son, Damonville, Jan. 13, 1816. Damonville married Clara Garrigues de Flaugéac, daughter of Gen. Joseph Antoine Garrigues de Flaugéac and Marie Louise Fontenot.

Honore Dejean, another son of Bartholome, married Carmelitz Veret, a daughter of Jules Veret and Marie Hebert of Atakapas.

Felix Dejean, another son of Bartholome, married first in 1826 Pamela Honorine Moore, daughter of William Moore and Delphine Eloise Vereme. He is the forefather of many of the Dejeans of St. Landry, and was married three times. His second marriage in 1841 was to Azelle Louallier, daughter of Jean Jose Louallier and Celize Carriere. Louallier was a son of Louis Louallier and Marguerite Chol de Clergy, both of Beaugencia, near Paris, France. Celize (sometimes spelled Celisse in the records) was a daughter of Louis Carriere of New Orleans and Louise Gradenigo.

There is a rare photograph of Celisse Carriere, which was preserved by descendants and now belongs to Mrs. Charles Carson, who was born Louise Dejean, daughter of Edmond Dejean and Lise Garrigues. Edmond was a son of Felix Dejean and Azelle Louallier.

The third marriage of Felix Dejean in 1873 was to Cora Lastrapes, daughter of Theo Lastrapes and Lise Garrigues (for whom Edmond's wife was named).



LISE GARRIGUES, daughter of Judge Adolph Garrigues and Zelia Webb, and wife of Edmond Dejean. Miniature painting was made in oil on porcelain, and it belongs to Mrs. Leon Chachere of Lafayette, her daughter.

Among the children of Felix Dejean and Pamela Moore was William, who married twice—first to Mary Lumpkin (1866) and second to Virginia Cook (1872).

William's children by his first marriage to Mary Lumpkin were Albert, Pamela, and Elizabeth. By his second marriage to Virginia Cook he had William, Earl, Felix, Alcee, the late Theo, Stella, Alma, Ethel, Pearl.

Ernest, son of Felix Dejean and Azelle Louallier married (1878) Clara Dejean his cousin—daughter of Damonville Dejean and Clara Garrigues. Their children are Jimmie, George, the late Charlie and Leo.

Edmond, son of Felix Dejean and Azelle Louallier, married Lise Garrigues, in 1869. She was the daughter of Adolphe Garrigues and Zelia Webb.

Adolphe Garrigues was a distinguished judge of this parish, and son of Gen. Garrigues de Flaugéac. Children of Edmond are Celine (who mar-

ried her cousin the late Ben Dejean); Leo, who married Charles Carson; Sarah, who never married; Carmen (Mrs. Leon Chachere); Lee, Mrs. George Williams; the late Albert ("Booten"); Eddie, who died young; the late Mary (Mrs. Louis Derbes.)

In Gayard's History of Louisiana there is mentioned in the account of the Battle of New Orleans a Colonel Dejean, who was in command of the First Regiment of Louisiana Militia, and we believe this to be Bartholome Dejean, although we have not established this definitely as yet. Many of the Dejeans fought and some of them died in the War Between the States, adding honor to themselves and their family by their bravery and gallantry.

Many of the descendants of this old St. Landry family have continued to be planters, as was their first ancestor here; others are prominent attorneys, businessmen, and civic leaders of the community.

As in most of the Creole sections



DR. ALEXANDRE LANDRY -- Pioneer New Orleans doctor married an Opelousas girl whose descendants are prominent New Orleansians.

Tucked away in an antique desk in Grand Coteau, at the residence of Mrs. Edward Victor Barry, is the photograph now yellowed with time of a pioneer doctor of New Orleans—Dr. Alexandre Landry. He was a cousin of Mrs. Barry's through the Lastrapes—Boisdore line.

Charles Henry Lastrapes, a son of Jean Henry Lastrapes and Celeste Genevieve Boisdore, married Cat-

erine, and see the background of breeding that for generations has built up a typically large and complicated family history. . . distinguished through the years as leaders in the community.

It is most interesting to trace back the records of an old family like this

the DeClouet, a daughter of Chevalier Alexandre DeClouet, who was an early commandant of the post of Opelousas and Attakapas and his wife Louise DeClouet of New Orleans. Their daughter Henriette married Dr. Alexandre Landry of New Orleans, who had come from France to practice medicine in the city.

They had one son, Alexandre Landry who lived in New Orleans and was married to Marie Leontine Bouigny.

Their son, the late Henry Landry (who took back the "deFrenouse" which had been dropped by grandfather) was a prominent New Orleans cottonseed broker. He died on June 24, 1948, survived by a widow and her children by a former marriage, and a brother, Maurice Landry, and a sister, Mrs. Elaine Reed.

His wife, born Marie Louise St. Imit, was the widow of Hughes De La Vergne. She had four sons: J. P. De La Vergne, and two daughters, Mrs. Hugh C. St. Paul and Countess de Boney de la Vergne Moulins, France.

The late Henry Landry de France was for many years manager of the Union Brokerage and Commission Co., and from 1913 until the time of his sudden death he was head of his own cottonseed brokerage business.

Mrs. Barry's great-grandmother was Felicite Boisdore, a sister of Celeste Genevieve Boisdore.

**OPELOUSAS ACADEMY,**  
Formerly Franklin College.  
Rev. Theo. RAND Jr., A. M. Principal.  
For terms and other particulars, see Prospectus at this office or at the Academy.  
Opelousas, January 31st 1852.

## MODERN MARKETING

It takes more to market an agricultural crop today than it did when Saint Landry Parish was first settled.

In the days of early America most people lived on the land and grew their own foods. They traded their surplus crops with their neighbors for the things they didn't grow themselves.

Many agricultural food crops today are marketed in large consuming centers sometimes thousands of miles from the fields where they are produced.

Modern marketing is comprised of many things. Freshness and quality must be preserved. It takes good transportation . . . good packaging . . . good displays . . . good advertising and good promotions.

But the men and women of A & P know all those skills will only help make the first sale. It takes top quality products in the first place to keep consumers coming back for more and more.

The fact that so many family food shoppers like to buy their food supplies in our stores, justifies all the efforts that have been put forth.

We know that when a housewife buys her sweet potatoes, string beans, and other commodities produced in Saint Landry Parish, she is patronizing not only us but the good people who produced them as well.

That is why we are proud to salute our good friends of Saint Landry Parish on the occasion of this anniversary.



We are proud of the growth and progress of the sweet potato industry, as well as that of St. Landry parish, and our growth with them.

We began shipping from a small packing shed in town in 1938. In 1948 we built new packing and storage houses on the Sunset road.

Our business has grown from 35 to 40 loads in 1938 to 250 to 300 truck and car loads shipped annually from our three large packing houses in 1955.

Our quality is comparable to our quantity.

**ALFRED LAGRANGE**  
Packer and Shipper  
Lagrange Sweets Brand  
Treasure Brand  
OPELOUSAS, LA.





A "MIDDEN" VILLAGE in South Louisiana, sometime about 2,000 years ago. A midden is a great heap of clam shells --- a staple of their diet then --- and dirt, on which villages were then built. Note dugout pirogues, made with fire, and cooking in deer tin with hot stones. Houses are poles stuck in the ground and covered with palmetto leaves.



MARKSVILLE BURIAL MOUND, similar to mounds on Bayou Rouge in St. Landry parish. Louisiana Indians began making burial mounds around 1,200 years ago. Dirt was dug with sharp sticks from stream banks and carried to the mound in baskets. A low earthen platform was first made. On it were placed bones of the dead, cleaned of flesh and sometimes burned a little. A few tools or weapons were broken and placed with them and the bones then covered with dirt.

# Indians First Settlers

Based on research published in 1945 by B. Kniffen, professor of geography and anthropology at Louisiana State University, with four of his illustrations, done by Fred Compton).

The American Indians settled the Louisiana territory and St. Landry parish first, coming here sometime between 1,000 and 2,000 years ago. Indians has been on this continent for many thousands of years before that, but there is no indication that they were here.

They have left us many things. Names, for instance. Opelousas is the name of the tribe that occupied this area. It was pronounced earlier Abaloosas, which would make it mean black hair, or Apiloosas, which would make it mean black leggings or legs. The word Atakapa.

Other names in the parish deriving from Indians, and their meanings: Achafalaya, Long River; Avoyelles, people; Calcasieu Crying Eagle; Chouche, mudfish; Mermentau, named after a man; Inmanatu-a; Plaquemine(s), persimmon; Whiskey Chitto, big cane; Mississippi, Great Water.

They left us other things, too. Pirogues made by the Indians, and the best of them today, made from hollowed out logs, in the Indian fashion. The Indians that lived here were like the early migrations from Asia --- they had no bows and arrows, pottery, did not farm and had no stone tools. (They made pirogues by slowly burning the log and scraping it with flint). Until they learned pottery making they cooked by

dropping hot stones in deerskins suspended on posts to make a sort of sack.

They quickly improved. By about 1,200 years ago the Opelousas Indians had pottery, farming and other crafts; buried their dead in huge mounds, like the group up on Bayou Rouge, made axes and other crude tools, smoked tobacco in pipes. They traded between tribes, sometimes attacked each other, and lived in windowless houses set over shallow holes in the ground.

By 800 years ago they had changed customs and were building flat-topped funeral mounds with round churches or temples on top. They were built in groups. There are five on Bayou Rouge, northeast of Palmetto. At this time there were more Indians in Louisiana than at any time before or since; there were no epidemics of disease, either.

Gradually, thereafter, they began to die down. Strange diseases came in, and they apparently became restless, afraid and angry. They fled, for they didn't understand small-pox and chicken pox and measles, which De Soto's men and other Europeans had brought before 1550.

### WHITE PEOPLE SETTLE

White people began to come into this area just before 1700. The most important things they got from Indians were plants, including:

Sweet and Irish potatoes, corn, beans, tobacco, tomatoes, peanut, cotton.

Historians divided Louisiana Indians into six groups, each speaking a different language. Each contained many tribes (It is not correct to refer to the Atakapa "tribe," for instance; four of the five tribes labelled Atakapa were, indeed, called that, and the

fifth was the Opelousa tribe, which lived near here). The six groups are Caddo, Tunica, Natchez, Atakapa, Chitimacha and Muskogees (see map).

Atakapa means cannibal, but it's not known whether they ever were cannibalistic.

Some of the early settlers bought land from Indians, as recorded in the St. Landry court house as late as the 1790s.

In 1700 the Opelousas Indians were living on a stream near here --- they aren't sure which, but probably Courtaubeau, in houses built by standing up poles in teepee shape, plastering them with mud, covering this with palmetto leaves and, finally, with mats of cane. They farmed, they hunted and caught fish, they made raids on "bad" tribes, they told legends. They worshipped spirits, good (the sun) and bad (diseases). They played games involving balls and sticks, and they sang and danced.

White people changed their ways abruptly. They traded with them. Supplied them with drink. Some tried to enslave them, but the Indians would not work as slaves and would get sick and useless.

The Indians died of white men's diseases, some fled west, those who stayed were driven to the poorest land. They became few in number.

There were about 13,000 Indians in Louisiana in 1700. As of 1945 there were about 1,500. They live in small tribes in six widely separated settlements (see map). Nearest to Opelousas is the Kooasati, near Elton. The Opelousas Woman's Club provides a scholarship for one girl from this tribe.

The Kooasati are a Creek tribe who left Alabama about 150 years ago, lived here for a time, moved to Texas buffalo country, but returned to the Elton area.

Of the once numerous Atakapa tribes --- including the Opelousa --- only a handful living in and around Lake Charles remain.

The Indians of Louisiana never did form a union to combat the white man. They had no famous warrior chief like Sitting Bull or Tecumseh or Pontiac. There were cases of massacres of whites by Indians, and other resistance, but the white people, with guns and, quickly, larger numbers, were too much

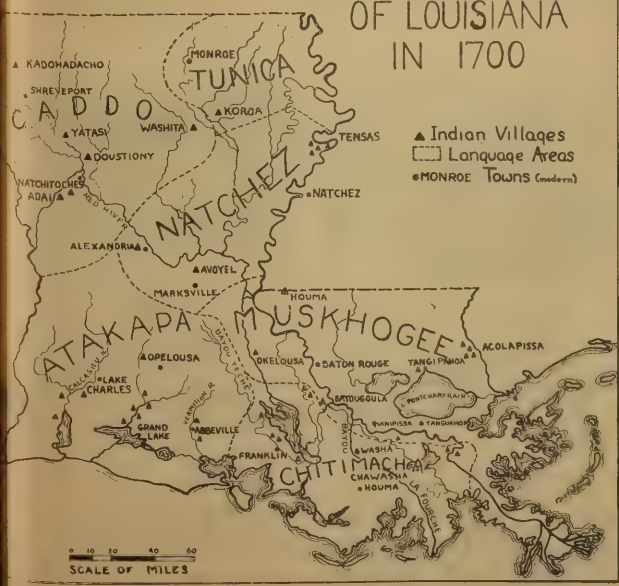
## Hebrard Home



CLASSIC in line and of chaste simplicity is the old Hebrard Home, now the office of Harvey Wier. The house is on the corner of Union and Bellevue. It is a two-storied brick building, with a central hallway. The stairway is nice, as is all woodwork and trim. There are some very fine mantels in the old home, of carved wood in severe design similar to early Adams mantels. The front doorway is arched brick, with a nicely detailed lunette.

All doorways are finely panelled. A decorative stone or tile facade shows the front pediment and columns, which once supported a narrow balcony. Large sustaining irons are visible on the exterior. This is one of the oldest and loveliest places in Opelousas. It is not pretentious, nor yet particularly large, but its purity of line and niceties of detail make it one of the most interesting in the area. It is painted white, with green shutters. At one time it was said to have been used as a store, but it was plainly built as a private residence. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

### INDIAN TRIBES OF LOUISIANA IN 1700



INDIAN TRIBES of Louisiana in 1700, as culled from early records and writings by pioneer settlers. Some of the early travelers disagreed as to locations and numbers of tribes. In some cases they used the same names for different tribes and at other times different names for the same tribes. Indications are, too, that there were more tribes than shown here.



# Superior Butane



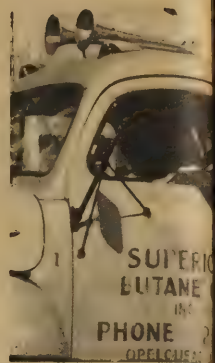
**ANNIE LAFLEUR**  
Bookkeeper — has been with our staff since August, 1954.



**L. T. ORTEGO**  
Assistant Manager — has served in various capacities with us since May, 1949.



**GEORGIA CARRIERE**  
Secretary — has been with our office staff since November, 1946.



**ADAM GAY**  
Transport operator — first came for us in March, 1946. Adam for some time, but can boast years experience in the L. P. try. Adam holds a year Safe Dr



**JOHN ED SONNIER**  
Service & Installations — has been with us since June, 1945. He is familiar with all areas served by us since all installations and service are handled from our Opelousas office. John Ed holds a 7 year Safe Driver Award.



**OPELOUSAS BULK PLANT** — with its 90,000 gallon capacity insures our customers of uninterrupted service — in any emergency. We also maintain two additional storage plants of 16,000 gallon capacity each.



**LEON ANDRUS**  
Service and Installations — has been with us since February, 1944. Leon also familiar with all our customers. Leon holds a 7 year Safe Driver Award.

## Members of the Board of Directors

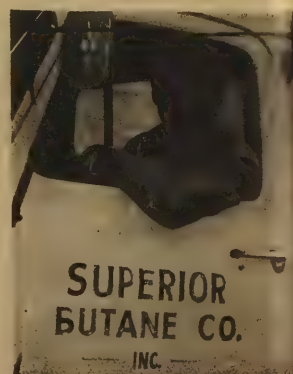
- Osie Bordelon
- Charles A. Dossmann
- M. J. Pulford
- Charles Ventre



**LEOPOLD GAY**  
Has been selling Butane Gas since April, 1945. His face is familiar to our many customers in the Opelousas-Prairie Ronde-Plaisance-Church Point-Rayne area. He is the proud owner of a 7 year Safe Driver Award.



**KIRTLEY LeBLANC**  
Butane Gas Sales — has been with Superior Butane Co., Inc. since August, 1946. Kirt lives in Port Barre and serves the Washington-Grand Prairie-Palmetto-Morrow-Melville-Woodside-Bayou Current area. He also holds a 7 year Safe Driver Award.



**GEOFFREY BOUDREAU**  
Butane Gas Sales — lives in Lewibout Boudreaux has worked with us since August, 1950. He serves the Opelousas Church Point-Sunset-Vatican area. Boudreaux is the holder of a 4 year Safe Driver Award.



# Co. Inc.

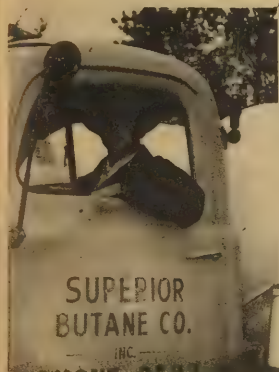
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**ALBERT LALONDE**  
 Butane Gas Sales — has been with us since December, 1945. Albert lives in Arnaudville and serves the Arnaudville-Leonville-Pecanierre-Grand Coteau area. He is the holder of a 7 year Safe Driver Award.



**SELMA GUIDRY**  
 Butane Gas Sales — has been with us since January, 1946. Selma lives in Arnaudville and serves the Cecelia-Breaux Bridge-Henderson area. He is the holder of a 7 year Safe Driver Award.



**MARIE GUIDRY**  
 Arnaudville Office Staff — has been with Superior Butane Co. since January, 1947.



**FRANK SPEYERER**  
 Arnaudville Branch Manager — has been employed by us since December, 1945. Frank lives in Arnaudville and is also the holder of a 7 year Safe Driver Award.



**GUIDRY, JR. (left)**—helper has with our company since February  
**LEE (right)**—helper, came to for us in August, 1950.



**MARTIN FONTENOT**  
 Butane Gas Sales — has been with us since March 1953. Martin serves the Eunice-Durald area. He received a 2 year Safe Driver Award this spring.



**TILMAN GUILLORY**  
 Butane Gas Sales — lives at Reddell and has been with us since January, 1947. His face is a familiar one to our customers in the Reddell-Ville Platte-Mamou area. Tillman was awarded a 7 year Safe Driver Award this spring.



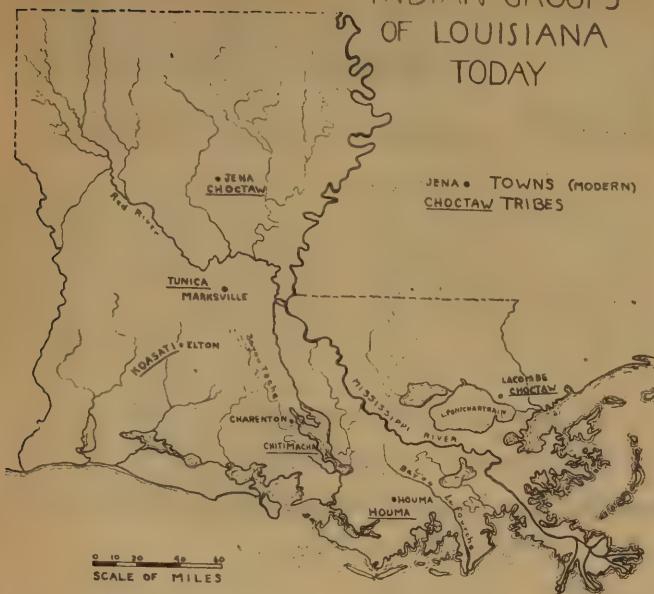
**EMMETT ORTEGO**  
 Butane Gas Sales — lives at Easton and serves the Pine Prairie-Turkey Creek-St. Landry-Whiteville area. Emmett has been with us since September, 1950. He holds a 4 year Safe Driver Award.



**PART of our fleet of delivery trucks—**  
 ready to serve you.



### INDIAN GROUPS OF LOUISIANA TODAY



INDIAN TRIBES OF LOUISIANA TODAY (1945) shows only six, totaling some 1,500 persons. The largest is the Houma (means Red) in Choctaw, south of the city of Houma, numbering about 1,000 Indians. There are about 60 Chitimacha near Charenton, in St. Mary parish, and last we knew they still made the famous Chitimacha baskets just as they were made hundreds of years ago. "Chitimacha baskets," says anthropologist Fred B. Kniffen, "are probably as fine as any baskets made by any Indians anywhere, at any time."

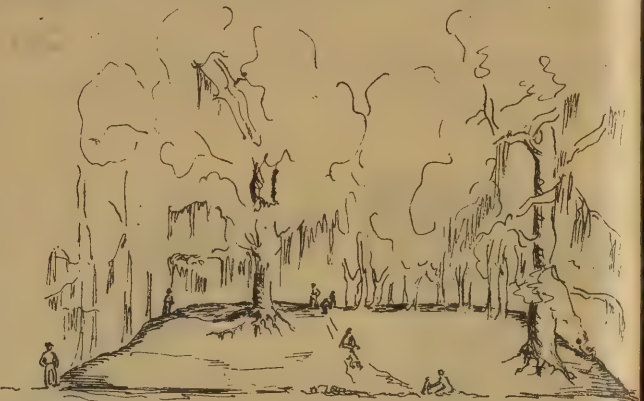
for them.

The white man didn't do well by the original settlers, the Indians. But the names are perpetuated, Opelousas and the like, and it's a safe bet there's some Opelousas Indian blood flowing in a few veins around here today.

INDIAN MOUND on Bayou Rouge, a pen and ink sketch by Mrs. L. Austin Fontenot Jr. The Bayou Rouge mounds are of the flat-top type, and originally resembled pyramids with the tops whacked off.



LARGE INDIAN MOUND on Bayou Rouge in north central St. Landry parish, one of a group of such mounds. They are said to be excellent specimens, but to date have never been excavated. This is water color by our historian, Mrs. L. Austin Fontenot Jr., whose husband owns most of the mounds.



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LAWTELL, LA.

J. M. Lafleur Mercantile started in business in the old Lawtell State Bank building which had been vacant since the bank failed in the 1933 depression. It has been in the present location since August 1, 1950.

The Lawtell Post Office was opened by Mr. Lafleur August 1, 1947 in the new building and is still operated by Mr. Lafleur. J. M. Lafleur Mercantile is a Western Auto Agency and handles appliances, tires, batteries, and related auto parts and accessories. The warehouse in the rear of the store is stocked with insecticides for field crops.





LAWTELL, named after J. G. Lawler and his one-time real estate partner, the late Leonce Littell, is center of fertile farming prairie. School is building with semi-circular driveway. Oil gas pipe line quarters are at lower right. Missouri Pacific railroad is at top. (Daily World Photo by Bourdier).

## Arnaudville History

In the early records of the St. Landry Parish Police Jury we find the recording of the building of a bridge at the junction of Bayous Teche and Fuselier -- this is the beginning of Arnaudville. At the same time is noted the name of "Jacques Arnaud," in whom the town received its name. Antoine Arnaud (as the name is now spelled) was a very early French settler who cleared a large plantation at the site of the present town of Arnaudville. His son, Jacques, inherited the tract from him, and was in the early 1800's that he was a prominent settler, being active in matters of the time. His name is noted through the records pertaining to various activities in the Arnaudville area. The clearing of the land in Bayou Fuselier was one of the first acts of the police jury.

"King's" bridge, "Debaillon's" bridge, "Garrigues" bridge and "Arnaud's" bridge. Two years ago the town of Arnaudville held a centennial celebration of the anniversary of the establishment of the first Catholic Church in 1853. At this time extensive research was made by Mr. Roger Baudier, official chronicler of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Under his direction many interesting facts about Arnaudville and its environs were brought to light, and a most thorough booklet was published in commemoration of the historic event.

Prior to 1853, the French Catholics who made up the greater part of the settlers worshipped at St. Charles Church in Grand Coteau, or St. Landry in Opelousas. Others attended the church in St. Martinsville - the Attakapas.

St. Charles church in Grand Coteau was established in 1818, and this same Church established two missionary chapels -- Plaquemine Brule and LaJunction. Father Roccofort, S.J., was assistant to the pastor, Father F. Roduits, S.J., and it was Father

traffic was almost entirely by water in the days, as roads were few. Many of the roads and bridges of the parish still carry the names of the land-owners who lived at the location, and in this instance "La Junction" eventually became "Arnaudville".

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Photo Left  
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Opelousas, La.

The late Mr. Skiles was a pioneer in the lumber business in St. Landry parish. He was manager of the business for a period of over 50 years. He was succeeded by Bryan Littell, the present manager.





View in center of Arnaudville, looking towards the Bayou Têche bridge.

Rocoffort who attended the small chapel at La Junction. The land for the chapel was donated by Jacques Arnaud and his wife. Later the Jesuit fathers acquired additional property, where the Little Flower auditorium, school and cemetery now stand.

Eventually they turned all of this property over to the St. Regis parish at the time of its formation. The original chapel is still in use as a rectory, adjacent to the new church.

For a number of years the settlement was served by missionary priests of the Jesuit order, until 1862, when Father Vialleton became the first resident priest.

In 1871 Father Christophe Cuny became the first diocesan priest, following his appointment by Archbishop Perche. He made plans for the building of a church, and this was accomplished in the fall of 1872, when the church of St. John Francis Regis was dedicated. Many trials and tribulations followed during the ensuing years - lack of money, an epidemic in 1878, the great flood of 1886, and other hardships.

In 1891 Father Demoyel was able to gain the help of the Marianne Sisters of the Holy Cross, and construction of a convent was begun. The school opened Jan. 4, 1891.

With the aid of Mother Katherine Drexel, he established a school for the colored

children, in September 1893. In spite of threats and interference from the Regulators, the school was continued as St. Joseph's Convent School.

During ensuing years a public school was established, and in 1919 the convent was closed. In 1947 the convent was re-opened in a new building, as the "Little Flower" Convent, under the Marianne Sisters. In 1948 work was begun on a new church, under the direction of the present pastor, Father Bernard, who succeeded the late Father Mas-seblau, whom he had assisted.

It was dedicated in 1949. In 1948 a church was erected for use of the colored people, who had worshipped with the white people prior to this time. Father Auclair, a Josephite father, was administrator at the time of the building of the church. The Rev. John R. Timpany was appointed first pastor. He has since erected a parish hall.

Present large businesses in the town are sweet potato packing plants and cotton gins. A large syrup mill here closed some years past after the local farmers stopped planting sugar cane in large amounts. There is a great deal of rice planted in this area, and fine herds of cattle are being raised. Oil and natural gas are produced in the nearby



Judge  
**LESSLEY  
P.  
GARDINER**  
a  
public-spirited  
citizen

LESSLEY P. GARDINER, Judge of the 27th Judicial District Court of Landry Parish, Louisiana, was born near Sunset, in the Parish of St. Landry, August 30, 1901, and is the son of the late Dr. C. A. Gardiner and the late Mrs. Simon Gardiner.

He received his BA degree from St. Charles College, Grand Coteau and did postgraduate work at Catholic University, Washington, D. C., he received his LL.D. degree from Loyola University, New Orleans, in 1924.

Judge Gardiner is a past president of the Association of Commerce of Opelousas, past president and former king of the Louisiana Yambilee, Inc., member of the Board of Directors of the Evangeline Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, member of the Board of Commissioners of the St. Landry Parish Hospital Service District No. 2.

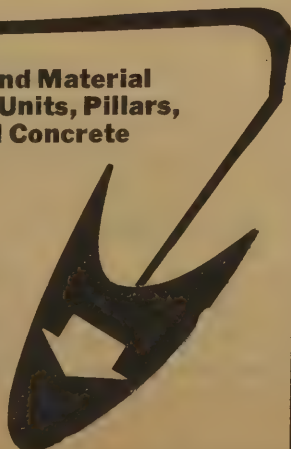
He, together with his brothers and sisters own the Chretien Plantation home shown elsewhere in this issue.

He practiced law in New Orleans from 1924 to 1935. From 1935 to 1939 he served as Second Assistant Attorney General in Baton Rouge and was Attorney General of the State of Louisiana in 1939 and 1940, serving out the unexpired term of the late Judge Gaston Porterie who had been appointed to the Federal District Court for the Western District of Louisiana. Returning to Opelousas in 1940 he engaged in the practice of law and was elected to the State Senate in 1944 and reelected in 1948. In the Fall of 1948 he was elected Judge of the 27th Judicial District and reelected without opposition in 1954.



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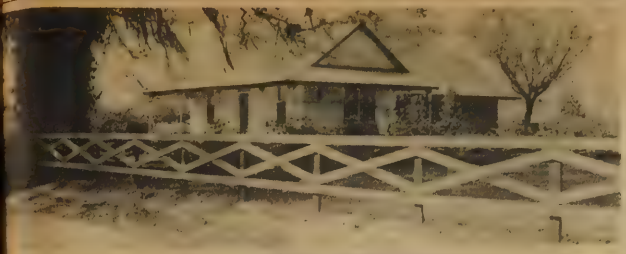
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HOME IN ARNAUVILLE.

and Quebedeaux tracts. Prior to the establishment of a large public school in Arnaudville there were a number of small one-room schools scattered over the area, and these are listed by Mr. ... as follows: Jerome Taylor taught at Meche's place; Miss Valentine ... also taught at Meche's; Mrs. Cleo ... and Miss Gabie Mizzi were teachers at the Erance school; Miss Helen ... taught at the DeKerlegand's place; ... Alice Hinckley, Edwina Sudduth, and ... Baker taught at Edna Hinckley's ... at L'ance Charpentier, the teachers ... Miss Dean, Cecille Durio, and Miss ...

honors - Simour Wright, Ethel Bernard, Helen Lastrapes and Louise Lastrapes. W.W. Thom was principal for one year when classes were taught in the old convent building, and he has continued in that post until the present time, having served for 35 years.

The first bank was established in 1904, by citizens of the community. First cashier of the Bank of Arnaudville was Maurice Olivier. It was later sold to the Parish Bank and Trust Co. of Opelousas, and closed during the depression in 1932. In 1937 the Washington State Bank opened a branch in Arnaudville, with Sidney Durio as cashier and manager since its founding.

The Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1904. In 1908 it closed, and re-



ASPHALT, RUBBER, PLASTIC, CORK, FLOOR AND WALL TILE, FLEXALUM VENETIAN BLINDS, INLAID LINOLEUM, CHURCH WALL TILE—ALUMINUM AWNINGS



INTERIOR of Jules Darby's Store at Arnaudville.

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**A Family  
"Buy-Word"  
In S. W. Louisiana**

**Heymann's**



# Capt. Chevalier de Clouet

Alexandre Francoise Joseph Marie Chevalier de Clouet - Commandant and Colonel of the Poste of Opelousas and Attakapas -- was the third commander of this vast territory of Louisiana, following Gabriel Fugelier de LaClaire, who had in turn succeeded Sieur Jacques Courtableau.

DeClouet was married to Louise Favrot (members of the Favrot family in New Orleans have her portrait which is a companion piece to that of the Colonel).

As commander of these postes he was the supreme authority in all civil and military matters, and in the absence of the priests who served this vast wilderness he was also given special permission to officiate at baptisms, funerals, marriages.

His portrait belongs to a direct descendant, Paul De Clouet of Lafayette. It is in very good state of repair, as are several other family portraits of the DeClouets. The colonel is shown wearing a breastplate under his uniform jacket, and carrying a sword.

He was a Chevalier of the Order of St. Louis. De Clouet settled near St. Martinville, and one of his descendants built "St. John" plantation house on the Teche, on the De Clouet land. This interesting old home is now in the possession of the Levert family, and has been for a number of years.

A son of Chevalier De Clouet fought as a general in the Battle of New Orleans, and considerable space is devoted to an account of him in Gayarre's description of that memorable occasion. As a spokesman for the people in Louisiana of French descent, he was involved in a misunderstanding about the possible fate of New Orleans had the battle been lost.

In the small burial plot adjacent to the Church of St. Martin in Martinsville, Chevalier Etienne de Clouet, a son of the Commandant, and his wife, Marie Aspasie Fuselier, are buried; the marble slabs of their graves so worn that in some places the deeply graven words are barely legible.

Another son of the Chevalier was Louis Alexandre Joseph de Clouet, who married Catherine de Leshivid (the latter name spelled several ways - de lePau - de Laissard).

Many souvenirs of the deClouets have been preserved by members of the family, some of whom reside in Lafayette.



GRAVE of Francois Coulon deVilliers is in St. Landry cemetery here. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

organized in 1948. 1927 high water left its mark on Arnaudville. So did a tragic tornado in 1952.

Among the names of prominent early settlers of the Arnaudville section are: Adin Durio, Dr. Gregory Martin, Francois Robin, E. C. and L. M. Rogers, Lucien Guilbeau, Jean Estorge, the Duffy's, and the families of Stelly, Burlingh, Durio, Bergeron, Lastrapes, Savoie, Peyroux, Bernard, Guldrey, Lalonde, Breaux, Robin, Blanchard, Castille, LaGrange, Mayer, DeBoisblanc, Quebedeaux, Marks, Smith, DeKerlegand, Guilbeau, Dejean, Berard, Lanolos, Perrault, Thibodeaux, Gillard, LeBourgeois, St. Cyr, Thomas, Kidder, Guilbaud, Perlot, Patin, Moore, Taylor, Hebert, Fayolle, Rivette, Latiolais, Babin, Besoit, Richard, Guldroz, Roy and many others. We have mentioned the Arnaud family, who gave "LaJunction" its present name of Arnaudville.



1947

1955

## THE HUT

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Graffagnino, owners  
130 North Union St. Phone 398  
OPELOUSAS, LA.

The Hut opened its doors November 27, 1947. They started selling sandwiches of all kinds. Now—1955—they sell Oysters on half shell, Fried Chicken, Fried Oysters, Steaks, Plate Lunches, Seafood Platters, Boiled Crab, Fried Shrimp and Crayfish in season.

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# The First Olivier

ANCESTOR OF ST. LANDRY PARISH BY KING OF FRANCE TO CANONIZE START FOUNDRY AT TROIS RIVIERES

First Olivier in North America, who was the father of the Olivier who settled in St. Landry Parish, was Pierre François Marie Olivier, seigneur, Sier de Vezin. He was a nobleman, and as his name indicated, a "squire", designated in French as "chevalier" - which was the rank of an officer that of a knight. He was from the province of Champagne.

He started one of the earliest foundries in Canada, Trois Rivieres, the name of the foundry being Forge St. Maurice. The first of this foundry was made as a result of a demand by the Governor of Trois Rivieres to the King of France. There were several factories in that section, and the necessity was so great that the Governor wrote requesting that he send someone to the foundry.

The Olivier de Vezin was born in Nancy, France, and died at New Orleans in 1776. Before coming to Canada he had been the King's doctor. His father, Hugues Olivier, was a seigneur in Bassigny, and his mother, Louise Leroux de Dingelincour. Trois Rivieres, Pierre was married in 1750 to Marie Joseph Gagneau Duplessis. In 1762 he was sent to New Orleans - the capital of Louisiana - and was honored by the King in 1769 by a seat in the Cabildo. His son, Charles Borromeo Marie Olivier, was one of the early settlers of St. Landry Parish - then the Poste of Opelousas - and was the founder of a large and important family of this section. Most of the Oliviers are planters, and a great many still live near the original Olivier plantation.

The present Olivier home is not the original one - the first home as seen in an early photograph was a typical French settler's plantation house, with lower floor of brick, upper floor of cypress. A pigeoniere was on each side of the home. The home that stands on the site of the old one is also a very old place, and is said to have been moved to its present place from Grand Coteau.

Mrs. Barronnie Marie Olivier de Vezin, the daughter of St. Landry, was first

married to Rose DeBlanc, who was a descendant of the aristocratic Chevalier de Blanc, who was one of the officers of the Poste des Attakapas, and whose name was mentioned in a billet to Napoleon as a "noble and loyal royalist".

Their children married descendants of the very early St. Landrians - Celeste married a Pellerin, de Vezin (no record of his marriage), Perle married a Villier, Edna married a Duros.

His second wife was Wilhelmina Perrault, and they had ten children. Some of these also married prominent families of the state, and were:

Napoleon (who died of yellow fever in New Orleans); Jules, who was a well-known lawyer; Oscar; Adolphe, who was a lawyer and became district attorney in Opelousas (a whole chapter is written about Adolphe in "La Vigilance," by Alexandre Barde. He was married to a Wycoff); Alexander married Amanda Lastrapes, and they had thirteen children (most of the Oliviers in Grand Coteau are descended from this branch); Eugene married Laure Delcour, who was a native of Cuba; Mathie was an artist, and she married August Reggio; Nina married Louis Grevemberg, and they lived at Albany Plantation, near Jeanerette (now the residence of the Stephen Mansons); Rosa married a Vedrine, and Annette married her first cousin, who was a Fuselier.

Most of the genealogical records of the family were gotten together by a daughter of Alexander Olivier de Vezin (who was married to Amanda Lastrapes in 1850). She is Mrs. John Hutchins of San Antonio, Tex. (Alice Olivier de Vezin). Other children were Fanelle, who died young; Annette, who married Joseph Pascalin; Albert and Gilbert (twins). Gilbert died young, Albert married and had five children.

Agricole, who was a prominent figure in St. Landry politics for most of his lifetime was a planter of the Grand Coteau area, where his widow (who is almost a century old) still lives with some of the family. Most of her sons live nearby, and Prairie des Femmes is largely populated by members of the Olivier family (who had dropped the "de Vezin".)

Mrs. Agricole Olivier was born Blaise Frozard, and she raised twelve children. They are Edward, who married Mae deBlanc, Frank, who married Mary Tarleton; Joe, who



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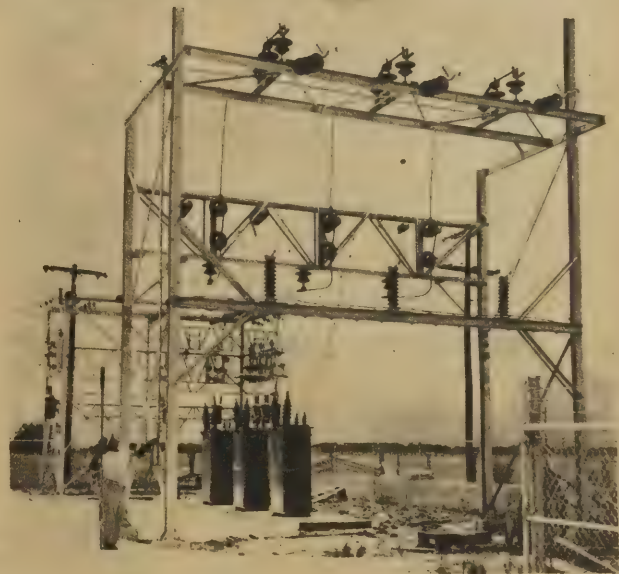
# 17

## Years Of Successful Rural Electrification In Southwest Louisiana

1955 marks the seventeenth year of the home-owned, home-operated Rural Electric Association. It's 23,069 members own the World's Largest Rural Electric Association which serves more than 100,000 farmers in Southwest Louisiana with Rural Power. With an invested value of almost 6 million dollars the organization has electrified 95% of the farms of Southwest Louisiana. Since the beginning of this farmer-owned organization two rate decreases have been granted. At present the annual revenue of the Association exceeds one million dollars.

Each new area to be electrified repeats the triumph of progress over the dark ages. In terms of human effort, of better living conditions, of comforts, luxuries, safety, each of the more than 100,000 men, women and children in Rural Southwest Louisiana whose lives have been benefited immeasurably by the miracle of REA electricity, has his own proud story to tell. In terms of increased dollar income, of greater productivity, of kilowatts used, of miles of electric lines installed, the tale is truly an amazing one.

The goal—"Better farm living through Co-op electricity," illuminates the past seventeen years of Cooperative efforts and leads into an even brighter future.



Sub-stations like this dot the 3,700 miles of line throughout Southwest Louisiana, which serves more than 23,000 members. Constant maintenance is necessary to keep this power alive. Pictured above is Claude "Fete" Duhon, Co-op lineman, who is inspecting the sub-station.

# Southwest Louisiana Electric Membership Corporation

A Rural Electric Association  
Headquarters - Lafayette, Louisiana

Serving the Rural Areas of St. Landry, Acadia, St. Martin, Lafayette, Vermilion and parts of Iberia, Evangeline and Avoyelles Parishes.





**PAINTED BARN RED**, it has for many years been to this writer one of the most attractive homes in Grand Coteau, with French doors opening on the front porch, from which extend a flight of open stairs that ascend to the attic. Known as the "Acadian House", this style of building is fast fading from the picture, and one seldom sees a home in as good condition as the house pictured. It is owned by Mrs. Chattrillon, who lives in a larger home around the corner.

died in 1925; Charles, who married Ida de Bois Blanc; Effie, who married Leon Bernard; Edna, who married Alfred Alfred Horsaist; Oscar, who married Lottie Jane Reilly; Laurence, who married Aline Lastrapes; Frozard, who died in 1927; Cora, who married George Guidry; Louise (who is director of the Acadian Handicraft project of Louisiana State University Extension Division).

Other children of Alexandre were Aimee, who married Jules Godfroy, of Paris, France, first, and second, Joseph Pascal of Mexico; George; (who died shortly after birth); Jules, who married Edna Gardner; Celeste married Robert Schallaire; Ben married first Mary Barry, then Edith Barry; Alexander married Alice Speyer; Lelia married Louis Bajde sarell.

The Olivier home in Prairie des Femmes

is a typical old French home of this section, with its very long open gallery decorated with nicely turned railing and balustrades. It is a story and a half dwelling, set in old fashioned plantings of shrubs and trees that shade the long gallery. The Oliviers have many interesting old portraits and heirlooms of the historic families from which they are descended.

It is interesting to note that Louise, the youngest of this large family, is preserving for future generations the customs, manners, traditions and crafts of the French Acadian people of Louisiana. She is well-known all over the country for her work, and is constantly traveling around into the French communities, where she is director of the effort by the state to preserve the French heritage in Louisiana.

# HILLIARD'S



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OPELOUSAS**

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Picture dates back to 1904. It was located next to the present Episcopal Church on East Landry Street. At this time it was a blacksmith and coffin shop.

Modern throughout, the Funeral Home is completely air-conditioned and is located in the heart of the city. They have four ambulances, hearses, and extra cars, and six people are employed in various capacities.

Also affiliated with the company is Lafond Life Insurance Company. It was founded on August 1, 1938 and is the only domestic company in the parish doing Industrial Insurance Business.

In 1904, Mr. Joseph Lafond went into business with Mr. A. A. Crouchet. They owned and operated a blacksmith and coffin shop. It was then known as Lafond & Crouchet. This partnership lasted ten years but was later dissolved.

Mr. Lafond then went to work for his uncle, Mr. J. B. Sandoz, in the hardware and undertaking business. He worked here for 31 years.

Then on November 25, 1936, he purchased from Miss Rita Sandoz a funeral home. It is the present Lafond & Son Funeral home and is located at 329 N. Main Street in Opelousas, Louisiana.

He was president and manager of the firm until his death on November 14, 1947. At this time Mr. Louis Didier Lafond, his son, was Secretary-Treasurer of the firm, but at the death of his father he was made President and Manager, a position he still holds today. Mrs. Joseph Lafond was then Secretary-Treasurer, but resigned five years ago leaving the position to her daughter, Miss Aline Lafond.

The oldest and one of the finest funeral homes in St. Landry Parish, Lafond & Son, Inc., has been providing efficient and dignified service to the community for almost twenty years.





# TOWN OF SUNSET

**"Yam Capital Of U. S. A."**



Along about 1890 it was decided to call this community Sibilleville. Then a conductor on the Sunset Limited, which used to go thru the Village, asked that it be called Sunset, after the train. It was originally incorporated Sept. 10, 1891. On Nov. 13, 1904 the Village of Sunset was incorporated under the General Municipal Act. No. 136 of 1898 by the Louisiana Legislature. Sunset was incorporated as a Town in 1949 on November 16th.

At present, Sunset is striving for many municipal improvements. After the present street surfacing project is complete, all major streets will be hard surfaced. The town of Sunset owns its own Water and Gas Systems.

More Yams are shipped from Sunset than any other town in the country, hence is rightfully known as the "Yam Capital of U. S. A."

#### **TOWN OFFICIALS:**

**John B. Sibille, Mayor**  
**Pierre Thomas, Marshal**  
**Leo Sibille, Clerk**  
**J. A. Cummings, Ass't Clerk**

#### **ALDERMEN**

**Alvin Breaux**  
**J. Earl Cummings**  
**J. L. Domengeaux**  
**August Gonsoulin**  
**Euclide Landry**



# Barry Home in G. Coteau

Set back in a grove of ancient pine trees, the old Barry home across from St. Charles College in Grand Coteau has been the residence of one of the prominent families of Louisiana since its erection about 1820. Since its original construction at that time by Robert Barry of Ireland, it has been added to until it assumed its present shape—a charming raised home, with central hall, three rooms deep. A cellar runs under the house and was once part of the main living quarters.

A grand old lady lives in this house, Mrs. Edward Victor Barry—Born Rita Celestine Simon, daughter of Judge Arthur Simon and Marie Dejean. She was married to the late Edward Victor Barry, son of Sylvester J. Barry, who was the pioneer resident of Grand Coteau and built the old home. He was married to a Miss Redmond in Grand Coteau in the "new" church of St. Charles, which had just been constructed.

Now 88 years of age Mrs. Barry lives in the old home with her daughter, Mathilde. Her paternal grandfather, Edward Simon, was the distinguished Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana under the administration of Governor Roman, from 1841 to 1869.

Edward Simon's wife, Eugenie, was descended from the Fuseller family—she was a native of St. Martin Parish.

Judge Simon had come to this country from Belgium at the age of eighteen, and was educated at Harvard. While there his classmate was Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and it was Edward Simon who inspired that celebrated author to write "Evangeline," by telling him stories of the landing of the Acadians at St. Martinsville after the "Grand Derangement."

Arthur Simon received most of his education at old Jefferson College, in St. James Parish, and graduated from that institution in 1859. In 1861 he began law studies in the office of his father's famous friend, Christian Roselius, and attended lectures at Louisiana Law School during that year.

In 1862 after returning to his home in St. Martinsville he enlisted in the Confederate Army, and was made a First Lieutenant in the Yellow Jacket Battalion, commanded by Col. V. Fournet, which was afterward consolidated with the 18th Louis-

iana Infantry. In 1864 he was promoted from Captain to Major of Company K of that Regiment, and was with Gen. E. Kirby Smith at the time of his surrender.

After the war he resumed his law studies in the office of his father at St. Martinsville but soon after was forced to abandon his intended profession to take charge of his father's large sugar estate in St. Mary parish. He was married in St. Landry parish in 1865 to Miss Marie Dejean, daughter of Jean Baptiste Dejean and Celestine Peytavin. Several years later he moved to St. Landry parish near Leonville, where he managed the large sugar estate of his wife's father.

Their children were Rita, wife of B. V. Barry of Grand Coteau; Lillie, wife of J. G. Durand of St. Martinsville; Marie, wife of Charles L. Voorhies of New Iberia; Leopold, and Sidonie married to John T. Rutledges.

In 1879 Mrs. Simon died, and Judge Simon married her sister, Mathilde Dejean.

Judge Simon was admitted to the bar before the supreme court at Opelousas in 1886, and practiced law for a number of years.

A lovely and gracious lady, Mrs. Barry is a delightful raconteur who remembers the past with vivid anecdotes—and who still lives for the present enjoyment of today. Highly educated and cultured, she is an unforgettable personality.

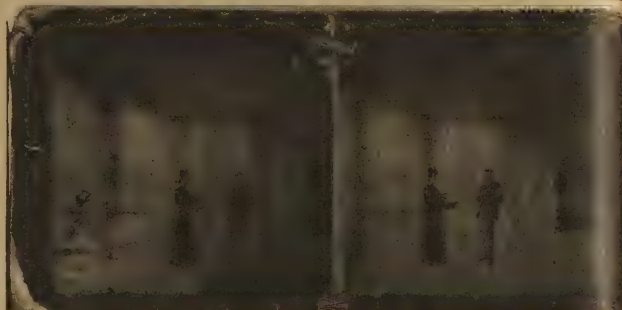
Her husband was related to the Smith family, of which we have related in connection with our history of Grand Coteau. Charles Smith, first of his line in this parish, was responsible through his generous donation of land for the church, Sacred Heart Convent, and St. Charles College at Grand Coteau. He gave enough land for large farms, for both institutions. Charles Smith was buried in 1820 in the little church which he had built, and re-interred in the present structure. Many descendants of the Smith family still live in Grand Coteau, and a genealogical history of the Smiths and Barrys has been traced by Mother Caroline Smith, Rupert Barry, and Sister Mary Cecilia Barry (daughter of Rupert Barry).

Many members of the Smith and Barry family have followed the religious life, as is traced in this interesting history.

# J. R. Barry Residence



ON A HILL just overlooking the Grand Coteau Woods stands this lovely old place of the R. J. Barry's. In a beautiful setting of live oaks, and standing at a nice elevation, it forms an impressive and dignified appearance. The house is typical of the homes of the to-do planters of the early 1800's, and excellent repair.



VIEW ON GALLERY OF OLD ST. CHARLES COLLEGE—One of the Jesuit Fathers stands with John Frozard on the gallery in this rare photograph of St. Charles College. There are very few photographs extant of the Old College, which was founded in 1837, destroyed by fire to be rebuilt in its present form in 1909. The first St. Charles College building was a log cabin—the building shown was erected several years after the founding of the college.

## BUT YES and "MAIS OUI" ... We Handle Only The Best!



OWNERS  
Left to right  
ODON LEGER  
SAM GOTHELF  
DOMINICK CULOTTIA

The above new potato shed was recently completed and is now ready for operation, starting the season with Irish potatoes and will be ready for sweet potatoes in July.

Mr. Leger has had many years experience in sweet potatoes. He was formerly associated with C. M. Devalcourt. He started in business for himself in May 1954. On Feb. 14, 1955 his shed, filled with potatoes was completely de-

The new building  
just completed



## ST. LANDRY PACKING CO.

Odom Leger, Manager  
Sunset, Louisiana

stroyed by fire. Mr. Leger didn't lose courage. He immediately started the new building which has the very best of new equipment installed in it. He is plugging harder than ever and expects to soon gain back what he lost.



# Growing With the Community, and Helping the Community Grow!



"YESTERDAY" ... in 1906

**THE FIRST OFFICERS**  
 Frank Dimmick ..... President  
 A. J. Gaschen ..... Vice-President  
 E. V. Barry ..... Vice-President  
 Lloyd Franques ..... Cashier

**DIRECTORS**  
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 W. J. Boudreau  
 Frank Dimmick  
 Gaston Horaist  
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 Francois Miller

OPENED FOR BUSINESS APRIL 16, 1906



TODAY'S FINE BUILDING



**PRESENT OFFICERS**

WALTER SIBILLE, Chairman of the Board

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 J. L. DOMENGEAUX ..... Cashier  
 A. C. BARRY ..... Ass't. Cashier  
 ANTOINE BAJAT, Jr. .... Ass't. Cashier

**DIRECTORS:**

Romain A. Castille	Ernest Domengeaux
J. E. Cummings	Lloyd Franques
J. C. Dimmick	Frank Olivier
	Walter Sibille



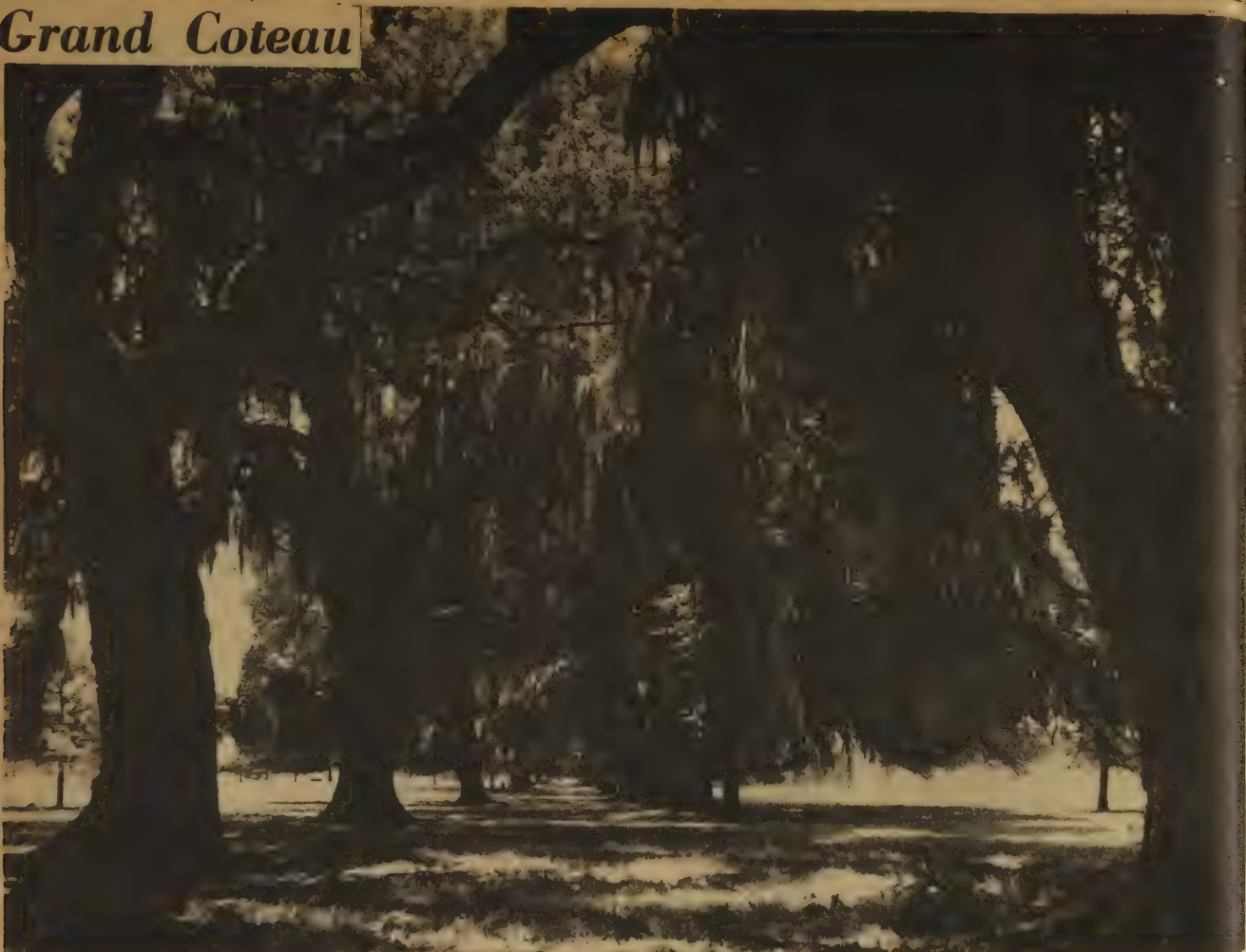
# Bank of Sunset & Trust Company

1906

A Friendly Institution  
SUNSET, LA.



# Grand Coteau



OAK ALLEE in front of Sacred Heart convent at Grand Coteau is a beautiful, moss-laden scene most typically Louisiana. (Daily World Photos by Deville).

The way we used to look



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# GUILBEAU ESSO SERVICENTER

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A Complete Line of Esso Products  
SUNSET, LA.





ACADEMY of the Sacred Heart at Grand Coteau.



OLD KITCHEN WING at the convent in Grand Coteau.



BRICK BARN at the convent in Grand Coteau.

early documents of the parish, was a large landowner of this section. Land from his plantation was donated to the church for a convent, and the others of the Sacred Heart came from France in 1821 to establish a school for young ladies of the territory. Blessed Philippine Duchesne, a pioneer in education in North America, founded many schools all over the continent, and Mother Eugénie Aude, foundress of Grand Coteau Convent, was under her direction for some years, having worked with her in the establishment of some of the early Sacred Heart Schools.

For a decade school was held in a small structure, and in 1830 the nucleus of the present school was built, comprising what is now the Academy. This historic building is a three-storied brick structure, with an open gallery supported by slender iron posts and ornamented with wrought iron railings. The pitched roof has dormers across the entire length. Green shutters enhance the high windows and French doors, all of which are enclosed with handsome woodwork, and ornamented with attractive old iron hardware.

Landscaping is part of the charm of the old building, to which additions have been made through the years. Some of the planting in the front includes camellias, sweet olives, azaleas, boxwood and bulbs and rosebushes that have grown to unbelievable size through the many years that they have been planted. Avenues of pine and moss-hung live oaks shadow the paths that extend across lovely rolling acres.

St. Charles College was built by Jesuits in 1837, as a school for boys and young men of

the southwest Louisiana area. For many years its white-columned ante-bellum portico welcomed the young gentlemen of Louisiana. Destroyed by fire in 1908, it was rebuilt, as it now stands. No longer in use as an open college, it serves as a seminary to educate young men for the Jesuit priesthood. The change from college to seminary was made after the World War I, in 1922.

Together the two schools occupy about a thousand acres of land.

For some years, the settlement that grew up around the two schools was called "St. Charles Town", and later came to be called Grand Coteau.

Among interesting buildings around the old Convent are the slave quarters, that once housed body servants of wealthy young ladies who came to the school. Members of the faculty now reside in these quarters.

The brick barn with its arched doors is an unusual building, and stands to the rear of the main structure.

LaCuisine, the old kitchen wing, is still serving for its original purpose, a long one-storied wing with open gallery on both sides.

In the Chapel, a winding staircase leads to the choir-loft. Most of the parlor furnishings of the Convent are antique. They add much to the elegance and charm of the newly constructed college building, which was designed to harmonize with the original structure.

A special small chapel on the second floor adjacent to the cloistered community is dedicated to St. John Berchmans, young Jesuit Saint who appeared to a postulant, Mary Wilson, in 1866, and effected a miraculous cure.

Steeped in tradition and culture, Grand Coteau is the most picturesque and beautiful spot in St. Landry parish, with its old live oaks in long allees across the rolling "green coteaus" from which the town gets its name. Situated atop the Grand Coteau Ridge, the

town is a souvenir from the past with most of the houses that are standing today over a century old. Like Washington, it has changed very little, save that everything is growing older gracefully.

Steur Charles Smith, as he is referred to in

# Whenever Sunset Builds... We're Right There Helping



SAND GRAVEL  
HARDWARE  
ROOFS PAINTS  
VARNISHES

LUMBER  
SASH DOORS  
BRICK CEMENT  
LIME



1929

E. A. Cummings, Sec.-Treas.  
E. E. Dugal, Mgr.

Geo. J. Boudreaux, Pres.  
R. J. Barry, Vice-Pres.

1955

## SUNSET FARMERS LUMBER COMPANY, INC.

Retail Lumber And Building Material  
SUNSET, LA.





Center is shown the first bottle of Squirt bottled on April 28, 1947 at 9 p.m. in Sunset plant. Hires Root Beer, on left, and Sun-Lou beverages (in eight delicious flavors) have recently been added.



**SQUIRT**  
Co.  
**ST. L.**  
And Adj

*If sweet soft drinks leave you thirsty... then*



Home of Squirt Bottling Co., Inc., Sunset, La.



New management of the plant includes Arbert D. Steele, left, vice president and sales manager; and Basil G. "Bud" Jenkins, secretary-treasurer and plant manager.

**Never**  
Fresh, clean after y

SWITCH  
**SQUIRT**

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**SQUIRT BOTTLING CO.**  
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Now under New  
OLIVER DEVALCOURT, President  
BASIL G. JENKINS, Secretary-Treasurer  
DEALERS —



# SQUIRT

TRADE-MARK

# ANDRY

Parishes



## SQUIRT

### after-thirst

Drink Squirt... Fresh, clean taste  
Squirt... Never an after-thirst!

Yes, if sweet soft drinks leave you reaching for a water-chaser, then Switch to Squirt—the one soft drink that can say and prove—Never an after-thirst!



When you serve mixed drinks, and when you drink, be smooth about it...Switch to Squirt, the SMOOTH mixer.



## G CO., INC.

and Management  
**ARBERT F. STEELE, Vice-President**  
Secretary-Treasurer  
5522 For Service

The Squirt Bottling Company plant was built in Sunset in 1947 by Oliver DeValcourt, prominent sweet potato grower and buyer and leader in civic affairs of this area. The first bottle of Squirt produced by the company was bottled at 9 p.m. on April 28th of that year. This original bottle is still on display in the present offices of the company. At that time Mr. DeValcourt and his brother-in-law and partner, Albert H. Burleigh, also of Sunset, operated the plant and Leo Sibille was the original bottler. Albert Bailey is the only man of the original crew who is still working in the plant.

Other prominent local men who have been connected with the plant in the past include John Sibille, mayor of Sunset; Preston Clay, Carlys Sibille, Edward Lavergne and Howard Broussard, all of Sunset and J. S. Sibille, Ray Dugal and John States of Opelousas.

The company thrived for a few years until the lucrative sweet potato industry claimed the interest of those who had been most influential in the Squirt promotion and the thrill of flying called Albert Burleigh, now a major in the U. S. Air Force, back to the air lanes.

Then for a while the local plant succumbed to the more aggressive sales campaigns of other bottling competitors and to the somewhat lackadaisical methods of its own production and promotions until the winter of this year.

In January Mr. DeValcourt interested two young men, Mr. Arbert D. Steele and Basil G. "Bud" Jenkins, connected with the beverage industry in Miami, Fla., to purchase an interest in the Squirt Bottling Company of Sunset.

Mr. Steele, a native of South Carolina, had been in Miami for the last 28 years. For the past several years he has been a service representative of the parent Squirt Company of Sherman Oaks, Calif. Mr. Steele was very successful, covering the Southeastern states, visiting many of the Squirt bottlers in his area putting on sales promotions, advertising campaigns and in general boosting sales throughout the entire territory.

Mr. Jenkins is from Boston, Mass. and for the last six years also lived in Miami where he was one of the leading salesmen for the Southern Beverage company, the largest soft drink bottler in Florida, and also a Squirt producer and distributor.

Both Mr. Steele and Mr. Jenkins were greatly responsible for the rapid growth of Squirt sales and customer acceptance in the Miami area.

These two gentlemen arrived in Sunset on February the eighth and the tides of fortune of the bottling plant almost immediately swung into a phenomenal upward surge.

The first step was to effect a complete reorganization of the company right down the line from management, personnel, production and business policies. A charter as a corporation was applied for and received so that now the company is officially known as the Squirt Bottling Company, Incorporated. The officers of the corporation are as follows: President, Oliver DeValcourt; Vice President, Arbert D. Steele; Secretary-Treasurer, Basil G. Jenkins. Mr. Jenkins is plant manager and Mr. Steele is sales manager of the new organization.

A solid program for progress was laid out and followed aggressively. The first step was to put the production machinery and equipment in first rate operating condition. The bottle washer and soaker was the first to receive the examination and renovation by the manufacturers engineer who came from Wisconsin for the process. Next two new pre-filling inspection light stations were installed. The filtering system was drained of all old materials and new activated carbon and other filtering agents installed. Then the carbonator, water cooler and compressor felt the results of attention of expert mechanics and technicians. All pipe lines carrying water, gas or syrup were thoroughly inspected, cleaned and sterilized and now receive a sterilization procedure twice daily.

The final overhaul was made on the complicated filling machine and all valves were remade by Al Angelo, chief engineer of the Chas. E. Hires Co., who flew from Philadelphia, Penn. to give the machine his personal attention.

The next step was the rolling stock to bring the merchandise to your favorite dealer. All the trucks were put into top-flight condition mechanically, one truck was newly painted. One new route truck and another pickup was added to the fleet and at this writing they are awaiting delivery of another brand new route truck. A plan was instituted for complete periodical checkups and repairs by a local dealer and a system calling for a thorough washing of each truck after the day's run was also installed.

The next major step was in the quality control of the beverages themselves. The very finest of syrup concentrates and flavorings were purchased and exact formulas and carbonation points were worked out to give the best possible flavors.

This department is presided over by Joseph Caillais, Jr., plant foreman from Sunset and formerly with the Vermillion Wholesale Drug company. Mr. Caillais insists that every formula be followed to the exact fraction of an ounce thus assuring that every bottle produced here is of the topmost quality and flavor.

Extensive promotions and sales campaigns were instituted to increase the sales of Squirt, the popular grapefruit drink with never an after-thirst. Squirt is the ideal two-way drink equally good as a soft drink alone or as a mixer with your favorite gin, whiskey, vodka, rum or wine. Several grocers in your area held demonstrations and samplings in their stores. Watch for more of them soon.

Next came the development and perfection of the company's own familiar brand of popular delicious flavors—"Sun-Lou beverages." In addition to the usual line many new flavors to whet your taste buds have been developed. These popular flavors now include strawberry, orange, cherry, peach, chocolate (discontinued for the summer), grape, cream soda and pineapple. At this writing, Mr. Jenkins says that he is also developing a delicious new raspberry flavor which will go into production as soon as perfected and should be on your grocer's shelves within the next few days.

The aggressiveness and progressiveness of the present management was further proven by the awarding to the Sunset firm of the Hires Root Beer franchise for this area. This is the oldest, finest and most famous of all the nationally known and distributed root beers in the entire country. Only those bottling plants which can pass the most rigid inspection as to sanitation, production and sales potential specifications are awarded a franchise from this firm. Another feather in the cap for the Sunset bottlers.

Mr. Steel installed a systematic plan for the route salesmen. First he uniformed all the men then set up new routes covering the expansion into other sections, set up higher wage scales and instituted an incentive system to increase the sales and earnings of all the salesmen. At present, Mr. Steele says he has two separate contests in full swing. In one contest the driver salesmen all may win several prizes in merchandise and the top driver in this "Squirt Fiesta" contest will be entered in a contest with other top Squirt salesmen throughout the nation with the top prize being an all expense paid trip to Mexico for both he and his wife.

In the other contest Mr. Steele says, "This is a contest with both the parent Hires Root Beer Co. and our own management putting up cash and merchandise for the two top salesmen in the period."

The jet-like growth of the plant under the new administration has already been published in a recent edition of the Daily World but some of the startling figures bear repeating here. According to Mr. Jenkins, plant manager of the corporation, during their first sixteen weeks of operating under the new name and new policies business has increased over 1700 per cent thus maintaining their average rate of growth of at least a 100 per cent per week gain over previous production and sales figures. On June 11th this year, four months and three days from the start, they surpassed the total production figures for the entire year of 1954. Mr. Jenkins further said that this phenomenal rate of growth is expected to be maintained or even climb higher with the present advent of the Hires Root Beer promotion and with the aid of a current Squirt advertising promotion tie-in with one of the major brand liquor dealers represented in this locality by the Magnolia Liquor Company in Lafayette.

Since the middle of March they have added 1400 cases of Squirt bottles and 3200 of the new large size 10 ounce Sun-Lou bottles and also purchased 4500 new wooden cases.

The Squirt plant is also enlarging on its aggressive advertising campaign by putting up billboards and booths in local ball parks and recreation areas, sponsoring the Press Box Preview over KLFY heard at 6:45 p.m., broadcasting sports events over KVOL, have inserted ads in the local Opelousas buses and are planning on extending their advertising in local newspapers, radio stations and entering the television medium.

Other innovations installed by Mr. Steele and Mr. Jenkins include painting the building inside and out, instituting a sales training course, a company participating program of accident and hospitalization insurance, uniforms for the plant workers and a series of barbecues, fish fries and other social events for the entire crew and their families.

At present the personnel roster of the company includes in addition to Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Steele, Joseph Caillais, Jr., plant foreman, John Mouton, Alan Steele, Albert Bailey, Joseph Mouton, Moses Gaye, Preston Olivier, Francis Richard, all of Sunset, and Wilman J. Olivier of Opelousas.





OLD SLAVE QUARTERS at Grand Coteau.



OLD VIEW at Sacred Heart Convent, Grand Coteau (a loan by Francis LaSalle Jr.)



VIEW in chapel at Grand Coteau, showing circular stairway.



YEARS AGO this view of the Chapel interior at Sacred Heart Convent, Grand Coteau was taken, apparently by or for a Louise Mistic, according to name on rear of photo. (A loan by Francis LaSalle Jr.)

# We Believe Your Best "Deal" Is the Old "Fair Deal"

YOU ALWAYS GET A FAIR DEAL FROM CASTILLE & GONSOULIN



August Gonsoulin



Office and Potato Shear

## CASTILLE & GONSOULIN

BUYERS AND SHIPPERS

"Sunset Favorite Brand" — "Golden Feast"

Leo J. Castille

Sunset, Louisiana

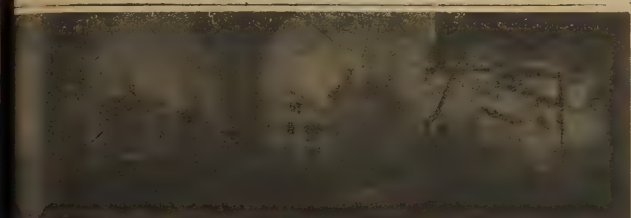
August A. Gonsoulin



# Frank Brinkhaus Home



AN OLD-TIMEY STORE that is now abandoned, the Frank Brinkhaus store has a pair projecting showcases that displayed many wares in old days. Iron bars and hinges on battered doors and shutters are all hand wrought. The old Brinkhaus residence is next to the store, and is presently unoccupied. (Daily World Photo by Deville).



THREE VIEWS OF THE OLD ST. CHARLES COLLEGE BUILDINGS—In these three views of the St. Charles college may be seen the three main buildings of the old campus—the main building four and a half stories high, built in typical Greek Revival style. It was a beautiful well-proportioned brick and plaster structure, and when it was gutted by fire in 1899 people all over the South regretted the loss of the old landmark. Note the clock on the top of the building which can be seen in all three shots. Letters on the pediment read "God & Country" in Latin. The priests home is a two story and a half dwelling of typical plantation house style, and from its architecture may be taken to be older than the main building. At the opposite side of the main building is a three storied building.



This one was ready for the first bale after the other burned and has been in operation ever since.

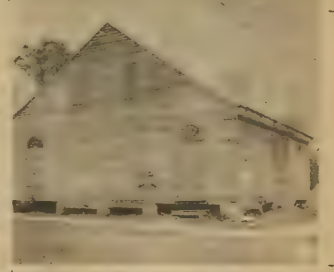
# Simon Levy Home



On the highway between Sunset and Carencro is the plantation of Mr. and Mrs. Simon Levy. Their lovely old house stands in the midst of great live oaks, whose moss-hung branches festoon the entrance to the home. Large azalea and flowering shrubs are planted in the garden, adding to the charm of this ante-bellum plantation house. It is part of a large plantation that extends to the Bayou Carron, to the boundaries of St. Landry Parish. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

# Petetai's

THE LARGE FRAME BUILDING that stands on the corner of the road turning to the Convent from Grand Coteau has long been a landmark. It was Petetai's store. Now unoccupied, it is a relic of old stores that served the community for generations. The home that stood near it was demolished several years ago, and was one of the lovely and imposing old places in Grand Coteau.



This gin was remodeled from a one-stand gin in 1890. It burned to the ground in 1914.



# SIBILLE BROS.

L. G. Sibille  
GINNERS & COTTON BUYERS  
R.F.D. No. 1

Jules Sibille  
BUYERS  
Sunset, La.





ORIGINAL Bank of Sunset building was erected in 1906, served until recently as home of this stable institution, now replaced by modern structure at Sunset. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

RELAX and ENJOY YOURSELF in MODERN SURROUNDINGS in MODERN SUNSET



**LEDOUX'S  
BAR & LOUNGE**  
C. M. Ledoux, owner  
**SUNSET LA.**  
Air-Conditioned

**Miss Annie Dunbar's Andrus Home G. Coteau.**



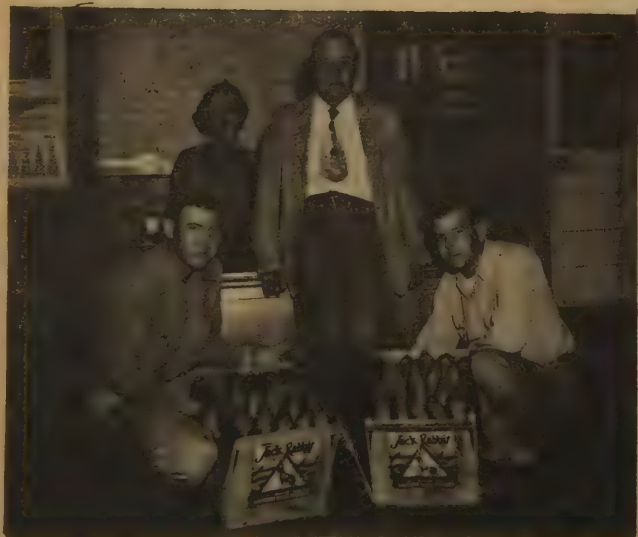
**PAINED PINK**, the house is one of the lovely old places in Grand Coteau, residence of Miss Annie Dunbar, descendant of one of the fine old families of this section. It stands across from St. Peter Claver School. (Daily World Photo by Deville).



AMONG THE NICELY KEPT old homes at Grand Coteau is the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Odell Andrus. Mrs. Andrus was the former Emma Meche, and this was the old Charles Meche place. Both the Andrus and Meche families are large and well-known in the Grand-Coteau area.

With an immaculately kept garden of old camellias and neatly trimmed hedging, the house presents a charming appearance. The front gallery is ornamented with a latticed trim added of recent years, but in keeping with the style of architecture.

**SWEETS TO THE SWEET**  
**Walter J. Sibille, Inc. Supplies Sweets To The Nation**  
**Famous JACK RABBIT And SUNSET GOLDEN BEAUTIES**



The firm of Walter J. Sibille, Inc., was originally Southern Sweet Potato Exchange. It was bought out by Walter J. Sibille and became the present corporation. It is managed by Horaist and Donald Sibille.

The Jack Rabbit brand, one of the oldest labels on the sweet potato market, was purchased in 1923 from the Magnolia Corporation of Mississippi. Other well known No. 1 brands of Walter J. Sibille, Inc., are "Sunset Golden Beauties" and "Twin Jacks."

"Brown's Beauty" and "Sibille's Brand" are popular No. 2's.

Left to right in picture:  
Horaist Sibille, Vice President; Mrs. Sibille, Bookkeeper; Walter J. Sibille, President; Donald Sibille, Secretary-Treasurer.

**WALTER J. SIBILLE, INC.**

Shipper of  
**Quality Sweet Potatoes**  
**SUNSET, LA.**





# Oge Home, Grand Coteau



SET AT THE END of a long avenue of oaks, the Oge Home has for many years greeted the visitor to Grand Coteau, standing at the entrance to town. Like most of

the homes in Grand Coteau it is well kept and has been lived in for many years by the well-known Oge family.

# Burleigh Home



ST. CHARLES CHURCH at Grand Coteau, published in 1818—This rare photograph of the first church of St. Charles at Grand Coteau was preserved by members of the writer family of the Prairie des Femmes. St. Charles Church, Founded in 1818, this was the third Catholic Church in this area, preceded only by St. Landry and St. Martin. The first pastor of the Church was Father Arcule Brassac. Standing on the extreme right of the photograph is Joseph Frozard, whose daughter (now in her nineties) is Mrs. Agricole Olivier, widow of the prominent St. Landry planter.

THE BURLEIGHS were early settlers in St. Landry Parish, most of them establishing their homes in the Arnaudville and Grand Coteau neighborhoods. The residence of Richard Burleigh at Grand Coteau, situated just out of the town, is one of the oldest homes hereabouts. It has been considerably remodeled, thus altering the original appearance of the home. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

## BEAUTY IS AS BEAUTY DOES



And We do your clothes beautifully  
Expert Cleaning, Pressing and Moth-Proofing  
Over 17 years in the cleaning business . . .



6 Years in our present location.  
**SUNSET CLEANERS**  
Dial North 2-3108  
SUNSET, LA.



# GROWING With The Sweet Potato Industry Since 1932

In 1932 we started in business with a small volume of approximately 15 cars annually. We are now shipping over 600 cars a year. We are proud to be a part of the industry which has played such a large part in the economic history of St. Landry Parish.

## RICHARD

Blue Book

AND

Red Book

## SMITH

Produce Buyers  
Sunset, La.  
SMOKEY JIM BRAND SWEET POTATOES  
Milton Richard, Sales Mgr.  
Shown in picture



# Old Homes Grand Coteau



AMONG THE NICE old homes in Grand Coteau is the residence of Mrs. Mouret Smith, and her two daughters, Rena and Mabel Smith. Her husband, the late Mouret Smith, was a direct descendant of Steur Charles Smith, from whose large grant came the acreage on which is built The Academy of the Sacred Heart.

Charles Smith was one of the prominent citizens of the early 1800's, and his name is found recurring in many records and documents of the times. It was through the generosity of the Smith family that the Sacred Heart Mothers came to St. Landry Parish and es-

ablished the first school for women in this section.

There are a number of old homes in this type around the Parish, all of them built about 1800 to 1830. Most of them were plastered inside, with the nice detailing of woodwork that is to be seen on this home. A pitched roof with a chimney at either end and long open gallery is a pattern that our ancestors found most suitable for this southern climate.

The Smith home is in good repair, painted white with green shutters.

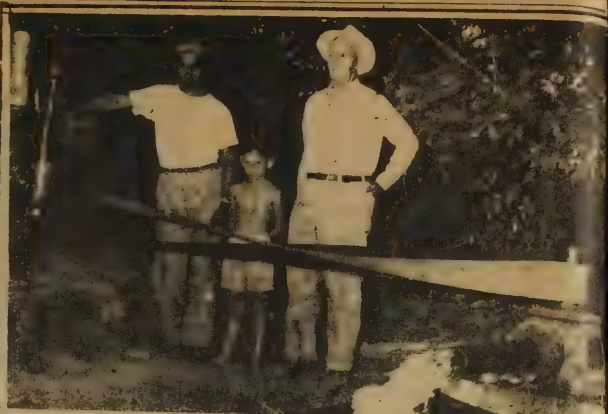


Photo above, left to right, Charles Smith, Malcolm Couvillon, stepson, and his father, John Smith, looking over pump used to water 20 acres used by Smith's Nursery . . . Photo below shows part of their field under irrigation.



Smith's Nursery started as a hobby in the back yard of the late Mr. John Smith, the original owner, more than 25 years ago. It has grown steadily and now covers 20 acres. A well and pump, shown above, were added 5 years ago. This modern irrigation adds greatly to the growth and health of the plants and trees. Mr. Charles Smith, a son, manages the nursery now. He has a complete line of shrubbery, fruit, citrus and pecan trees.

## SMITH'S NURSERY

LANDSCAPING — SPRAYING      WHOLESAL AND RETAIL  
Member of La. Nurserymen's Association and La. Horticultural Association  
Phone North 2-3119 (Sunset Exchange)      GRAND COTEAU, LA.

### POLICE JURORS, 101 YEARS AGO

Members of the police jury of St. Landry parish in 1854 were:

John P. Hudson, president, Elisha Andrus, Francois C. Devillier, John C. Bary, Joseph E. Andrus, Antoine B. Carte, David Young, Elbert Gantt, Charles Teale, Villeneuve Joubert, John Wright, Leon Thibodeaux, Jonathan Harris, Joseph Z. Fonteno, Auguste Solleau and Thomas McCrory.

pound. "Quite cheap for a Prairie Parish," commented The Opelousas Courier on March 11, 1854.

### ST. LANDRY OFFICIALS, 1854

The following appointive officials were named to office by the police jury in early 1854, with their annual salaries:

Clerk, Guy H. Bell, \$400; parish treasurer and treasurer for school funds, Robert Bengual, \$500; Parish attorney, B. A. Martel, \$125; Constable, Addison Andrus, \$200; physician, Dr. James Ray, \$175; printer, Sandoz & Meynier, \$500.

### 10 CENTS MEAT

The price of meat at the Opelousas Market house in March, 1854, was 10 cents a

**SHELL TRUCKERS SERVICE**  
Produce Loading  
All Loads Insured  
Olly Savoy, Prop.  
Phone North 2-5243  
Sunset, La.  
Office in  
Richard's Sinclair Station

Combined Service

We take care of You in one stop

**RICHARD'S Sinclair Station**  
Under New Management of Dale and Desmond Richard  
Hotel and Cafe  
Sinclair Gas & Oil  
Goodyear Tires  
Tubes and Accessories

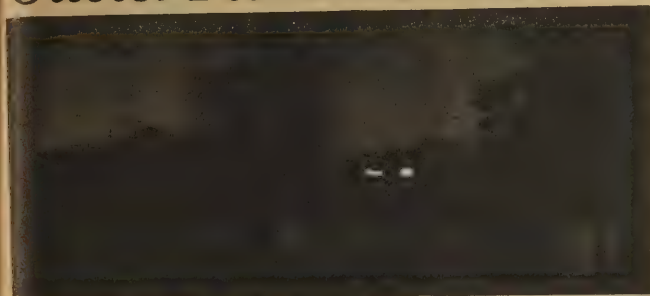


# Cemetery at Grand Coteau



A ROW OF ANCIENT oaks planted in staggered fashion center the graveyard at Grand Coteau, which stands at the rear of the Parish Church. There are some very old and historic graves in this cemetery, with many odd wrought iron crosses, and inscriptions in French.

# Olivier Plantation House



OLIVIER PLANTATION HOUSE on Bayou Bourbeau in Prairie des Femmes, as viewed here, shows it to have been a typical river plantation house that was similar to those built by most of the early French settlers in Louisiana. The view is from the rear and shows the carriage entrance. A pigeoniere stands on either side of the house. The present Olivier home, which is also a very old one, is said to have been moved out to its present location from the town of Grand Coteau.

All of these old photographs loaned to us by the Oliviers are of especial interest in that they are arranged for viewing with a stereoscope, which makes the pictures thus seen three-dimensional and very sharp and clear although they are yellowed with age.

**KING COTTON Goes To  
J & W SIBILLE CO. In Sunset**



**And Sweet Potatoes ... Too!**



**J & W  
SIBILLE CO.**

**Cotton Ginners  
Sweet Potato Buyers  
and Shippers  
Sunset, La.**



**Superior Service For YOU  
... and Your Car**



**C. M. DEVALCOURT**

**Pan-Am  
CAFE AND COURTS**

**U. S. 167 Sunset, La.**

**Specializing in Sizzling Steaks**

**24 Hour Service**



**in SUNSET we SUPPLY  
YOUR NEEDS!**



**Modern Goods From A Modern Store**

**SUNSET SUPPLY  
HARDWARE — APPLIANCES**

**Admiral TV Whirlpool Washers**

**Wall Paper**

**Pittsburgh Paint**

**Phone North 2-5249**

**SUNSET, LA.**





The above Plat represents a tract of Land surveyed for the Heirs of Luke Collins Decd. situated in the Prairie Petite Bois on the waters of Bayou Teche being the continuity of a tract of eighteen arpents front by forty in depth on the S. E. side of said Bayou, being bounded, formed & marked as represented in the above Plat Janry. 30th 1811

*William Darby*  
Deputy Surveyor

A SURVEY OF LAND in St. Landry parish on Jan. 30, 1811, is shown above. "The above plat," reads the inscription below the plat, which is from files in the parish clerk's office, "represents a tract of land surveyed for the heirs of Luke Collins, Decd., situated in the Prairie Petite Bois on the waters of Bayou Teche, being the continuity of a tract of eighteen arpents front by forty in depth on the S. E. side of said bayou, being bounded formed and marked as represented in the above plat, Janry, 30th, 1811." The plat was signed by William Darby, Deputy Surveyor. A honey locust tree, a sweet gum and a post formed three of the four corner markers. Owner of the property to the left was Juliet Hollier; Heirs of Luke Collins owned that to the right, and E. Collins that to the north. This was one of the many plats and surveys for the heirs of this leading pioneer settler.

# 52 YEARS

Serving The Public  
1903 — 1955



## Photo of MILLER'S STORE

Rene Miller, Owner  
General Merchandise-Pecan Dealer  
Frigidaire Appliances  
Package Liquor  
Furniture

Phone North 2-5416 P. O. Box 33  
Grand Coteau, La.

## Town of Grand Coteau 1821 — 1955 Grand Coteau, La.

The origin of Grand Coteau dates back to 1821, when Sieur Charles Smith, a large land owner in this section, donated land to the church for a convent. The convent was founded by Mother Eugenie Aude and called "Grand Coteau." In 1837 St. Charles College was built. The settlement that grew up around the two schools was originally called "St. Charles Town," but later became known as Grand Coteau, the name it still holds today.



Pictured is the town water tower and plant, which is municipally owned.



TOWN OFFICIALS — Reading left to right, standing are: Aldermen —C. J. Andrus, Cyrus Roy, Jerome Guidry, Julian Barry, Richard Burleigh, Daniel Laneaux. Seated, left to right: Jack Fox, mayor and Oscar Marks, Clerk.



# The Great Eunice Auction; a City Is Created

# The Crowley Signal.

Per Year.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE PARISH OF ACADIA.

Sample

CROWLEY, LOUISIANA, SEPTEMBER 15, 1894.

## THE EUNICE SALE.

### Four Thousand People on the Ground.

Property Commands Fair Prices—Sales Aggregate About \$25,000.

There was a big crowd that assembled at the new town of Eunice on Wednesday and Thursday, on the occasion of the first sale of town lots. The sale had been liberally advertised throughout the State in both the city and country press, and this advertis-

ing was not without results. There were people from Mississippi, Alabama, Texas and Louisiana. Scarcely a parish in this State was without representation. Large delegations were there from New Orleans, Morgan City, Houma, New Iberia, Abbeville, Patterson, Lake Charles and Opelousas, while no less than 500 Crowley citizens attended either one or both days of the sale.

But the big crowd that was there was small as compared with what it would have been had fair weather prevailed. The heavy rains all along the line of the Southern Pacific for three days previous was heaviest on Tuesday and prevented

many from taking the early trains. Notwithstanding this fact it was a large crowd that went to Eunice on a special Tuesday evening, while Crowley was overrun with guests who stopped off to remain over until the day following. After all our hotels had been filled many were the visitors for whom it was necessary to find accommodations in private families.

The special train starting from Lafayette on Wednesday morning carried more than three hundred Crowley passengers in addition to the large number of visitors who had stopped over here, while several hundred passengers were picked up at other stations along the line. The Crowley brass band and Rayne string band

supplied the music for the trip, as well as for the sale and entertainments at Eunice. When this train arrived there was found to be fully 1,500 visitors already on the ground, most of whom were residents of Acadia and St. Landry and who had made the trip on foot, on horse-back or in buggies or wagons.

The visitors spent a few hours in walking over the town site and inspecting its beautiful location. Not until after 3 o'clock did Hon. C. C. Duson mount the auction table and offer the first lot for sale. It was located one square from the main street and was knocked down in short order to Gus. Fuseller for \$80. Property was offered for sale in different parts of town and a number of bidders found themselves in possession of choice lots at low figures. No time

## THE CROWLEY SIGNAL.



THERE are but few people who haven't seen the "Elephant," but thousands have never seen the rich and fertile lands of this section of the State and the new city of Eunice. If you are one of these you should not miss the

## EXCURSION ON SEPT. 12, 1894,

On which day the auction sale of town lots takes place. Eunice is the terminus of the New Midland Branch and centrally situated in one of the most fertile sections in the world.

## A RICH HARVEST AWAITS THOSE WHO INVEST!

An excursion rate of ONE CENT A MILE over the Southern Pacific and its branches. Tickets good going September 11 and 12; good returning within final limit of all trains. Tickets on sale at all offices along the line.

For further information apply to **W. W. DUSON & BRO. CROWLEY**

SCHEDULE OF TRAINS.					
SEPTEMBER 12 AND 13.					
GOING.			RETURNING.		
a.m.	p.m.		a.m.	p.m.	
8 30	1 20	Lv. Lafayette.....	Ar. 8 30	10 30	
8 40	1 30	" Scott.....	Lv. 8 20	10 20	
8 51	1 41	" Duson.....	" 8 09	10 09	
9 01	1 51	" Roynce.....	" 7 59	9 59	
9 13	2 02	" Crowley.....	" 7 47	9 47	
9 24	2 14	" Estherwood.....	" 7 35	9 35	
9 30	2 20	" Midland Junc.....	" 7 30	9 30	
11 00	3 50	Ar. Eunice.....	Lv. 6 00	8 00	

THIS ADVERTISEMENT in the Crowley Signal of Sept. 1, 1894, invited the country to the auction sale of town lots in newly created Town of Eunice. The sale was held Sept. 12, 1894 (note typographical error on elephant, calling it 1894). Special train

excursions were run at low-cost fare from as far away as New Orleans, and the Signal subsequently reported that 4,000 people attended. C. C. Duson, who, with his brother, W. W., founded the town, was auctioneer.



# Early Newspapers Are Rich Historical Source

(Called from files by Daily World staff)  
A fine source of historic data is a file of early newspapers. Unfortunately, files owned by the Daily World go back only to 1851, although city records show that there were newspapers here much earlier. In the 1820s the Opelousas Gazette was the official journal, and there was competition then between it and a rival publisher.

The front page and Page 2 of one earlier newspaper, the St. Landry Whig of 1844, was made available by Harold Hill Comeau. The Whig, according to Comeau, was published for only about 11 years, from Sept. 25, 1844 to Feb. 25, 1855.

The issue in Comeau's possession was Vol. 1, No. 11, published Thursday Morning, November 11, 1844.

In it we find the following items of interest:

A table of Custom House rates of gold shows that the United States Eagle (old emission) was worth \$10.66, and the new emission \$10. The English Guinea was worth \$5.07, French Double Louis (before 1786) was worth \$9.69, the Frankfurt on the Main Ducat was worth \$2.27, Mexican doubloons \$15.53, Holland Double Rix Dollar \$12.20, Portuguese Dobran \$32.70, Spanish Doubloons (before 1772) \$16.02, and Colombian Doubloons \$15.35.

A list of "latest publications" includes Alexander Dumas' "The Adventures of Capt. Pamphile". A New Orleans book store carried several such advertisements.

Most of the Whig's advertisements came from New Orleans merchants in many lines. P. L. Hebrard, registrar of the General Land Office here, was to hold a public land sale, offering a number of townships, fractions of townships, and sections, on Dec. 30, 1844.

The "New and Beautiful Passenger Steamer ELZABETH," mastered by Captain O. A. Miller, "will run as a Regular Packet Boat between Washington and New Orleans (via the Atchafalaya river) during the low water. Passage and Freight extremely low -- as, for instance, \$1 per bale."

St. Landry Jockey Club races were to be run for four days commencing Nov. 20, according to Wm. Reed, club secretary. Winners will "invariably be paid in gold."

FRANKLIN COLLEGE at Opelousas was to open on the first Monday of November. The Rev. John Burke of Natchitoches was appointed president by the

trustees. Courses to be taught included "the English, French, Spanish, Latin and Greek languages, Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, Etc." Tuition was \$40 per session and boarding \$120 per session.

A. Garrigues, parish judge, announced several probate sales, including the estates of the late Marceline Lebert at Plaquemine Ridge and the late Francois Ardoin.

The Whig announced that it made no promises except political, and that it was outspoken in support of Henry Clay and Theodore Frellaghayse for president and vice-president.

In a bitter editorial, the Whig assailed the lack of transportation, reporting that in certain seasons Opelousas is almost entirely shut off from the world and nearly inaccessible. The editor was particularly upset because it required him 13 days to journey to Opelousas from New Orleans, a trip that normally required three to four days. Low water was the cause. In fact, his boat finally, after great travail (carefully detailed), reached "the Wakshie" at which point the craft could go no further and passengers were rowed the rest of the way in skiffs.

The solution advocated by the Whig was the building of a rail road.

The Whig also bitterly assailed its rival Opelousas newspaper, the Gazette, for reporting on the rejection by the St. Landry parish judge of election returns from Calcasieu. The Whig pointed out that St. Landry had been divided in 1840, the western portion becoming Calcasieu parish, but for election purposes they remained united. The ballots were rejected -- the count having been Whig 42, Democratic 128 -- by Judge Garrigues after the Calcasieu judge reported he had rejected them because of "informality."

Partial and unofficial Louisiana returns on the presidential election have Henry Clay 2,345 votes to James Polk's 2,089. The St. Landry vote for Clay was 297, but the total for Polk was missing, the paper having a hole in it at that point.

Lastie Dupre applied for the appointment to administer the estate of Bill Gullyery.

There were many advertisements from New Orleans in the Whig, but only two local ones: P. Collins offered a winter stock of clothing for men, women and children, and hardware, saddlery and a general assortment of other articles, at Main st., corner of North, Nathan Gilbert of Washington offered white lead and linseed oil.

The Whig charged that election fraud in "Plaquemine and other places" made it possible that "we lost the state."

A group of Opelousas citizens inserted in the Whig a glowing announcement that they had attended private lectures on Mesmerism, which "may be productive of much good in alleviating the sufferings of men." A Mr. Webster gave the lectures, and he was leaving for Alexandria. Those signing the notice were Thos. H. Lewis, W. B. Lewis, John J. Taylor, Lucius Dupre, C. L. Swayze, Nathaniel Ranes, John E. King, R. Taylor, J. Posey, C. H. Porter, Joseph Ester, Joseph Gibbs, A. R. Hawkins, S. W. Hardeman and C. A. Frazee.

## TWO MORE 'WHIG' ISSUES

Two other issues of the St. Landry Whig were a loan of Mrs. S. B. Wolff of Opelousas. Not pressed between glass as was Comeau's, they are extremely fragile, being 110 years old, and at the falling-apart stage.

One is the edition of Jan. 16, 1845; the other, May 22, 1845.

## FIRST NEWSPAPER?

In addition, Mrs. Wolff has a copy of the Opelousas Gazette of Jan. 16, 1848, in excellent condition although 107 years old. This is the only copy of the Gazette we've seen. From the volume number, 21, and issue number, 23, we compute that it was begun in late 1826, perhaps making it the pioneer newspaper in St. Landry parish.

From the Whig of Jan. 16, 1845, much of which was torn off and is missing, principally the English language pages, we call:

Charles A. Edwards died and his estate was put up for probate sale. Pierre Louis Gullyery died, and Pierre M. Gullyery was named administrator of his estate. J. Posey clerk of court for St. Landry parish, advertised that an accounting had been made of the estate of Thomas Haley, and it would be distributed if there are no protests.

A mass meeting of Opelousas citizens was called for Sat., Jan. 12, 1845, to "take into consideration the propriety of constructing a good and durable road from Opelousas to Barre's Landing, on the Courtableau."

The Whig editorial deplored the lack of information about Opelousas existing in other sections of the state, and proposed that something be done to spread information about the area. Chief difficulty is "we have no navigation worth mentioning, and what little we have is fast dwindling." "The mouth of the Plaquemine is permitted to close up. The mouth of Red River is worse than no mouth at all. The Atchafalaya, when low, is very dangerous. And, should we be so lucky as to pass all these difficulties, and get as far as Courtableau, "Le Petite Diable" presents a mouth of TBETH frightful to pass through, if not altogether impassable."



OLD TRAIN AT "NEW DEPOT" is what Frank J. Dietlein Sr. recalls of this photograph he supplied. He is not sure of the date. This apparently was taken not after the "Opelousas Railroad," now the Southern Pacific, was laid through here, station still stands, and buildings in right background are the present St. Landry Lumber Co. of ice and warehouse. They could not be seen today from this spot because of intervening buildings which now line the railroad.

Last Tuesday an Opelousas resident (not named) saw some negroes, while hunting, and tried to stop them. They ran for a time, then, having increased their numbers to eight, turned upon the huntsman with clubs, etc., and he "only saved his life by flight." Deeming them runaways, the parish was being scoured for them "as they are too dangerous to be permitted to run at large."

On Jan. 8, 1845, residents of the Opelousas area staged a grand ball that threw the editor of the Whig into ecstasies of delight. There follows the headline with which he adorned a flowery and lengthy description of the great affair:

"Grand Ball -- Indigenous Poetry -- Patriotic Chorus -- Courtships, Flirtations, and Contemplated Marriages -- Creole beauties and gay cavaliers, no unusual things in Opelousas."

Representatives from St. Landry parish to the Louisiana Legislature, who were sworn in on Jan. 6, 1845, were "Messrs. Rogers, Campbell, Glaze and Quirk."

Thereupon "Mr. Campbell presented a petition from the citizens of St. Landry and Calcasieu, contesting the election of Mr. John A. Glaze by Nicholas Collaghan. Referred to the Committee on Elections."

Andre Mouton was governor of Louisiana at this time. (The George Voldier home on N. Liberty st. at present was Governor Mouton's residence.)

In his message to the legislature, Governor Mouton pointed out that a constitutional convention was making good progress toward writing a new state constitution, hence he suggested that legislators confine their legislation to matters of "most absolute and pressing necessity."

A probate sale to settle the estate of the late Walter T. Redmond was called by Parish Judge A. Garrigues, the estate including: Two slaves, five lots of ground in the town of St. Charles (now Grand Coteau), two American horses, four mules, one wagon and harness, one sulky, horned cattle, one lot of hardware, one lot of dry goods, etc., etc.

An interesting item was the publication in the Whig of the report of the secretary of the treasury of the United States. It showed that the total revenue of the U.S. for the fiscal year ending the previous June 30 was \$30,381,700.03.

Just as is the case today, the federal government of 110 years ago operated in the red. Expenditures were \$32,958,827.94. Happily, however, there had been a balance on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year of \$10,434,507.55, so the books were in the black.

The Ville "Plate" Hotel advertised as follows: "About a mile from the town of Ville Platte on the public road leading from Washington and Opelousas to Bayou Chicot. Terms moderate. LEMUEL SHAW. CONSTITUTION

The Whig of May 22, 1845, published in full the new state constitution as written by a constitutional convention. The constitution occupied seven full columns of the paper, the columns being one and one-half times as wide as today's standard newspaper columns, and set in a small type.

The Whig carried these statistics in its May 22, 1845, issue: The estimated world population, from MacGregor, was 812,953,712.

Louisiana in 1844 had produced: 154,000,000 pounds of cotton, 7,600,000 bushels of corn, 1,443,000 bushels of potatoes, 33,000 tons of hay, 4,705,000 pounds of rice, 1,310 pounds of silk cocoons and 160,000,000 pounds of sugar.

Editorially, the Whig approved of the new Louisiana constitution, which had arrived

on the steamer Enterprise in time for publication, as "a far preferable instrument to the old one."

The new constitution had been overwhelmingly approved by the constitutional convention, the vote being: Aye 55, Nay 15, sent 7 but it was not unanimous. No St. Landry voted against it but two were absent, G. R. King and S. W. Wikoff. Delegates from Aye from St. Landry were G. H. M. T. Lewis, W. M. Prescott, R. T. T. Since the French language version of the constitution had not arrived, the Whig's news in French. It reported of races at the St. Landry track the previous Sunday, in which there was one three-quarter-mile dash for a \$300 purse, won by Alezan, owned by A. Nersutt, with J. M. owned by Dr. Scranton, coming in second. Visitors betted heavily against "not a val," the Whig reported, which led a way. After the main event there were "amateurs" who raced each other.

A terrible accident was reported at Marksville, wherein 14-year-old Lucie Villon, son of Gen. Couvillion, delegate to the state constitutional convention from Opelousas, was killed by lightning as he approached Marksville church to assist in the funeral of a cousin.

## OPELOUSAS GAZETTE

The Opelousas Gazette was a tabloid newspaper (same page size as the Daily World). The issue available to us, from Mrs. S. B. Wolff, showed that of 16, 1848, it was in its 21st year, 23rd issue of the year.

All of the front page was taken up with detailed proceedings of the Louisiana Legislature, then in session. The legislature dealt upon several things pertaining to St. Landry parish, including:

A resolution introduced by Senator S. B. Wolff instructing the state engineer to improve navigation in Bayou Washitaw. Representative Lataste introduced an act to amend and abrogate the charter of incorporation of the town of St. Charles, in St. Landry parish (an advertisement in the same issue identified the town as Grand Coteau).

The rest of the newspaper was devoted to clippings and other news from various parts of the country and world, with no local news as such, and most of it was advanced.

Files of the Daily World go back to the first issue of THE OPELOUSAS COURIER, a newspaper printed in both the French and English languages, with the first issue of St. Landry parish at the time. Vol. 1, No. 1 of the Courier was published Dec. 11, 1852. Founders and publishers were Joel H. Sandoz and Andrew A. Nier, who had been engaged in early fishing activities here. They had, in launching the COURIER, published the St. Landry Whig and the Opelousas Gazette.

In their initial editorial, they stated: "We present to the public, today, the first number of a journal which, we shall be neutral in politics and every other else. -- It will be our design to make for the 'Opelousas Courier' a champion for independence which shall free it from the jealousies or animosities of either the great political parties on which opinions of the American people are divided. . . . Our experience, for the last 15 years, as journeymen printers and as editors in various newspapers in the State of Louisiana, allows us to hope that the sheet we issue today. . . . will be supported by the greatest number. . . . We are under obligations to no one. . . ."

We learn much more about Opelousas in 1852 from the advertisements than from the news columns, for, as was the custom

## EUNICE SALE (Cont'd.)

was lost waiting for bidders to calculate. The prices at this time ranged from \$30 to \$125.

About twenty lots had been sold when the New Orleans excursion arrived having on board fully 1,000 more visitors, bringing the total number of visitors on the grounds up to 4,000 or more. After a brief delay the sale was continued and better prices ruled. Avenue lots sold at from \$125 to \$205, and residence lots ranged from \$40 to \$101. The sale was continued until dark and nearly one hundred and fifty lots were sold at an average price of about one hundred dollars per lot.

The crowd on Thursday was considerably reduced, being directed that contingency that had made the trip simply to secure benefits of a cheap excursion, and a few of the purchasers who had bought about all they cared to at this time did not return on the second day. However a good crowd was there and the bidding was spirited. Prices ranged about the same as the preceding day. At no time during the sale was any time lost waiting for bids. Mr. Dason knocked down a number of lots to persons whom he thought desirous of improving, giving the opposition no time to bid. The sales of the two days aggregated about \$25,000, much of the property going to parties who will settle in the new town and assist in making it the leading trade center of a very wide range of country. A second sale will take place next year, probably in October.

All those who visited Eunice on this occasion were surprised and pleased with what they there saw. None expected to see so many buildings as have here been erected in the last six weeks. There were none present but remarked at the excellent drainage of the town, the well graded streets and good sidewalks.

The purchasers of Eunice property came from all parts of Louisiana -- and, in fact, from several adjoining states. Among the most heavy buyers in the new town were citizens of Crowley. They were after good locations and readily bid the highest prices at which any property was sold, clearly showing the faith and confidence our people have in the new town and in Hon. C. C. and W. W. Dason.



the day, the newspaper was given to reporting on news from afar, gleaned from swapped papers ("Terrible Duel in California" reads one headline), and confining local news to terse "Died..." and "Married..." and the like.

From the advertisements of the first Opelousas Courier, we learn:

Henry L. Garland and Louis Lastrapes were law partners. Joseph Gibbs had a small carriage-buggy factory here. John McDonald was a surveyor, with offices at Charles N. Ealer's, Main st.

Chas. A. Genin had a general store, carrying "fancy goods, clothing, hats, caps, boots, shoes, etc., etc., an assortment of groceries," wines, cognacs, etc." Daniel Sheuble was a local "fashionable tailor." The Washington Drug Store was run by S. D. Allis, in Washington, and had just taken over the business vacated by "Dr. Hardy."

The good safe Steamer ANNA" made round trips from Washington to New Orleans, leaving Washington Saturdays at 9 a.m. and returning on Wednesdays at noon. For low water times, the steamer "Little Tom" was kept as standby.

Goldman & Kauffman of Washington had bought J. Goldman's store in Opelousas and offered the stock for less than cost, for cash only, and would continue to operate both the Opelousas and Washington stores.

Henry L. Garland bitterly advertised that "I forbide positively any from shooting or late George W. Addison (who had been a published to sue anyone so doing. Parish Clerk advertised that Ralf Robertson was appointed to administer the estate of the late Elizabeth Hays Robertson. A. Dejean, deputy clerk, advertised that Joel H. Sandoz was named administrator of the estate of the late George W. Addison (who had been a publishing partner in the just-defunct Opelousas Gazette). Cannon and Robin were law partners here. Charles N. Ealer ran a jewelry store. T. B. Coqueret had located here and was a fine finisher of furniture, paper-hanger, and the like. Robert Benguerel had just been appointed a public auctioneer.

Meyer & Alexander advertised they had a fine retail and wholesale store in Washington. Mrs. Renault ("born Traber") announced the opening of a Boarding and Day School For Young Ladies in the late residence of Mr. Labiche. Instruction would include writing, French, and "more particularly," English, Geography, The 5 here, Arithmetic, Sacred History, ancient and modern, "and all descriptions of needle work." The terms, per quarter, were Institution \$0, Music \$18, Boarding, \$25.

The St. Landry Coffee House, at Landry and Main, run by J. J. Beauchamp, has furnished the bar with "the best liquors that New Orleans can afford," has an excellent billiard table, and private rooms "for the accommodation of gentlemen."

T. M. Watkins, saddler, had re-opened his "elegant" saddlery shop at Main and Carriere streets.

The Opelousas Academy, formerly Franklin College, was to open, with the Rev. Thos. Rand Jr., A.M., Principal.

On Dec. 18, 1852, the estate of the late Ely Lucas Fontenot was to be sold. It included lands located in "Flat Town (Ville Plate) Prairie," 11 slaves, an assortment of farm goods, including:

Nine ploughs, one horse cart, two ox carts, one calash, one corn mill, one lot kitchen utensils, one gold watch, two double barreled guns, household furniture, plantation utensils, four pairs work oxen, horses, mares, stallions, etc., etc." Achille Dupre was to be auctioneer.

An election for governor and other state officers was called by Gov. Joseph Walker, for Dec. 27. There were 19 wards in St. Landry parish at that time (there are 11 today), and the polling places, in order, were located at:

Court house in Opelousas, Francis Turner home in Washington, Michel Emonet home in Prairie Gros Chevreuil, Edmond Estlelie home in Grand Coteau, Lower School House in Bellevue, two in the sixth ward, at the Carol & Keough house in Lower Plaquemine and the house of Eugene Valette on Queue Torne.

Two each in the 7th, 8th and 9th, at the house of Joseph E. Daigle at Upper Plaquemine and of Alexander Daigle pere on Bayou des Cannes, at the houses of Etienne Lejeune at Bayou Mallet and of John McGee on Pacifique, at the houses of William Reed in Flat Town and of Alexandre Rougeot in Prairie Chataignier.

At the store of James Allenhead at Bayou Chicot, the Philippe Stag house in Old Grand Prairie, two in the 12th, at the houses of Thomas McCrory on Bayou Boeuf and of William Irwin at "Mountville," at the house of "Boroughs" on the Archafalaya, the James M. Moore plantation on Bayou Waxia, the Thomas Stapleton house on Bayou Rouge, the Joseph Landerneau at Prairie Mamouth, the house of Francois Dupre fils in Prairie Plaisance, house of John Wright at "Mermento," and the 19th, the house of Symphonie Meche at Coulee Croche.

Mrs. Pigeon announced her return from New Orleans with a full line of goods for a millinery store.

Bell-Cheney Springs, the piney woods resort located "36 miles north of Opelousas and the same distance south of Alexandria,"

was to be sold at auction Jan. 1, 1853.

The sale, to be held at the Opelousas court house, was at the written agreement of Edmund R. Martin and the late Gilbert Sloan, and on consignment order. The property included, on 160 acres of land:

Seven double cottages, three large family houses, 12 cottages for gentlemen, a large tavern house, a large hall room, coffee house, stable, store house, and other necessary buildings.

"The Springs have been liberally patronized... and the medicinal qualities of the waters are being more appreciated every year," said the notice.

A runaway negro calling himself Henry had been committed into the parish jail on Nov. 7, 1852, saying he belonged to one John H. Harris of St. Mary Parish. He was described as "about 35 years of age, five feet 6 inches high, of a copper color, and speaks English." The owner must claim him.

1852 being an election year the Whig and Democratic parties held St. Landry parish conventions. The nominees for the legislature:

Senate — Whig, Achille Dupre and T. M. Anderson. Democrat, Dr. Edward M. Millard and Elisha Andrus.

House — Whig, John E. King, Jonathan Harris, Hypolite Chretien and Augustin Guillery. Democrat, William H. Paten, Placide D. Guilbeau, Joseph E. Andrus and Solomon B. Harman.

On Dec. 4, 1852, Mrs. Widow J. M. Debaillon, born Clementine Benguerel, aged about 45 years, died.

On Sept. 7, 1852, the police jury, among other things: Accepted a tracing from Mr. Gantt of a public road to be built from Bayou "Waxe" to Bayou Boeuf; named Felix Dejean captain of patrol in the 8th ward; called a property tax election to determine whether the parish should subscribe stock to the New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western Rail Road Co.; named a committee to inspect Bayou Fuselier at its junction with Bayou Teche, along with St. Martin jurors, to determine whether a drawbridge should be built there.

The police jury of that day conducted a great deal more business than nowadays. They ordered laid out a great number of roads in all parts of the parish, entertained many committees and individuals on road routings, took care of papers by name, appointed election commissioners, changed polling places, called a wet-dry election for the 12th ward, and ordered built, opened bids on and paid for more than 25 bridges. They also were told that slate could not be found for the jail roof, so ordered it shingled.

Jurors present at the session included: Messrs. Carte, Dunbar, Wright, Meche, Harris, E. Andrus, Devillier, J. E. Andrus, Fontenot, Young, Guillery, Gant, McBride, Teale.

In the Courier of Dec. 18, 1852: Courtis & Didier announced that they had established themselves as "cooks and pastry cooks."

The Courier delightedly relayed the news that the directors of "our railroad" chose a route that would come from Washington, pass along the Opelousas town limit, thence to Vermilionville (Lafayette, today), "leaving Grand Coteau miles on the east (which is how Sunset ultimately grew up).

The police jury, on Dec. 6, 1852, assembled with the following members: Andrus, Francois Devillier, Onezime A. Boudreau, Joseph E. Andrus, Antoine B. Carte, Joseph Z. Fontenot, James Allenhead, Augustin Guillery, Henry S. Dunbar, Albert Gant, Joseph McBride, Charles Teale, Villeneuve Joubert, Symphonie Meche and Waltham Burton in place of John H. Pickett.

Among its interesting activities were: Ordered built or paid for no less than 23 bridges; got a report from a special election committee that there were 542 votes in favor and 248 against or a majority of 294 for levying a railroad tax and also a report that the board of directors of the New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western Rail Road Co. had accepted the parish's tax stock subscription; received a report that the wets carried the 12th Ward anti-liquor election by a vote of 32 to 16.

The district attorney reported that he had filed suit against Sheriff H. Rogers for balance due in tax collections, for his commission as sheriff, and for 20 per cent damages.

An idea of who were leaders in different parts of St. Landry parish in 1852 can be had from the appointments of men to oversee public roads in their sections:

NORTHEAST: John S. Edwards, Pierre Savant fils, William S. Hudspeth, Isaac Littel, Robert McCrory, Lastie Guillery, Samuel Derosier, Harvey Kimbal, Uel Bumick, Thomas Morgan, Auguste Soltau.

NORTH: Jean Bte. Roy, Onezime L. Pitre, Jean Bte. Lafleur, Pierre Vedrine (Spre), John A. Glaze, Ransom P. Ferguson, William Tear, F. B. Cheney, Samuel Wall, Francois A. Pitre, Julian Jules Jacques Fontenot.

NORTHWEST: Don Louis Sonnier, Alfred Reed, Samuel Reed, Dorcin Lacaze, Pierre Fontenot, Eugene Martel, Andrew West, Olin P. Fontenot, Edouard Vedrine, Eli Campbell, Hypolite Fontot, Dalcourt Joubert.

WEST: Ursin Lavergne, Gustave Fruge, Valmont Baudin, Jacques Bacon, Enoch Hays,

Felix Andrepont, Levi Young, Samel Reed.

SOUTHWEST: Don Louis Richard, Adolin Richard, Alexandre Doucet, Crawford L. Jones, Nicholas Juebeaux, Gabriel Harmon, Joseph Carriere, Joseph Blaize.

SOUTH: Henry Miller, Eucher Lavergne, Dorcinot L. Greville, Dr. Robt. E. Smith, Denis Selly, Francois Savoie fils, Joseph A. Guldry.

SOUTHEAST: Ulger Roy, Adolphe Roquette, Valmont Stealy, Jean Bte. Hebert, Joseph Olivier.

EAST: Louis C. Devillier, Charles Closs, Simon-Wable, P. L. Olivier.

The budget for the St. Landry parish police jury for 1853, published on Jan. 1 of that year, showed an anticipated expenditure of \$15,900, with the largest item of expense, \$3,500, going for public works construction.

Christopher Steel announced that he had bought the Union Hotel in Opelousas from Jas. O. McClelland. C. A. Genin, who had operated as an agent for W. W. Thompson of New Orleans in a general store, announced that he was now a partner in the business and had greatly reduced prices, "absolutely no hump."

To get an idea of equipment on a farm of 1853, here is what was to be sold from the estate of James M. Woods, whose farm was located on Bayou Petite Prairie:

The farm, 393 acres, with buildings and improvements, 11 "likely slaves" of different ages and both sexes, 40 bales of cotton, 60 barrels of corn, six gentle horses, six head of wild horses, one log of hogs, work oxen, one lot of horned cattle, one old carriage, one barouch, one silver watch, one double barreled gun, plantation utensils, "Etc., Etc."

The recent sheriff, who was being sued, as reported above, George N. Rogers, offered his belongings for public auction to satisfy his creditors, consisting of:

800 arpents of land in Prairie Bellevue, 16 calves, all named, and two of the women with three children each, four yoke of oxen, about 15 head of gentle cattle, one brand figuring thus (an upside down R and a right side up L), 12 head of mules, three horses, gaitings, three American blooded mares, three American blooded colts, one 2-year old and the others of this spring, a few head of hogs, four ox carts, one horse cart, one four horse wagon, other farming utensils, household furniture not reserved by law.

Election returns published in The Courier of Jan. 1, 1853, showed the following vote in St. Landry parish:

Governor, Bordenel 856, Hebert 529; Lt. gov, John Ray 836, Farmer 523; Sect. of state, D. A. Avery 826, A. S. Herrod 522; treasurer McWhorter 826, Grenaux 521; Atty. gen., R. N. Ogden 829, L. E. Morse 517; sup. pub. edn., Thorpe 827, Carrigan 523; state senate, A. Dupre 802, Anderson 599; Dr. Millard 588, E. Andrus 539; house of representatives, J. E. King 825, H. Chretien 805, J. Harris 799, A. Guillery 807, Guilbeau 576, J. Andrus 522, S. Herman 534, B. R. Gant 60.

Thomas H. Lewis of Opelousas and Edward Simon and C. Voorhis of St. Martinville were announced candidates for the state supreme court.

Winners in the state election, according to The Courier, were:

Gov., Hebert; lt. gov., Farmer; sect. of state, Heron; atty. gen., Morse; treat., Grenaux; sup. of edn., Carrigan. Thus, St. Landry voted with the losers, in majority.

Opelousas again had a big celebration on Jan. 8, the anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans. On Tuesday, Jan. 11, the St. Landry legislative delegation left by steamboat for Baton Rouge to attend the session opening Jan. 17, 1853.

In his message to the legislature, published in Jan. 22, 1853 in The Courier, Governor Walker:

Recommended establishment of a system of probate courts, reported the treasury to be in unsound condition, asked prompt action to prevent overflows of the Mississippi, asked an overhaul of the school system, and said the banks of the state were sound.

The Courier on Feb. 5 urged the town council to build a fire hall to house the engine. Middling flint cotton was selling in New Orleans for 10 1/2 to 10 7/8 cents. The sheriff at Alexandria, \$9,000 in arrears, had hopped a steamboat for California. The Courier reported with horror. The police jury adopted a tax schedule for 1853 calculated to raise \$12,000. Maximilien LeBlanc of Bayou Queue Torne advertised a runaway slave, who made off with horses.

The Courier reported on Feb. 12, 1853, that a rival newspaper, the St. Landry Whig, had made its appearance on Feb. 9, that it was "edited with taste and talent," and wished it success. The publisher was E. North Callom.

Lewis J. Dupre of Opelousas took a colt "in bad condition" down to Lafayette and beat three horses belonging to a gentleman that town in a one mile purse race. St. Landry parish subscribed a total of \$156,600 to the New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western Railroad Co. A letter to the editor on Feb. 12, 1853, deplored in whimsical style the then raging sport of cock fighting. The sugar output of the parish was large, the paper reported.

Quite a big horse race was run the previous Sunday, reported The Courier on

Saturday, Feb. 19, 1853. Last year's Billy B.

Johnson's sorrel horse in the feature at Pitre's Course, and other races were enjoyed. Concluded the account.

"The gathering on the track was large and some 'smiling' was done on rot-gut whiskey and some 'gumbo' manufactured from antiquated ducks, was consumed, but as no complaints were entered either against the whiskey or the gumbo, we presume all had a 'good time'."

On that date middling good beef was selling for 7 to 9 cents a pound; sausage, pure hog, 10 to 15; game roosters, \$5 to \$15, and "dumplings" 5 to 10 cents. Onions brought 5 cents "a handfull," prime old rye whiskey 10 cents a glass.

In a lengthy first annual report, the New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western Rail Road Company, through its president, J. H. Overton, was highly optimistic and was making great plans for tying itself in with cross-country lines.

The company, chartered for \$3 million, was to build a railroad "from Algiers or the opposite bank of the Mississippi river from New Orleans, westward near Thibodaux, across Berwick's Bay to Washington in the Parish of St. Landry, thence to a point on the Sabine river, most favorable for the purpose of constructing said road through the State of Texas to El Paso or the Rio Grande, and thence to the Pacific Ocean." (Editor's note: The road was built but it was later decided to change the main line to run west from Lafayette instead of Washington, with only a branch coming north to Opelousas and Washington.

Pioneers' decisions such as this were of great moment in deciding the growth of communities in future years. The routes of the early railroads were of extreme importance to the countryside, just as the locations of navigable streams determined sites of original settlements, and the editor of The Courier at this time was writing horrified editorials almost every week, which would bring numerous rumors that the route had been changed to six miles east of the town, etc.).

The railroad had the backing of the state in the form of a state tax approved at an election, and of parishes on the route, including St. Landry, which approved taxes with which to buy stock in the company.

St. Landry parish subscribed for 4,225 shares in the railroad backed by a tax of 5 per cent of assessments.

At the time of the annual report, surveyors had laid out some 400 miles of the route, and the right-of-way from New Orleans to Washington had, with few exceptions, been "cheerfully and gratuitously granted."

The first 55 miles of the roadbed was already under contract. The company had locomotives and cars on order and enough iron rails for 40 miles of road. In his report, detailing the resources of the area to be served, with reference to this area, Overton stated that "The parishes... through which the road runs to Washington in the Parish of St. Landry, produce both cotton and sugar, and annually export to this city (New Orleans) about 40,000 head of cattle. Their crop of sugar in 1851 was 40,000 gallons of molasses..."

The company had plans for extending a branch from Alexandria to Arkansas to join a line coming south from St. Louis. This, according to plans, would join New Orleans with Minnesota and with the Pacific Coast.

On Feb. 26, 1853, Parish Tax Collector Villeneuve Joubert advertised a list of 27 places at which he would visit at various dates to collect taxes. Persons could also pay taxes in Opelousas at the office of, and to, Robert Benguerel.

The Courier on Feb. 26, 1853, reported in detail on a heated cock fight, and then took to task the citizenry of Opelousas for indulging in such sport. The fight was between "Gray Eagle" and "Give-Em Fits," and the editor identified their owners only by alluding to physical characteristics. More than one fight was fought, but the editor witnessed only this one. He described the method of "heeling" a cock — "means placing two sharp pieces of steel wire about two inches in length on either leg in place of the natural spurs." Gray Eagle won in the fourth round. Editorialized the editor: "We know our town is dull... but we ask candidly if there any real pleasure to an enlightened mind to see two poor unoffending birds murder each other by inches?"

An apparently wealthy widow died and her estate was offered for public sale March 29, 1853. She was Buphrosine Barre, widow of John Close. The property included several vast tracts of woodland, farm lands on both Bayou Courtableau and Teche, 39 slaves, many horses, mules, oxen, farming tools of all kinds, a steam sawmill, a large holding of lumber, a pile of cypress logs, and logging equipment.

The Courier editor, on March 5, 1853, reported on three races held the previous Sunday which drew large crowds (a "bay horse of Mr. Dubuisson" beat a "brown mare belonging to Mr. Jos. Carriere" in a feature run). The editor then called for the establishment of a Jockey Club, "which, to say the least, would be more elevating than Cock Fighting, and might cause us to improve our breed of Creole tacksles."



The new fast steamer Red River had begun regular runs between Opelousas (at Washington) and New Orleans by March 12, 1853. The Courier in that issue backed a state movement to abolish the police jury system, which resulted in 19 jurors for St. Landry parish, and replace it with a 5-man board. This, it was stated, would save the taxpayers' money, and be more efficient. The editor also deplored the "dilapidated" condition of the Protestant cemetery.

On March 3, 1853, Rosamond Doucet of Mountville (Washington) was wounded, considered fatal, by a slave, whom he was chastizing for disobedience, wielding a knife. The Negro was in jail. The editor again called for the erection of an Opelousas fire house.

The resort Ball-Chigny Springs was purchased by Daigle & Beauchamp, who advertised its virtues glowingly (medicated baths, deer and fox hunting with a pack of hounds, fine fishing, best wines and liquors, good music with balls twice weekly, etc.) at \$25 per month of \$1 per day.

E. Dardau of "Flat Town" (Ville Platte) advertised under the heading "LOOK OUT!" that he was no longer going to put up with people cutting wood on his land.

The railroad engineer and surveyors passed Opelousas on March 17, 1853, the Courier gleefully reported. They passed along the west town limits, closer to town than had been anticipated.

The state treasurer reported that Louisiana's government was "in a condition of hopeless bankruptcy," the Courier related on March 19, 1853. "Bad legislation" was given by the editor as the prime cause. Salaries are unpaid and bond interest coupons unmet.

A runaway slave calling himself William and reporting his owner as "a certain Mr. Wilkins residing near the junction of the Teche and Fuselier," in St. Martin parish, was apprehended here. He was about 20, "spare made," and spoke English only.

The two schools in Opelousas advertising at this time were the Opelousas Academy, with the Rev. Thos. Rand Jr., A.M., principal, and a boarding and day-school for young ladies, superintended by "Mrs. Renaud (born Traber).

Two races were scheduled for Saturday, March 26, at Pitre's Track, between a bay mare owned by Mr. Pitre and a gray owned by Jeff. Johnson, and between Joseph's gray and Dr. Thompson's sorrel horse.

The Courier editor had just completed the "Herculean task" on March 26, 1853, of reading Mrs. Stowe's "world renowned" book "Uncle Tom's Cabin." He found much of it "unnatural, overwrought and ridiculous," and gave a number of examples of such situations. He advised that "if our Northern brethren instead of consigning us so readily to eternal flames hereafter, would look at home, they would find ample excuse for a visit of Old Nick in their neighborhood, if he is not already among them."

The editor doubted anything would stop the "frenzy of fanaticism" stirred up in "Yankee Land" by the book. Although "they have ears (and so has a certain animal we know of) they will not hear, and their eyes are so gummed up with darkey wood that nothing short of a miracle will ever open them."

The negro boy Reuben who stabbed his master, Rosamond Doucet of Mountville, to death, was found guilty by a jury of murder and sentenced to be hung. Judge was Guy H. Bell, and jury foreman was F. C. Kauffman.

The roads, particularly those through the Bellevue area, were next to impassable, the editor complained on April 2, 1853.

A negro was shot at the races on March 26 and severely wounded at Pitre's track by a white man named Louis Bellard, alias Nounoute Gauthier. They had a bet, and, both intoxicated, quarreled. Bellard was jailed.

The editor deplored the practice of selling liquor at the track to slaves, "but," said the editorial, "if our planters do not object to such a proceeding they must not complain if they have a slave shot occasionally."

Keepers of a "Wild Man from Borneo," which had been exhibited earlier in Opelousas, were attacked by about 100 men at Jackson, La. on March 22, 1853, the Courier reported. The editor commented that he did not believe in such wild men, and that the wild man had a strong family resemblance to its keepers.

The Courier ran a series of "useful recipes" for Southern farmers, including: How to remove warts on oxen and horses, cure salvia in horses, cure hoof ail, purge a horse, cure bots, cure blood, and remove film on the eye.

Public auctioneers in Opelousas in April 1853 were Auguste Dejean and Simeon Fontenot, among others, and they handled sales of plantations, slaves, partition sales and the like.

The mail at this time arrived in Opelousas three times a week from New Orleans, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday evenings; left Opelousas for New Orleans Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 8 a.m.; arrived from Washington (St. Landry), on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 8 a.m., and returning, left Opelousas Wednesday, Friday.

The Courier on April 9, 1853, soundly denounced the legislature for trying to make printer's work for nothing.

In the election for a chief justice and an associate justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, held April 4, 1853, St. Landry voted:

Chief Justice, Thomas Slidell, New Orleans, 444 and Christian Roselius, New Orleans, 365. Associate Justice, C. Voorhies, St. Martin, 398; Thomas H. Lewis, St. Landry, 357; J. Cooley, 35, and Edward Simon, St. Martin, 20. Returns included every polling place but Atchafalaya and Mamouth (the Courier's Anglicizing of Mamou). Opelousas gave Lewis 74 votes to 73 for Voorhies. Opelousas elected the following town council at the same time:

John Cook, James Ray, Christian Mornhinweg, Chas. N. Ealer, Silas Harris, Simon Richard and M. Mussard, Charles Thompson was elected town constable.

The 1853 sugar crop for St. Landry parish was 7,703 hogsheds, the Courier reported. The entire state produced 321,934 hogsheds. Best crops in St. Landry were made by:

Prescott & Moore 600 hogsheds, Payne & Harrison 326 hogsheds, Cook & Anderson 325 hogsheds, Cypran Dupre 304, Mrs. Littal 265, Joseph Baraud 260, J. H. Overton 250, Chretien & Co. 215, J. U. Payne 210, L. J. Rocquet 206 and E. H. Angamare 201. The others made under 20.

Opelousas Postmaster John Posey regularly advertised the list of unclaimed letters at the office during 1853.

The negro boy Reuben who attempted to murder his master, Rosamond Doucet, was hanged April 13, 1853, blaming his crime, as he went to the gallows, on whiskey. The Courier took severely to task the St. Landry Whig, quoting from various Whig editorials on politics. The editor noted with approval that an association was being formed to supply the Opelousas market with meat. The editor quoted:

"Considering the high price of meat now in market --- it being 10 cents a pound --- and the excessive toughness and leanness of the same, we hope and expect that this association will find many subscribers, and have all beef-eaters to back it."

A man named Alexander Drujard, a 28-year-old Frenchman by birth, who had lived for 18 months at Washington, drowned on April 5, 1853, the Courier reported. "The unfortunate man was drunk," said the account. He fell trying to board a boat and rescuers' efforts were in vain. With the exception of his "habit of intoxication," he was a "useful member of society, and an honest man," the Courier commented.

Rachel Gradneigo inserted a notice that he was operating Beaver Creek Springs resort, near Bayou Chicot, with medicinal bath waters, fine hunting and fishing, good music, at \$20 per month or \$1 per day.

Valery Ledoux advertised that a fine American grey horse had run away from the plantation of Charles Lastrapes, who would pay a liberal reward for its return.

The following account of an accidental poisoning, showing early-day use of native roots, appeared in The Courier of April 23, 1853:

"An accident resulting from imprudence near Flat Town (Ville Platte).

"Mrs. Lafleur, a widow, aged about 50 years, had sent a boy into the woods, in quest of TETCHI roots, very much used among our Creole population, in the way of 'tisane'. She had tea made of it, and drank a cup full. Her daughter also tasted some of it, but finding it bitter let the cup down again and paid no further attention to it. A few hours afterwards, Mrs. Lafleur was dying amidst the most excruciating pains, which poison creates, and her daughter was extremely ill when last heard of."

"The fact was that instead of the 'tetchi' the boy had brought the root of the yellow jasmine, a most deadly poison, and very similar in appearance to the roots of the 'tetchi'."

Washington was shocked by the disappearance April 16, 1853, of a housewife, Madame Dessauze, who could not be found a week later her drowned body was found in a well.

Governor Hebert was definitely sure to run for the U. S. Senate to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of P. Soule, the Courier reported. "Mr. Farmer" would become governor and the state senate will have to elect a presiding officer, with Mr. Wickliffe given the best chance.

Chas. A. Genin advertised on April 23, 1853, that he had moved his store to "the big brick building of Mr. Ealer, on the corner of Main and Landry," and had a fine stock of dry goods, groceries, ready made clothing, hats, shoes and spring and summer goods.

Heavy, black column rules fringed the French language front page of the Courier on April 30, 1853, and the English inside news page, upon the death of William R. King, vice president of the United States, who died aboard the steamer Cuba, bound from Mobile, Ala., to his plantation at Catawba, Ala.

The legislature passed an act, published in the same issue of the Courier, calling for the reorganization of the St. Landry parish police jury to consist of five members to be elected at large throughout the parish.

The legislature also divided the state into four congressional districts. St. Landry was placed in the fourth district, comprising the whole western strip of the state from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arkansas line.

The Fire Company of Opelousas launched a public subscription, supported by The

Courier, for funds with which to build a fire house on land on the court house square, offered it by the police jury. The Courier and the Whig continued to have editorial squabbles, waxing fluently insulding on occasion. In an editorial rounding the Whig for a comment on the advertisements by the postmaster for uncalled-for letters, the Courier refers to Whig writing in such terms as "nauseate the public," and "an emetic pill to the suffering public," and "self praise," and the like.

The Courier reminded on April 30, 1853, that Opelousas would vote the next Saturday on a town constable to replace Charles Thompson, resigned. Candidates were Alfred J. Andrus, John Powell and Julien Carville Gonor.

On May 7, 1853, The Courier announced that the president had appointed Andrew J. Thompson postmaster at Opelousas in place of John Posey. Governor Hebert appointed as notaries public A. G. Thornton and John J. Morgan, both of Ville Platte, St. Landry parish.

Robert Cade of Vermilion had succeeded in securing lots, free of charge from all owners, for depot sites for the new railroad from New Iberia to Washington. John Slidell was officially declared winner of the state election to the U. S. Senate. There was to be a run-off between Slidell and Governor Hebert, but the latter withdrew, although he had the largest vote in the first primary.

Postmasters were to be paid beginning March 3, 1853, commissions of: 50 per cent on gross under \$100, 40 per cent between \$100 and \$400, 35 per cent between \$400 and \$2,400, and 15 per cent above \$2,400.

J. G. Fitzgerald (perhaps eyeing the nearing of the railroad) announced he was closing his store at Washington and selling out his stock, offering "Great Bargains".

Carville Julien Gonor was elected on May 7, 1853, ward constable of Ward One, succeeding Charles Thompson, resigned. His opponents were John Powell, J. Alfred Andrus and Louis Leopold Boutte. The President appointed Henry L. Garland of Opelousas Receiver of the Public Monies of the Land Office, in place of Alphonse Lastrapes. The Courier reported May 14, 1853.

The New Orleans, Red River and Texas Telegraph Company was to begin immediately the building of a line from New Orleans to Alexandria, and the Courier called on all citizens of the parts to supply the needed acreage.

S. Ries notified the public that he had become permanently located in Opelousas and would teach French, English, German and Ancient Languages, and also violin, flute, piano, guitar, etc.

Lucius J. Dupre was elected judge of the 15th Judicial District, comprising the parishes of St. Landry, Lafayette and Calcasieu, on May 16, 1853. He had no opposition. Dr. Thompson's sorrel horse beat Jas. D. Moore's bay in a quarter race at F. Pitre's track on May 19, by 21 feet. The purse, \$500.

Sheriff Harrison Rogers of St. Landry took bitter issue in a paid advertisement with the editor of the St. Landry Whig for a "furious attack on my official conduct." The sheriff, it will be recalled, had been sued a year ago for not paying the state his tax debts, and had sold his property to meet his obligations. He listed in his ad his full account with the state, certified by the auditor, showing he still owed \$1,226.01. The sheriff stated, citing certain laws, that a sheriff in a county parish is not bound to collect state taxes when he REFUSES to do so. His refusal left open the office of collector, and if nobody wanted it, is that his fault?

J. J. Sandoz advertised a strayed horse which was thin of mane, "rather poor, bony and ugly," and offered a liberal reward.

A U. S. Mail Route was established from Donaldsonville to Washington, going by stage coach to Lake Verret, and by steamboat from there to Berwick's Bay, up the Teche through Pattersonville and Franklin, Jeanerette and New Iberia, thence by stage coach to Washington, a 54-mile overland trip.

"For comfort, speed and safety, passengers will find this route superior to all others," advertised the proprietors, Vinson & Ratier.

On May 22, 1853, P. D. Hardy was elected district attorney of the district composed of St. Landry and Calcasieu parishes. Hardy, of Opelousas (the P. stood for Pliny), was opposed by John F. Morrogh of Calcasieu, in St. Landry. Hardy polled 407 votes to 246 for his opponent. In Lafayette, Hardy's majority was 31 votes. The Courier did not report the Calcasieu vote, but Hardy won. To give an idea of the voting precincts of the day, here is the vote in that election, which the Courier said was unusually light:

POLL	HARDY	MORROGH
Opelousas	84	49
Bellevue	19	00
Momville	17	2
Plaisance	21	12
Chataignier	29	4
Washington	64	17
Gros Chevreuil	3	36
Crand Coteau	36	6
Lower Plaquemine	6	19
Upper Plaquemine	18	27
Bois Mallet	12	00

Faquetique	00	28
Flat Town	7	14
Bayou Chicot	16	19
Old Grand Prairie	12	1
Waxia	11	8
Coulee Croche	17	4
Joue Tortue	15	3
Bayou Rouge	3	8
Bayou Boeuf	00	2
Pointe Aux Loups	17	7

407 236  
No election was held at Mermento, Mouth and Atchafalaya.

O. Hinkley announced in The Courier May 28, 1853, that the "good and safe steamer Opelousas," with himself as master, will make regular weekly trips between Washington and New Orleans during the season (low water period) stopping at all landings on the Atchafalaya, Simmsport and the Coast. Hinkley had bought the boat.

The editor paid tribute on June 4, 1853, to the excellent conduct by Mrs. Renee of her boarding school for young ladies, urged community support. He also reported that a severe hailstorm on the previous Friday at Lafayette wreaked havoc and tirely wiped out many crops, injuring many people.

DISTRICT CLERKS  
The practice of electing district clerks in Louisiana was begun by act of the legislature becoming effective November 1, 1853.

The Courier listed a report of value of farm equipment, issued by the federal commissioner of patents for 1851, showing to quote the Courier editor, that Louisiana compares favorably with any state. The state was credited with the following:

Value of farm implements and machinery \$11,576,938; number of horses 89, asses and mules 44,849; work oxen 54, other cattle 414,798 bu. of wheat 417, of rye 475; Indian corn 10,226,573; potatoes 1,428,453; pounds of rice 4,425, boxes of cotton 178,789; hogsheds sold from cane 222,001 (almost 100% of U. S. molasses 10,931,177; tons of hay 25, A CONCERT

Charles Mayer advertised on June 4, 1853, that he was to give a concert June 10, the new building of James McDaniel, Washington, offering numerous popular pieces, including "Old Folks at Home" with variations on the violin; "Yank Doodle," the "Carnival of Venice," variations on the piano-forte, &c., Admission, \$1.

The police jury, reorganizing for 1853, appointed: Guy H. Bell, clerk; Robert Benjamin treasurer; Hilaire Dessartes, parish constable; by vote of 11-4, Berthel A. Martel, parish attorney, over Theobald Robin, and Charles H. Beauchamp, parish physician.

Construction of roads and bridges continued to occupy much of the police jury time. The jury also made appropriations the year for each pauper in the parish name.

Publishers Sandoz and Meynier of the Courier won the parish printing with a bid of \$175, against \$349.95 bid by E. Cullom of the St. Landry Whig.

Charles Mayer also advertised that he would give music lessons on violin and piano and also voice lessons.

The police jury had appropriated \$4 and will build a drawbridge over the Calcasieu at the mouth of Bayou Waxia, newspaper especially pointed out. The home of R. Cannon, near Bayou Chicot, burned down, said the Courier of June 18, 1853.

Reporting that "a mammoth steam upward of 600 feet in length" will be in England, The Courier commented, a lengthy account of plans for this monster "This is a great age we live in, and no take!"

COUNTY OF OPELOUSAS

The Courier reported on June 18, 1853, that B. A. Martel, parish attorney, was the midst of a fight with the federal government to recover "a grant of land made the Baron Carondelet in 1797," by the "the County of Opelousas has a right certain portion of cypress swamp lands. The federal government had failed to recognize the grant, but congress April 29, 1816, had "allowed to our One Square League of Cypress Swamp which grant was to have been located the said County of Opelousas, for the benefit of its inhabitants." Parochial authorities however, had continually failed to locate this grant, and now the state was claim to all swamp lands. The Courier praised attorney Martel for the work he had done to secure the land, and hoped success.

The governor appointed attorney Notary Public for St. Landry parish, placing H. L. Garland, resigned. The president appointed W. J. McCullough, deputy surveyor now in St. Landry parish, surveyor-general for the state.

MEXICAN WAR IMMINENT

The Courier also reported on June 18, 1853, that the United States claimed Valley of Mexico as part of the territory of New Mexico, that troops were to be sent to protect U.S. rights, and that "the pro-



war was imminent." The Courier, with tongue in cheek, became wrought up over the... of another conquering war with Mexico. "Then it discounted the report of the... miserable, exhausted, ill-governed... "Then it discounted the report of the... on, on subsequent news that the U.S. was negotiating to buy Mexico Valley.

The Courier of above date also published... later attack on Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of Uncle Tom's Cabin, calling her a... with no epithet available fitted to her name, and her nature "naturally and irremediably vile."

The Courier had begun to carry more news of a local nature. Among accounts June 25, 1853, were...

"The free mulatto Henry Blue, well known as a drunkard, a harbinger of stolen goods, &c., was surprised on Wednesday night last hung up by one leg to Mr. John Grey's fence, on Union street. It is generally believed that the night bird in question knowing that Mr. P. was not at home, and had some delicious brandy, had resolved to make a night descent on the gentleman's premises and take his provisions cheap, but he had not calculated that the pickets were high and his net crooked. We have been informed that Blue has VAMOSSED."

Them: "Mr. Alex. Boyd, engineer at Mr. Johnson's saw mill on the Courtaudreau, in his parish, has had his hand cut off close to his wrist by a circular saw about ten days ago."

A second boarding and day-school for young ladies was announced in The Courier July 9, 1853. This was superintended by Mrs. Berclier, who announced that the course would embrace French, English, reading, writing, history, geography, mythology, arithmetic and all kinds of needlework, with particular emphasis on English. Her rates were the same as those of Mrs. Renaud's school: 10 per quarter for instruction, \$25 for boarding, and \$18 for music. "Each student," her advertisement reads, "must be furnished with a bedstead, a mattress, a cover, a mosquito bar, four sheets, six towels, a fork, knife and spoon."

A parish Democratic convention was held July 14, 1853, at which the group agreed to try to run Robert Benguerel of Opelousas for state auditor at the state convention in Baton Rouge, and Judge Renaux for treasurer, and the following delegates were named to represent the parish at the state convention:

P. D. Hardy, P. H. Overton, B. A. Martel, J. H. Sandoz, S. W. Quirk, John Gibb, Jas. Neyland, John Reel, Elbert Mart, Lile Chachere. The state convention was to be held Aug. 1.

A Grand Concert and Ball entitled the Opelousas Varieties was staged July 21, 1853, Messrs. Ries and Mayer, aided by "several stars."

In every issue of The Courier there were... sales of estates, and the editor considered them new news and would call attention in news columns to the sales of the week. In a sale was advertised to be held July 26, 1853, and the following days, and to serve as an example of what was the property of the well-to-do planters of the parish: Auguste Dejean, auctioneer, was to sell the plantation and property of the late M. Lyons, Sr., in Robert's Cove. The property included:

- About 1,000 acres of land, with buildings and improvements; another tract Bayou Queue Tortue of 10x40 arpents;
- Slaves of both sexes and divers ages; men pairs and the odd oxen; about 50 head of gentle cattle; six Creole ponies; 8 American horses; four mules; one buggy and a lot of old iron; one lot of tools; two ox carts; two old horse carts; one lot of shoes; one grindstone; one lot of ploughs; two plough chains; three iron teeth; eight ploughs; one lot old ploughs; one lot old yokes; seven pots, one lot of copper ware; four earthen jars; two large ironing wheels; two looms; 300 yards of flannel cloth; 300 pounds of baling rope, more or less; one lot of wool; 30 head of calves; 49 head of sheep; one clock; three presses; one bureau; four tables; two cupboards; one double barrelled gun; one small stand and two mattresses; four feather beds; one lot of cruckery; two quilts; eight bedsteads; five blankets; one lot of Mrs. & C. Also
- 6 head of unbroken horses,
- 2 head of gentle horses
- 5 head of stock mares,
- 4 head of horned cattle.

ISLAND The forerunner of doom is contained in an... in The Courier of July 16, 1853, by Mrs. E. Pacot of Franklin, for an extensive boarding establishment on an island which was claimed to be "the most agreeable summer retreat on the whole... coast. There was bathing, fishing, the finest of foods and liquors, billiard and... saloons, a livery stable where horses... carriages could be hired for riding on... the extensive beach, and other fac... This was the island subsequently wip... of habitation, even of trees, by a... hurricane during the height of the... season, killing hundreds of revelers... many St. Landry... residents.

glorious July Fourth celebration at the Gros Chevreul was reported in great

detail by a volunteer correspondent in the July 16, 1853 Courier, who even quoted the flowery oratory of the speaker for the occasion, T. E. Gardiner, Esq., who traced the history of the then young nation, and speculated on its glorious future. Hall Columbia and Yankee Doodle were played in "inspiring strains," and the writer of the piece could not know that within a decade those songs would become outlawed for a generation and July Fourth celebrations ended for many years to come.

Another custom of the times, apprenticeship, is reminded by a notice inserted by Joseph Gibbs that Leonard Manso (alias Fou-toute), f.p.c., apprentice of the said Gibbs by act passed before a notary public on Feb. 5, 1850, and persons were warned against hiring or harboring him.

A portrait painter, Augustin Long, came to Opelousas and was staying at the Rail Road Hotel, the Courier of July 23, 1853, reported, and the editors, having seen his works, highly recommended him. The steamer Opelousas left on a Saturday instead of the usual Sunday to accommodate those going to the Democratic convention. The Courier of same date advised, also, that a good remedy for diarrhea was to take a pint of the best brandy, dissolve therein as much gum of camphor as it will dissolve, put 10 drops of this solution and 10 drops of laudanum in a tablespoon of strong spice tea, and repeat every hour. Give children less.

Slaves were continually advertised and sold through the Courier, either being sold by private individuals or at large auctions. An example of a private advertisement: "The undersigned offers for sale at private sale, a NEGRO WOMAN, aged about 44 years, washer, ironer and cook. For the price and conditions, apply to the undersigned at the store of Goldman & Kaufman.

"S. GARRIGUES" The president of the railroad company visited Opelousas, according to the Courier of July 30, 1853, to clear up a difficulty being experienced. Many subscribers of stock in the company were arbitrarily reducing the amount of their stock subscriptions, and this, of course, had to stop.

The concert, Opelousas Varieties, was a grand success, and the editor of the Courier waxed eloquent for several hundred words over the fine violin playing of Charles Mayer, the piano playing and singing of Mr. Muller, the flute of Mr. Ries, and the dancing of the belles and beaux thereafter. A sample sentence from the review:

"Mayer again appeared in the German Sweet Home, and here he excelled himself, and indeed, freighted with the beautiful talent, and receiving the patriotic feelings of the one who handled it in so masterly manner, it seemed to speak -- speak the language of a heart, noble already in its instincts, purified and exalted by the most refining of human arts, and full with the recollections of his home beyond the sea. (That was Mr. Mayer playing the violin).

A new steambot, the Alice W. Glaze, was being built in Louisville for the Opelousas trade, the Courier reported. She was to go into service to Washington from New Orleans in October 1853, able to carry 1,200 bales of cotton and negotiate the lowest water.

The Courier of Aug. 6, 1853, took gleeful note of the fact that Queen Victoria refused to grant an audience to Harriet Beecher Stowe and that Louis Napoleon's officials in Paris were not so cordial to the authoress, either.

Theo Lastrapes and J. S. A. Fontenot formed a partnership and announced that they had bought the store of James C. Anderson. The Courier editorially wished the young men well and advised the town to patronize them.

Mons. M. Cazalot announced that he would begin a dancing academy on Aug. 1, 1853, at Alexandre Guidry's hotel in Washington, teaching polkas, waltzes, quadrills "and all other fashionable dances now in vogue," and would form a class in Opelousas as soon as 20 persons joined.

Francois Poirat advertised that "I positively forbid any one to milk my cows, and that I have made up my mind to sue those I shall find in contravention to this advertisement."

YELLOW FEVER Because of the yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans, O. Hincley, master of the steamer Opelousas, informed the public that the boat would not return to Opelousas until "the epidemic shall cease or the citizens say they are not afraid of her being the means of transmitting the disease among us." This was in The Courier of Aug. 13, 1853. William Ballock of Grand Coteau sent the editor of The Courier a dozen of the largest peaches the latter has ever seen.

The word from New Orleans on Aug. 13, 1853, was that the fever had not abated a bit, and the rate of mortality remained at much more than 100 per day. The correspondent said it was the worse epidemic yet.

The Opelousas railroad was at this time between Bayou des Allemands and Tigerville, with 500 men working on the roadbed.

The Democratic convention at Baton Rouge nominated Judge Groneaux, incumbent, for state treasurer; Judge Carrigan of Baton Rouge for superintendent of public schools; for auditor, Mr. Benguerel of Opelousas led the first ballot, but dropped out after the third ballot, and Mr. Marks won. They nominated Judge Perkins for congress from

the third district. The Whigs, meeting in Donaldsonville, nominated Col. T. G. Hunt of New Orleans for congress.

A grand fireworks display, with balloon ascension, was to be staged in Opelousas Sunday, Aug. 20, 1853, by two New Orleans pyrotechnics, Carot & LaRose, and The Courier hailed the event as a "new kind of festival in our parish," and hoped the public would encourage such events by attending "en masse."

On Aug. 18, 1853, the Whig Party, in state convention, nominated John E. King of Opelousas its candidate for state auditor. King was active in town and parish affairs, and his name appears frequently in town and parish official publications and the like. St. Landry parish delegates to the state Whig convention, elected in a parish convention, were:

Jos. M. Moore, Albert Dejean, J. A. Akin head, Thos. M. Anderson, E. H. Martin, Cyrus Thompson, John E. King, Jas. M. Porter, F. Culom, C. L. Swayze, O. A. Guldry, Thos. C. Anderson, Andy Meyer and E. North Culom.

On Aug. 20, 1853, Judge Overton -- an ancestor of the late U. S. Sen. John Overton, advertised his plantation on Bayou Teche for sale. It was listed as a "Valuable Sugar Plantation" of 900 arpents with a good sugar house and mill.

Joseph Gibbs and Samuel P. Clark opened a "Carriage Shop" employing the best of carriage smiths.

It was announced Aug. 27, 1853, and hailed by The Courier, that the combination boat and stagecoach route to New Orleans through New Iberia and Donaldsonville had been improved by the addition of a "small and excellent little passenger steambot called Mary Jane" to run between Donaldsonville and Napoleonville in Bayou Lafourche. This left but 10 miles of the route between Donaldsonville and New Orleans to stage travel. The Courier added that a "splendid stage drawn by four stout horses" travelled the route between Washington and New Iberia, and commended the operators.

FEVER EPIDEMIC TERRIBLE

The yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans had, by August 1853, exceeded all previous horrors. A report from that city on Aug. 27 was that for the previous 24-hour period there were the 242 deaths, of which 219 were from yellow fever, and this latter figure did not count eight in the Jewish cemetery whose causes of death were not listed. Said the New Orleans reporter:

"The characteristics that mark the present visitation baffle all reasoning founded upon past experience and observation. We think it altogether probable that the fever will not disappear until all the unacclimated have been attacked -- or until a spell of cold weather cuts it suddenly short. If we are mistaken, so much the better."

Professional notices inserted in The Courier of Sept. 3, 1853, included the following:

- Attorneys --- John E. King, T. E. Gardiner (Grand Coteau), B. A. Martel, Henry L. Garland, Louis Lastrapes.
- Notaries Public --- Joel H. Sandoz, F. C. Kaufman (Washington).
- Public Criers: George Rainier (for Lafayette) and St. Landry, offices at Vermilionville, now named Lafayette), Hilaire Dessarsart.
- Surveyor --- John McDonald.
- Stable and collector --- Julien Honor.
- Public Auctioneer --- Robert Benguerel, Theodos Chachere, Auguste Dejean.
- Artisans inserting notices in The Courier included: "Carriagesmiths," Joseph Gibbs and Samuel P. Clark.

- "Carriagesmiths" --- Joseph Gibbs, Samuel P. Clark.
- Painter, Glazier, &c. --- Luke Holler.
- Bricklayer & Plasterer --- S. Lanney.
- Saddler & Harness Maker --- George W. Marsh.
- Druggist --- John Posey.
- Sawmill operator --- L. Nezat.
- Sign and house painter and Paperhanger --- Hector Lanney.
- Coffinmaker (who kept a hearse which customers might use free of charge) --- Silas Harris.

The mortality rate from the yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans had become "appallingly great," The Courier reported on Sept. 10, 1853. For the week of Aug. 21 - 27, the total deaths were 1628, of which 1454 were from yellow fever.

FEVER IN WASHINGTON

The Courier reported sorrowfully that yellow fever had reached Washington, and that "already several persons have died." With horror, on Sept. 10, 1853, The Courier reported a slaying under this heading:

"DIABOLICAL MURDER OF A WHITE MAN BY HIS SLAVE"

The article reported that five days previous, a slave belonging to Oliver Lafleur, "one of the oldest and most respectable residents of Grand Prairie," was shot in the arm by a slave who had taken Lafleur's double-barrelled shotgun. Lafleur fled to the house, but the negro broke the door with an axe and fired again but only the cap exploded.

Lafleur fled to the corn crib, where the slave cornered him and beat him about the head with the gun "until his life was extinguished." Thereupon the man was chased by kin of Lafleur to his house, where he was surrounded and shot twice, not fatally, and caught. He was jailed, and The Courier stated that "It is supposed that he will live long enough to be made a public example of and suffer the awful retribution that is in store for him."

The weekly death list of The Courier was unusually high for that week. It included, besides 50-year-old Mr. Lafleur:

Rosamond Doucer, 30; Louis Lambert, 18, of Prairie Plaisance; Marie Emelle Estorge, daughter of Gusman Estorge and Mrs. Augustine Cahain, aged 3, and Raymond Durio, 50, of Washington.

FAMILIES FLEE OPELOUSAS

Panic because of the yellow fever outbreak in Washington became so great that by Sept. 17, 1853, "about forty families have abandoned Opelousas," The Courier reported. Only those who could not leave due to "business or pecuniary" reasons remained in the town.

"The Bell Chaney and Beaver Creek Springs are crowded with our citizens, also the banks of the Whiskychitto, situated at about 80 miles from this town, where several families have started with tents, baggages, provisions, others have gone to Attakapas (St. Martin parish) and the banks of the Teche," reported the newspaper.

"We are now in a most deserted town. The boarding schools of Mrs. A. Renaud, Miss U. Berclier, Mrs. Delarselle, Rev. Thos. Rand Jr. and Mr. Valade are all shut up. Also several stores and coffee-houses.

"The health of our parish, at the present moment, is very alarming. At Washington, yellow fever is raging awfully, most all of the country is very unhealthy, Opelousas alone is in a very healthy condition.

"We learn from a friend, just from Vermilionville, in the parish of Lafayette, that the yellow fever has made its appearance in that village, and that three persons have died in one day. If it is so, neighbors, we pity you!

"We have been informed that from 3 to (this number was torn out) persons a day have died in Washington this week"

In New Orleans, however, the fever was on the decline. The Courier reported that Aug. 28th--142 persons, 29th--128, 30th--110, Sept. 1st--103, 2nd--110, 3rd--96, 4th--95, 5th--72, 6th--70, 7th--53, 8th--52, and 9th--47.

Word from Thibodaux was that there were on Sept. 2, 1853, a total of 151 cases of yellow fever, and 22 deaths to that date.

The Board of Police of Opelousas on Sept. 5 required that any goods or merchandise at all coming from Washington or other infected places be thoroughly aired for three days outside the town limits before it could be entered; that any person coming into town with yellow fever be instantly removed; that no person who died elsewhere of yellow fever be buried in Opelousas; that if anybody in town should die of the fever the body should be enveloped and buried as speedily as possible.

"Last week," The Courier also reported Oct. 29, 1853, "we observed a small drove of mules passing through our town on their way North. There is, this year, an increasing demand for cattle in our parish."

St. Landry parish Democrats met here Oct. 22, 1853, and nominated B. A. Martel their candidate for the state senate. The group decided not to nominate for the house.

Marrted on Oct. 20 at the residence of Judge Bullard were Thomas D. Miller, Esq., of New Orleans, and Miss Sarah Gordon, daughter of the late Capt. John H. Gordon of Washington.

A meeting of Louisiana newspapers to form the Louisiana Press Association was called for Feb. 22, 1854. The Courier reported on Nov. 2, 1853, and the editor said "We'll do our best to be thar." (This organization exists until this day, and currently has some 120-odd member Louisiana newspapers, including the Daily World.)

First usage of the term "Port Barre" was also noted in this issue of The Courier, previous identifications of the place being "Barre's Landing."

Somebody broke into Simon Richard's house, he advertised, and stole some household articles, a pistol and a fiddle. They could keep everything but that fiddle, and he would give a handsome reward for its return. His name was in it.

St. Landry citizens were to vote in November and candidates included:

- State senator, Thomas M. Anderson;
- state representative, Onezime A. Guidry, Albert Dejean, Joseph D. Gardiner and E. North Culom, all Democrats; district clerk, Adolphe Garrigues and Gustave E. L. ouillier; recorder, Yves D'Avy; sheriff, B. B. David and Thomas C. Anderson; assessor, Pierre Mouille and Raphael Richard; justice of the peace, Col. Guy H. Bell; ward constable, John A. Gordon and Julien Carville Honor; Police jury, Eugene Wartell, Louis A. Patin, F. C. Devilliers, John Wright, Francois Robin, Ulysse Gabaret, Joseph Z. Fontenot, Hyolite Chretien, Augustin Gullouy, James McClelland, Onezime A. Boudreau and Theogene Castille.

Democrats won the state election. In the St. Landry-Calcasteu race for the state



# OPELOUSAS

VOL. XI.

OPELOUSAS

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, BY  
George W. Addison.

**Conditions:**  
Subscription, \$5 per year in advance,  
or \$6 at the end of the year.

No subscriber taken for a less term than one year, and a notice of discontinuance must be made prior to the end of each twelve months.

No subscription discontinued until all arrearages are paid, unless at the option of the Editor.

All letters to the Editor, on business relating to the Gazette, must be post paid.

Advertisements charged in the following manner, to wit: Advertisements not exceeding twelve lines or less will be inserted for one dollar, and fifty cents for each subsequent insertions—longer ones in the same proportion.


All Advertisements, unless otherwise ordered, will be published in French and English, until forbid, and charged accordingly—to be paid cash.

No advertisements of bankruptcies will be published in any case, unless paid for previous to insertion, or payment guaranteed by a responsible person.

The regular price of advertising will be charged for announcing candidates for office, either of honor or profit.

**The Subscribers**  
HAVE opened a general assortment of Goods, in the New Store, opposite Messrs. Chacheré, Frères.  
**FREMONT, GUIDRY & ROY**  
Opelousas, May 5th, 1838.

## OPELOUSAS Drug Store.

 THE Subscribers having purchased the Drug Store of Messrs. Lyons & Cooke and made extensive addition to the former stock, respectfully solicits the patronage of their friends and the public generally, assuring them that the articles procured at their establishment, shall not be inferior to articles procured at any establishment of the kind in the State. Their stock consists in part of Surgical and Dental Instruments; Medicine, in all their variety: Paints, Oils, Dye-Woods, Brushes, Glass, Varnishes, Putty, &c.—Together with a large assortment of Perfumery, Fancy Soaps, Cosmetics, Hair Oils, &c.

**SCOTT & SATTERWHITE.**  
Opelousas, Feb. 18th, 1837.

## An Ordinance,

Concerning the paving of certain foot-paths in the Town of Opelousas.

1st. The Board of Police of the Town of Opelousas, Ordains

2d. That the Foot-Paths in the following named Streets, in the Town of Opelousas, to wit: On each side of Main Street, from Grôlee to Vine Street. On each side of Bellevue and Saint Landry Streets, from Main to Court Street, and the square number eleven on Court Street, be and the same are hereby ordered to be paved with brick, by the owner or owners of the lot or piece of land in front of whose property any foot-path may be.


3d. That the said paving shall be done on or before the First day of the month of October next, under the directions of the supervisors of the wards, who are hereby required to conform to Article 184, of Law 14, in carrying this Ordinance into effect.

Ordained, the 11th June, 1838.

**LEWIS ANDRUS,** President.

Attest,  
**GUY H. BELL,** Clerk.

## A Runaway in Jail.

 WAS Committed to the jail of the Parish of St. Landry, a negro man who calls himself Lewis.

## Opelousas Hotel.

THE Commodious establishment favorable known to travellers and others as the

### Opelousas Hotel,

and formerly under the management of Messrs. Gilbert Sloane and Alexander Hamilton, has passed into the hands of the undersigned, and will hereafter be conducted under the firm of

### Layne & Andrus.

This house is situated in the most pleasant portion of this beautiful village, and is at a convenient distance from the Court House, Post Office, office of the Register and Receiver of Public Lands, office of the United States District Attorney, Clerk's office of the Supreme Court, Clerk's office of the United States District court, &c. &c.

No exertions shall be spared on the part of the present proprietors to render this one of the most desirable and pleasant Hotels in the State. Their table at all times shall be supplied with the very best the country can afford—their bed rooms clean and airy, their servants active, obedient and attentive—in short every thing will be attended to, calculated to render both Boarders and Travellers both easy and comfortable.

Their stables will be constantly supplied with every description of provender, and that which is good; and they an ostler equal to any in the State.

Their charges will be the same as those of the former proprietors, which are very moderate, to wit:

Boarding pr. mo. with lodging, \$23 00  
month without lodging, 18 00  
Boarding pr. week with " 8 00  
" day " " 1 50  
" Man and Horse per day, 2 50  
" " " " week, 15 00

We earnestly invite our friends and the Public to call and see us, and then determine whether or not we deserve their patronage.

**B. C. LAYNE,  
BENJ. ANDRUS.**

Opelousas, La. June 9th, 1838.

## Spring Creek ACADEMY.

THIS Institution under the direction of a Board of Trustees, appointed in conformity to an Act of the Legislature of this State, is now prepared to receive students from a distance. The Academy is situated in a high open pine land country, remote from any stagnant water.

The next Session will commence on Monday, the 9th July. There are two vacations of two weeks each, including the 4th of July and the 25th of December. The examinations commence on Thursday before each vacation.

### Primary Department.

Students are instructed in Reading, Writing, Rudiments of English Grammar, Arithmetic and Geography at \$9 per quarter.

### Female Department.

**MISS EMMA H. STENHEUR,**  
Principal Teacher,  
Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, English Grammar, Geography with Globes, History, Astronomy, Philosophy, &c. at \$12 per quarter.  
With the addition of French, \$15.  
For Music per qr. comprising 36 lessons, \$15  
Use of the Piano per month, \$1

### Male Department,

**REV. ELIHU ROBINSON,**  
Principal Teacher.  
The same branches taught at the same prices as in the Female Department.  
Mathematics and the Language, \$15 per qr.  
Board, Washing and Lodging per month, \$12  
Students wishing to cultivate vocal music, can have instruction in that art.

Opelousas Courier after Addison's death. Page 2 contains news from England, from France, from Spain, from Texas, and "national affairs." A list of legislators on that page shows that St. Landrians at that time were, senats, Jacques Dupre; house, Thomas H. Lewis, Jas. Morgan and C. La Vergne.



## PROBATE SALE.

WILL BE SOLD, on the premises, in the Prairie Mamou, on the 17th day of August next,

the property belonging to the estate in community between Samuel Reed, and the heirs of his deceased wife,

CONSISTING OF

**Seven Slaves,  
TWO TRACTS OF LAND,**

in the Prairie Mamou, having ten arpens by forty each,

ABOUT ONE HUNDRED HEAD OF

**HORNED CATTLE,  
WORK OXEN,  
HORSES,**

**Plantation Utensils,  
Household Furniture,**

&c. &c. &c.

Terms at Sale.

At the same time and place, WILL be sold, the property belonging to the succession of Adam Reed, deceased, consisting of

**One Slave,  
A SMALL QUANTITY OF  
Horses and Cattle,**

AND THE

**IMPROVEMENTS  
ON PUBLIC LAND.**

**GEORGE KING,  
Parish Judge.**

Opelousas, 16th July, 1838—4t

## PROBATE SALE.

WILL be sold, on the premises, in the Grande Prairie, on the 22d day of August next,

the property belonging to the succession of the late Jean Louis Guillory, deceased, consisting of the

**Tract of Land,**

on which he last resided, having three and an half arpens front by forth in depth.

**Three Slaves,  
ABOUT TWENTY HEAD OF  
HORNED CATTLE,**

**FOUR HORSES,  
Plantation Tools,  
Household Furniture,**

&c. &c. &c.

Terms—One half in April next, and the other half one year thereafter.

**GEORGE KING,  
Parish Judge.**

Opelousas, 16th July, 1838—5t

## PROBATE SALE.

WILL BE SOLD, AT the residence of Antoine Cart, on the waters of Plaquemine Brulée, on the

20th day of August next,

the property belonging to the succession of the late widow Placide Sauvier, deceased, consisting of

**EIGHTY ARPENS OF LAND,**



# GAZETTE.

MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 1838.

No. 47.

**SALES.**

**TE SALE.**

**SOLD, AT AUCTION,**

**Opelousas,**

**the eighth day of next,**

**WOMAN SLAVE**

**PARISSE,**

**the eighth day of next,**

**the property of Mary Ann**

**son Pierre Lemont,**

**GEORGE KING,**

**Parish Judge.**

**July, 1838—3t**

**TE SALE.**

**BE SOLD**

**in the Prairie Belle**

**August next,**

**the property belonging**

**of the late Alexan**

**deceased, to wit:**

**ct of Land**

**aged last resided, hav**

**fourths arpens front**

**ed and eighty-**

**cial arpens,**

**MBER OF**

**Oxen,**

**MORSES,**

**LSO—**

**and Colts,**

**BROKE**

**FEATURES,**

**RED HEAD OF**

**CATTLE.**

**on Furnisels,**

**urniture,**

**&c. &c.**

**and will be sold payable**

**15th of April next, one**

**April, 1840, and the re-**

**15th April, 1841—**

**on the 15th April next.**

**ORGE KING,**

**Parish Judge.**

**July, 1838—3t**

**chester.**

**F. FABRIQUE,**

thanks to the citizens  
and the public gen-  
eral patronage that has  
his boat during the past  
his friends and the  
plates running her  
next high water.  
had been laid up at  
was undergoing some  
was called on by some  
this place, to make the  
e oiered eight hundred  
a boat to come up, but  
e one, he therefore re-  
considerable expense,  
rip. He merely states  
public may see that he  
to spare no expense or  
the patronage that has  
extended to his boat.  
ly 24th, 1838—3t

## Poetry.

**THE FIELD OF CORN.**  
Let others praise the mystic flowers  
From southern summers sprung;  
The glory of Italian bowers  
By hard and beauty sung;  
While Rosalie's enduring grace  
Is in my mem'ry borne,  
I'll not forget our trysting-place  
Was in the field of corn.

The branching vines beneath our feet  
No purple clusters bore,  
But fruit more sunny-hued and sweet  
The pumpkin's yellow store.  
The plaintive quail that harboured near  
Prolonged his note forlorn,  
And every sigh and sound was dear  
Among the Indian corn.

The green and trailing leaves at last  
Were faded, crisp, and sore,  
And over them the autumn blast  
Bewailed their ruin drear,  
By reapers from the tasseled stalk  
The golden ear was torn,  
And desolate became our walk  
Within the field of corn.

**CHRISTMAS CAROL.**  
Star of the east, whose beacon light  
A gleam on Bethlehem threw,  
And thither by that wonderous sight  
Arabia's sages drew;  
On thee in thought we love to gaze  
In western climes afar,  
And think on thy mysterious rays,  
Thou lovely eastern star!

Fair is the star of eve that sheds  
Her light betokening rest;  
And fair the morning star that leads  
The day in glory drest;  
But still more fair thy form arose,  
And lovelier to behold,  
Which of a more serene repose,  
A brighter glory told.

Hail thou, whose silvery radiance led  
Those Magian chiefs to bring  
Their choicest gifts in worship's spread  
Before Judea's king;  
That glorious sun whose harbinger  
Thy light was made to shine,  
And like the pillar'd flame to bear  
Aloft salvation's sign!

Hail thou, appointed to adorn  
The rising king of heaven,  
The promised child to Judah born,  
The son to Israel given;  
In whom the peaceful empire seal'd  
Should more and more increase;  
In him, the mighty God reveal'd  
In him, the prince of peace!

So on thy beacon light we gaze  
In western climes afar,  
And note thy heaven-directed rays,  
Thou lovely eastern star;  
With praise to Him who in the sky  
Thy wonderous crest bring,  
Prompt to inform the observing eye,  
Apart from speech or tongue.

Him who permits to all to see  
The light their stations need;  
Who chose the star vested sage by thee,  
Star of the east, to lead;  
Who made by shepherd swains at night,  
The angel's voice be heard;  
And gives to us his scriptures' light,  
His own recording word.

## Miscellaneous.

### THE THREE BRIDES.

Towards the close of a chilly after-noon, in the latter part of November, I was travelling in New Hampshire on Horseback. The road was solitary and rugged, and wound along through gloomy pine forests, over abrupt and stony hills. I stopped at an inn, a two story brick building, standing a little back from the road.

This done, he ascended from the trench with a lightness that surprised me, and walking a few paces from the new made grave, sat down upon a tombstone. I did so.

"Young man," said he, "a sexton and a grave digger, if he is one who has a zeal for his calling, becomes something of a historian, amassing many a curious tale and strange legend concerning the people with whom he has to do, living and dead. For a man with a taste for his profession, cannot provide for the last repose of his fellows, without taking an interest in the story, the manner of death, and the concern of the relatives who follow their remains so fearfully to the grave."

"Then," replied I, taking a seat beside the sexton, "methinks you could relate some interesting tales."

Again the withering smile that I had before observed, passed over the face of the sexton as he answered.

"I am no story-teller, sir; Ideal in fact, not fiction. Yes, yes, I could chronicle some strange events. But of all things I know, there is nothing strange to you than the melancholy history of the three brides."

"The three brides?"

"Ay. Do you see three billocks yonder, side by side? there they sleep, and will till the last trumpet comes waiving through the heart of those lone hills, with a tone so strange and stirring, that the dead will start from their graves at its first awful note. Then will come the judgment and the retribution. But to my tale. Look there, sir, on yonder hill, you may observe a little isolated house, with a straggling fence in front, and a few stunted apple trees on the ascent behind it.

It is sadly out of repair now, and the garden is all overgrown with weeds and brambles, and the whole place has a desolate appearance. If the wind were high you, might hear the old crazy shutters flapping against the sides, and the wind tearing the gray shingles off the roof.

Many years ago, there lived an old man and his son, who cultivated the few acres of arable land which belongs to it.

The father was a self-taught man, deeply versed in the mysteries of science, and as he could tell the name of every flower that blossomed in the wood and grew in the garden; and used to sit up late at nights at his books, or reading the mystic story of the starry heavens, men thought he was crazed or bewitched, and avoided him and even hated him, as the ignorant ever shun and dread the enlightened. So they all deserted him, and the minister, for the old man diffused in some trifling points of doctrine, spoke very slightly of him; and by and by all looked upon the self-educated farmer with eyes of aversion. He instructed his son in all his lore—the languages, literature, history, science, were included one by one, to the enthusiastic son of the solitari-

I cannot paint to you the grief of the son at his bereavement. He was for a time as one distracted. He sought to bury grief in his thirst for fame. After his thirst was gratified, he began to yearn for the companionship of some sweet being of the other sex, to share the labors they had won—to whisper consolation in his ear in moments of despondency, and to supply the void which the death of his old father had occasioned. He would picture to himself the felicity of a refined intellectual and beautiful woman, and as he had chosen for his motto, what has been done may still be done, he bid not despair of success. In this village lived three sisters, all beautiful and accomplished. Their names were Mary, Adélaïde, and Madeline. I can never forget the beauty of the three young girls.—Mary was the youngest, and a fair-haired more laughing damsel never danced upon a green. Adélaïde was a few years

happily, the husband again smiled and with a new spring the roses again blossomed in their garden. When the rose withered and the leaf fell, in the mellow autumn of the year, Adélaïde took sickened and died, like her younger sister, in the arms of her husband and of Madeline.

Perhaps you will think it strange, that after all, the wretched survivor stood at the altar again. His third bride was Madeline. I well remember her. She was a beauty on the true sense of the word. It may seem strange to you to hear the praise of beauty from such lips as mine; but I cannot avoid expatiating upon hers. She was a proud creature, with a tall, commanding form, and raven tresses, that floated, dark and cloud-like, over her shoulders. She was a singularly gifted woman, and possessed of rare inspiration. She loved the widower for his power and his fame, and she wedded him. They were married in that church. It was on a summer after—

—I recollect it well. During the ceremony the blackest cloud I ever saw overspread the heavens like a pall, and at the moment when the priest pronounced her vow, a clap of thunder shook the building to the centre. All the females shrieked, but the bride made her response with a firm voice as she gazed upon her bridegroom. He marked a kind of incoherence in her expressions as they rode homeward, which surprised him at the time. Arriving at his house, she shrunk upon the threshold; but this was the timidity of a maiden. When they were alone he clasped her hand—it was as cold as ice. He looked into her face—

"Madeline," said he, "what means this? your cheeks are as pale as your wedding gown! The bride uttered a frantic shriek. My wedding gown!" exclaimed she, "no—no—this is my sister's shroud! The hour of confession has arrived. It is God! that impels me to speak. To win you I have lost my soul—yes, yes, I am a murderess. She smiled upon me in the joyous affection of her young heart—but I give her the fatal drug. Adélaïde clasped her white arms about my neck, but I administered the poison!—Take me to your arms! I have lost my soul for you, and mine you must be!

She spread her long white arms," said the sexton rising in the excitement of the moment, and assuming the attitude he described; and then, continued he, in a hollow voice, "at that moment came the thunder and the flash, and the guilty woman fell dead on the floor." The countenance of the narrator expressed all the horror that he felt.

"And the bridegroom," asked I, the husband of the destroyer and the victim, what became of him?"

"He stands before you!" was the thrilling answer.

... to a weather beaten tar who had called at her house for a luncheon, "you must see a great many curiosities at sea?" "O yes," said Jack, and immediately commenced telling of the great leviathans of the deep. "But how do these great fish live," queried the old lady. "O," said he, much as the large fish live on land—by devouring the small ones." "But they don't eat them raw, do they?" "O no," was the reply, "every fish carries a kettle on his tail for cooking!"

We have seldom seen a more amusing, never a more embarrassing mistake of a composer, than the following: Mrs. Emberry in quoting the saying of a distinguished writer—"Let me make the Songs of a nation, and I care not who makes its laws;" is made to say—let me make the sons of a nation, and I care not who makes its laws.—Wil. Ado.

**Love of Promotion.**—During our revolutionary war, a British lieutenant-colonel passed the colonel of his regiment,

Parish Judge was George King; president of the Opelousas Board of Police was Lewis Andrus, who, according to legal notices, had just dissolved his partnership in business with Andrus and had become a partner with D. C. Sirtig in a "trading house." Theo.

and Alph. Lastrapes, as agents, had 17 valuable Negroes for sale. B. C. Lays and Benjamin Andrus had just bought the Opelousas Hotel. Pages 3 and 4 were reprints of Pages 1 and 2 in French.



senate B. A. Martel beat T. M. Anderson of Washington 909 to 853, with one precinct unreported but small.

**YELLOW FEVER RECOUNT**

The editor of The Courier, disappointed that nobody had set down an account of the terrible yellow fever that afflicted St. Landry parish that year, on Nov. 1, 1853, took the task upon himself in a lengthy, serialized article. He reported, in part:

On Aug. 12, 1853, there arrived in Washington a stranger named Valet Desire and who stayed at the hotel of Mr. Quatrevaux. He had been ill during the passage, and his symptoms so resembled yellow fever that he was asked—and readily agreed—to go within three hours of his arrival to his brother's home several miles in the country.

The sheriff, after a public count of the 1,628 votes cast in the parish for police jury candidates, announced the results, showing that the highest vote cast was for Joseph Z. Fontenot, 634; that nobody had a majority, hence nobody elected. The candidates: Eugene Wartelle, Francois Robin, Louis A. Patin, F. C. Devillier, John Wright, Ulysse Gaberel, Joseph Z. Fontenot, Augustin Gullory, Benjamin McEland, Onezime A. Boudreau, Theogene Castille, John P. Murdock, Constant Chachere, Johanna Harris, James Morgan and Hypolite Chretien.

A yellow fever panic had gripped Opelousas, The Courier reported on Sept. 24, 1853, with this editorial:

**"THE PANIC"**

"Unhappily, we have assisted more than once to great disasters and great public calamities, but we have never seen such a panic as the one that pervades in our village for the last two weeks.

"More than three fourths of our dwelling houses are abandoned, the stores are all shut up except one, and two groceries. The neighboring planters forbid to their slaves from coming among us with vegetables, milk, &c. From four regular bakers only one is furnishing bread to the community.

"Thank God, it is the only thing that we have to dread of, for our town has never been so healthy during this season of the year. Only two cases of yellow fever, both mortal, though, have been signalized in our village, and both came from Washington.

"We advise though, all our emigrant population to stay away till next frost."

News from Thibodaux, sent The Courier

by the deputy postmaster there, was: "Yellow fever still raging. Two hundred sick; seventy deaths up to this morning, the 9th. Hardly enough of us well to take care of the sick."

The Courier editor was deeply moved by the death on Sept. 21, 1853, of Dr. William J. Digges, who died in Opelousas of yellow fever at the age of 34 years. The doctor contracted the fever while attending his brother-in-law, Dr. Heard, who was sick with it and died of it. The Courier was profuse in praise for the physician, and deeply regretted that his wife and children were "left isolated".

Other deaths during the week prior to Sept. 21, 1853, were: Franklin B. Reeves, 30 at Beaver Creek; Dr. E. J. Heard, 30, in Washington; Sally Scribner, 6, daughter of T. H. Scribner, in Washington; Benjamin Linton Lastrapes, 11 months, son of Louis and Sylvanie Lastrapes, and Henry B. Lastrapes, 6, son of Alphonse Lastrapes and Mary Ann Bullard.

By this week fever had abated so much in New Orleans that "it could hardly now be called an epidemic."

The steamer Opelousas resumed its trips from Washington to New Orleans on Oct. 9. Vermillionville (Lafayette), however, was in a panic similar to that of Opelousas, and the correspondent reported that "the town is a plain desert." There were several yellow fever deaths reported in St. Martin parish.

The Courier was informed on Oct. 1, 1853, by E. L. Nimmo of the Howard Association of New Orleans that he had dispatched a doctor and several nurses to the aid of Washington; that their boat had become hopelessly grounded in Lake Verret and they ultimately forced to return to New Orleans, and were being dispatched by another route.

The Courier listed these yellow fever deaths on Oct. 1: At Washington, Ernest Gaudain, 21; Romain Delafosse, 33; F. C. Kauffmann, 40; Miss Marie Octavie, 28. Persons who contracted the disease at Washington but died at Opelousas and elsewhere included: Benjamin Carantin, Louis Lambert, Auguste B. Fontenot Sr., Auguste B. Fontenot Jr., J. B. Fontenot, Mrs. A. B. Fontenot, Rosemond Doucet, Benjamin Perrodin, Theodore Perrodin, Adolphe Cahain, Dr. Digges, Mrs. Alexis Courville, Frank Miller, Mrs. Frank Neyland and a "Daughter of Carmelite."

The June meeting of the police jury was not published until Oct. 1, 1853. Six new members took their seats, and the jury was composed at that time of:

Old members: Jonathan Harris, Ellisha

Andrus, Francois C. Devillier, John P. Hudson, Joseph E. Andrus, Antoine B. Carte, David Young, John J. Morgan, Elbert Gant and Villeneuve Joubert. New members: John C. Barry, Joseph Zincoourt Fontenot, Auguste Solleau, Thomas McRory, Charles Teale John Wright, Leon Thibodeau and William H. Patin. There were no jurors from two wards, returns on the election not having been heard from in them.

Most Opelousas residents were returning after learning of healthy conditions, however The Courier reported on Oct. 8, 1853, that here were still three or four cases of yellow fever in Washington. "Yellow fever is raging," said the newspaper, "at Pointe Coupee, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, Ascension, Assumption, Lafourche, Iberville, Baton Rouge, Bayou Sara and several other parishes of the state."

Recommended treatment for yellow fever, the newspaper said, was a routine of quinine and calomel.

The negro slave Jack, who had killed his master, Olivier Lafleur, a Grand Prairie planter, was tried and found guilty by a jury the morning of Oct. 15, 1853, and was hanged at noon that day. After two witnesses related the bloody killing, District Attorney P. D. Hardy requested capital punishment, and "after a few seconds" the jury found him guilty.

Yellow fever in New Orleans had abated by Oct. 15, 1853, The Courier reported. For the week ending Oct. 1, there had been only 100 yellow fever deaths, 31 less than the previous week, and "the decline is steady." The New Orleans reporter stated "That it is dying away by exhaustion of the pestilential germ is evident from the fact that the mortality is daily diminishing in spite of the imprudent arrival amongst us of large numbers of unacclimated persons. Nevertheless, those who desire to avoid all danger whatever would do wisely to abstain from visiting New Orleans before a frost."

The St. Landry parish convention of the Whig Party nominated the following candidates at its convention at the Opelousas court house on Oct. 13, 1853:

State senator from St. Landry & Calcasieu, Thomas M. Anderson; state representative, Onezime A. Guidry, Albert Dejean, Joseph D. Gardiner and E. North Caillon.

The convention rejected a move to nominate candidates for parish office. By this issue of the Courier there were the following announced candidates:

District court clerk, incumbent Adolphe Garrigues. Recorder, Yves D'Avy; sheriff, Baptiste David and Thomas C. Anderson;

Assessor, Pierre Mouldie and Raphael Richard; ward constable, Ward 1, John Gordon, Julien Carville Honor; police judge, Eugene Wartelle and Louis A. Patin.

Some of the candidates who had inserted notices in The Courier had not paid for the "a practice the 'Daily World' and 'all other newspapers long since have learned to allow), and the Courier editor demanded they come forward and do so. "Money scarce," he wrote "and we are in need some."

The steamer Opelousas, bound for Washington, was unable to get any closer to "the mouth of Little Devil," at which point there was only four inches of water. Fortunately, the small steamer Trader was able to bring in some of her cargo including barrels of flour. This was fortunate, for Opelousas bakeries were completely out of flour.

Among deaths reported was that of Marguerite Chretien, who died Oct. 14, the age of 83 years.

Headlined The Courier on Oct. 29, 1853, "FROST! FROST! FROST!"

"We have been visited by a heavy frost on Thursday last, 25th instant. "We now invite all our friends to come back home. Yellow Fever is gone! gone! gone!"

The man died and was buried in Grand Coteau. Then, in Washington, a clerk Mr. S. Lepp reported that his brother died of a bad fever, and they lived next to a family which had lost some members to yellow fever in New Orleans then had moved back Washington.

**OPELOUSAS NEWS HIGHLIGHTS - 1853**

JAN. 1 --- In recounting the previous year's terrible yellow fever epidemic in Washington, The Courier reported that more than 40 persons contracted the disease, all but one catching it at Washington, and that "at least 100 persons died of it. The newspaper lists all those known to have died of it. Most died at Washington, but some died at other places in the area, including two at Opelousas."

JAN. 7 --- The first day's racing on S. B. Harmon's new track near Opelousas came off successfully, although betting was relatively light. Charley, owned by Hoskins of Rapides won the main event over four other entries.

"Our roads are in an awful situation due to continual rains, The Courier reported.

(Continued on Page 222)

**FIRST TIME OFFERED!**  
**BENDIX GIANT 21" TV**  
**BRAND NEW... ALL NEW FOR '56**

**4 EXCLUSIVE Patent-Applied-For Features...**

- **PICTURE PULSE PILOT**—New, Bendix® designed dual-purpose tube guards heartbeat of set. Combines, for the first time in any TV chassis, two vital receiving functions into one tube. Saves you money, upkeep costs.
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Bendix designed and engineered for greater performance, dependability and long life. New tube types and circuits give greater picture contrast, cut power consumption to all-time low!

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Model T2100E, Ebony Finish. Base at slight extra cost. Price includes full year picture tube warranty, 90-day warranty on all parts and tubes.

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# OPELOUSAS GAZETTE.

Vol. 21.

Opelousas, La. February 16, 1848.

No. 23.

## Louisiana Legislature.

### IN SENATE,

MONDAY, January 31st, 1848.

The Senate met at half past ten o'clock. Hon. Traismond Landry, Lieutenant Governor, presiding.

Sundry memorials were handed in to the Secretary, by several Senators, which being read, were appropriately referred.

Senator May, of Ouachita, introduced a bill defining the course to be pursued by Sheriffs, Jailors and others, who may arrest runaway slaves, and also fixing the charges to be made for arresting and keeping in confinement runaway slaves. A warm discussion ensued upon this matter, the honorable Senator of Ouachita, very ably and eloquently advocating the passage of the bill. It was finally referred to a special committee of three members composed of Messrs. May, Richardson and Kenner.

Mr. Swayzé, agreeably to previous notice, introduced a bill supplementary to an act establishing free public schools throughout the State. It was read twice and referred to the committee on Education.

Mr. Swayzé, offered a resolution instructing the State Engineer to improve the navigation of Bayou Waxia, in the Parish of St. Landry; said work to be done as soon as practicable without interfering with other works authorized to be done. Read three times and passed.

Mr. Bryce, introduced a bill to amend so much of the Constitution of the State, as relates to the manner of amending or altering the same. It was read once.

The President laid before the Senate, a report from the Adjutant-General of the State, relative to the state and condition of militia.

After the disposal of sundry other local bills, the Senate adjourned.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met pursuant to adjournment. Hon. Preston W. Farrar in the Chair.

Sundry petitions, memorials and resolutions of inquiry were presented to the House, and appropriately referred.

After which, the House took up the bill to provide for the revision and consolidation of the statutes of the State. It reads thus:

"Section 1.—Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, in General Assembly convened, That the Governor shall nominate, and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint three persons, learned in the law, to consolidate and revise the statutes and codes."

"Section 2.—Be it enacted, &c. &c., That it shall be the duty of such persons to revise the codes, and to consolidate and revise the statutes of a local character, and to adopt such arrangements as their own judgment may determine, and to report the same to the General Assembly, at its next session, for its further action."

"Section 3.—Be it further enacted, &c., That the sum of twelve thousand dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated for the payment of the persons appointed as aforesaid, of which said sum fifteen hundred dollars shall be payable in six months after the passage of this act, three thousand dollars in nine months after said passage, and the balance after the work shall have been submitted to and delivered into the possession of the General Assembly; said sums to be paid on the warrant of said persons, except the last payment, which shall not be made without a certificate from the Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the Senate, that the work has been submitted to and approved by the General Assembly."

This bill, after giving rise to a long and protracted debate, passed through its second reading without amendment, and, on motion, it was ordered that it be engrossed for its third reading to-morrow.

The House then adjourned.

### IN SENATE,

TUESDAY, 1st February, 1848.

This body met at 10 o'clock, A. M. pursuant to adjournment. Lieut. Gov. Landry took the chair.

Mr. Cuvillier, Clerk of the House, resumed

chase of Martin's Reports, and for the facilitating the construction of the Electric Telegraph.

Mr. May introduced an act to amend articles 3505 and 4506 of Civil Code. Read once.

Mr. Porter's act, regulating the mode of obtaining licenses to practice law in the State, was read twice, and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The Senate adjourned.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The alleged bribery case came before the House to-day. Mr. Veal, in behalf of the minority of the Committee appointed to investigate the affair, having asked for instructions in relation to the manner in which testimony should be taken, and if the committee had the power of propounding questions to Mr. Myles, (the accused,) on the subject. The matter was laid over for further action, and Mr. Bullitt offered a resolution requiring the Committee to inquire into the conduct of other members on that occasion, and report if any had acted against the rules or dignity of the House.

Mr. Smith's resolutions expressive of the admiration felt by the people of Louisiana for the character and services of Pope Pious IX. in behalf of freedom, were read a second and third time, and unanimously adopted.

The bill for revising and consolidating the Statutes of Louisiana was also read a third time and passed.

The House then adjourned.

### IN SENATE,

WEDNESDAY, February 2nd, 1848.

The Senate met at 10 o'clock, the Hon. Thomas C. Porter in the chair.

They soon afterwards, on motion of Mr. Garcia, adjourned to attend the funeral of Mr. Charles Lemaitre, the late Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 5 o'clock, A. M. The Speaker presented a special report from the State Engineer, in relation to a resolution of the House, requesting him to examine and report on the practicability of improving certain bayous, which was referred to a committee.

Mr. Lataste gave notice that he should soon introduce the following acts:

"An act to annul and abrogate the charter of incorporation of the town of St. Charles, in the Parish of St. Landry."

"An act to amend the acts relative to judicial sales."

"An act to amend an act entitled 'An act relative to the bonds of tax collectors and other public officers.'"

The Judiciary Committee reported unfavorable upon the bill making it a duty to publish any demand that may be addressed to the Legislature on things of general concern, so as to let it be understood previously what the wish of the people therein concerned, is.

This produced much debate, after which, the bill was recommitted, with instructions to report again, if the difference of opinion among the members of the Committee can be reconciled.

The report of Mr. McVea, Chairman of the Special Committee in relation to the conduct of Mr. Myles, on the day that the U. S. Senator was elected, was not taken up, owing to the absence of some members of the Committee upon a visit of inspection to the State Prison at Baton Rouge.

The House then adjourned.

### IN SENATE,

THURSDAY, February 3, 1848.

The body convened to-day at half-past 10 o'clock. The Hon. Lieutenant-Governor in Chair.

Mr. Parham, according to previous notice, introduced a bill to authorize Justices of the Peace to administer the oath of office to Deputy Clerks and Deputy Sheriffs. Said bill underwent its first reading.

Mr. Porter, gave notice of a bill to exempt certain property from seizure and sale for debt.

The Senate then adjourned.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

This body met at 10 o'clock, A. M.; Hon. Preston W. Farrar in the Chair.

printing of the Statutes of the State. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Green presented a series of resolutions, relative to the improvement of Calcasieu river, and to render said river navigable.—These resolutions were read once, and referred to the Improvement Committee.

Mr. Drew presented the following resolution, which was adopted:

"Resolved, That the Committee of Printing be instructed to enquire into the cause, and report to this House, why the journals of the House have not been published as required by the 23d article of the Constitution."

### IN SENATE,

FRIDAY, February 4th, 1848.

The Hon. Traismond Landry, Lieutenant Governor, in the Chair, 25 Senators present. Mr. McWhorter, with leave introduced a bill providing for the payment of school teachers for the years 1846 and 1847. It underwent all its readings and finally passed.

Mr. Swayzé, according to previous notice, introduced a bill providing for the election of a Town Constable of the Town of Opelousas. Read three times and passed.

The bill relative to Parish Recorders, was, on motion of Mr. Parham, referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Parham offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Internal Improvements to report on the expediency of making further appropriations to purchase boats, &c. for the use of the State Engineer.—Adopted.

Mr. Moore moved to take up the act relative to Parish Recorders, which was read a second time, and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

**Cotton Plant Worm.**—A petition was presented by Mr. Van Winkle, from Mr. Stille, at Pointe a la Peste, stating that he had discovered a plan by which the Cotton plant Caterpillar may be destroyed at a cost of not more than fifty cents per acre. He lays claims to reward.—Referred to a committee. Sundry local business was transacted; after which the Senate adjourned.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Among the bills passed, was an act to amend the 1096th article of the Civil Code. The Resolution in honor of Pope Pious IX, and the resolution relative to the establishment of a Navy Yard at Algiers, were likewise passed.

In the course of the sitting Mr. Warfield presented the following resolutions, which underwent their first reading.

### JOINT RESOLUTIONS.

**Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, in General Assembly convened,** That unanimous voice of the people of Louisiana condemns the "Wilnot Proviso," as an assumption of power alike unconstitutional, unjust and offensive to the feelings of the South; and that neither in the act of acquiring territory, nor in the organization of a territorial government for it, can any conditions be imposed, nor institutions provided for or established, inconsistent with the right of the people thereof to form a free sovereign state with all the powers and privileges of the original members of the confederacy.

**Resolved,** That in organizing a government for territory of the United States, it will best comport with the principles of self-government upon which our federal system rests, and that the true spirit and meaning of the Constitution will be best subverted and the confederacy strengthened, by leaving all questions concerning the domestic policy of such territory to the Legislature chosen by the people thereof.

**Resolved,** That on this just and truly republican basis, all citizens of the United States, without distinction of geographical position, party alliances, State institutions or State prejudices, may safely unite and without fear of consequences cordially co-operate in sustaining the honor of our national arms, vindicating our national rights, and by all honorable means extending the area of American freedom.

Mr. Phillips, from the Finance Committee, to whom was referred a portion of the Governor's message, reported a bill to amend the Act approved last May, entitled "An Act to

the time when tax collectors are required by law to settle their accounts.

Mr. Warfield presented a bill to amend article 1289 of the Code of Practice.

A large number of bills from the Senate were taken up and read a first and second time.

The House then adjourned.

### IN SENATE,

SATURDAY, February 5th, 1848.

The Senate met at the usual hour.

Mr. May gave notice that he would introduce "An Act for the purpose of laying a small additional tax on the lands of non-residents, for the purpose of opening and repairing the public roads of the Parish in which said lands are situated."

On the motion of Mr. Adams, the consideration of the Governor's Veto of the bill entitled "An Act to provide for the Organization of Corporations in this State;" was made the special order of the day for Tuesday next.

Mr. Bell introduced the following resolution, which was read and adopted: "That the Auditor of Public Accounts be requested to inform the Senate what amount of money has been paid by the State Treasurer on account of a debt due by the State for Internal Improvements, under the Act 91, and what amount of money had been paid into the Treasury for Internal Improvement Lands, since the passage of said act, 25th March, 1844."

The Senate then determined on closing the doors for "executive session."

The Senate, at two o'clock, adjourned to 10 o'clock on Monday.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

After several bills of a local nature had been presented, the Speaker (Mr. Farrar) read an able opinion on the question whether the Legislature could proceed to pass laws until the apportionment of representation had been made, as required by article 16th of the Constitution. He maintained that the letter and spirit of the organic law required that the Legislature should fix a fair and equitable apportionment previous to enacting any statutes whatever. He adduced many analogous instances of construction to support his views, and asserted that the contrary doctrine was puerile and untenable.

Mr. Duncan, of Orleans, stated that he would appeal from this decision, and gave notice to that effect.

Mr. Smith, of Orleans, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill to make ascendants and descendants, and persons interested in the event of the suit, admissible as witnesses, leaving the objection to go their credibility; a bill to allow steam-boats and other vessels owned in this State to be sued wherever they are found for supplies, wages or materials; a bill authorizing the foreman of a grand jury to swear witnesses; a bill making the time required for prescription the same for non-residents as for residents; a bill to purchase 100 copies of Bullard & Curry's Digest, and 100 copies of the Code of Practice; a bill to purchase the records of F. Gouslain, late Surveyor of the Spanish Government. The Committee reported against the resolutions to appoint a Committee to revise the laws as to Justices of the Peace; against the resolution declaring that laws may be finally passed before the apportionment law is passed, until the census returns are all made, and concurring with the Speaker that Senate bills cannot be put upon a third reading in the House, nor House bills in the Senate, until the apportionment is made; against the memorial of Mr. Greiner to aid in republishing the statutes. All the foregoing bills of a public nature were ordered to be printed.

The report of the Judiciary Committee, relative to passing laws before the apportionment is made, occasioned an animated debate between Messrs. Duncan, of Orleans, and Conrad, against the report, and Mr. Laure to support of it. Upon the matter being put to vote, there were 51 yeas to 10 nays. Thus the report of the Committee and the opinion of the Speaker were sustained by a vote of five to one.

Among the orders of the day that were passed to a third reading, the only ones of public interest were the act relative to notices of judgment and appeals, and the act amend-







WING NOMINATION

At a meeting held at the residence of the Hon. J. B. ...

THE COURIER

Published by ...

TO THE PUBLIC

We present to the public to-day, the first number of a journal which we intend to be neutral in politics and every thing else...

THE TEXAN FRONTIER

As we have seen throughout the length and breadth of the Texan frontier, and the ...

BORELLATION

Mr. David White, of Madison, La., 'Old Borellation' has made a handsome thing by the extraordinary ...

RECORDED

That John D. White is a commissioner of election in the 15th ward of ...

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FIRST EDITION of The Opelousas Courier, published Dec. 11, 1852, carried an editorial in which the editors pledged to be "neutral in politics and every thing else," editorial in "a character for independence," to be under the obligation or influence of no one to give it a character for independence, "so as to be proud of it at all times and person or group, and to model the newspaper "so as to be proud of it at all times and person or group. That they succeeded is attested by the fact that the newspaper lived for any where, that they succeeded is attested by the fact that the newspaper lived for almost 58 years, until 1910, spanning more than a half-century. Many competitors were founded and fell by the wayside during its life. The Courier editorialized continuously for the public welfare, for better navigation, for instance, and advocating a race track as a higher type sport, for schools, against incompetent office holders, and the like. Its editors published letters on all sides of public issues. Like newspapers of its day, the coverage of the news was not diligently pursued, but gradually, through the years, this was improved as the character of newspapers changed toward more fulfillment of their "news" responsibilities.



# The St. Landry Whig.



OPLOUSAS, LA.

THURSDAY MORNING, NOV. 14, 1844.

## RIVERS, STEAMBOATS, RAILROADS.

It is notorious to every one, that Opelousas in certain seasons, is almost entirely shut out from the world, and nearly inaccessible either for business or pleasure. We were so unfortunate as to be absent from the Parish a few weeks since, and on our return left New Orleans expecting to reach home in three or four days from the time we embarked. The sequel proved that the time we were was exactly *thirteen days!*—Ordinarily it could have been *two* days, and reached the world in *one*. The delay in this passage was caused, of course, by the want of water. After leaving Orleans, we got on very well until we reached the mouth of Red River, where the current runs with such velocity, and the water usually is so low, that it is impossible for boats to get up. Seven men lay within a half mile of each other. The same time—none of which could get through the current and mud, without the help of *haulers*, which were spliced together and cast a mile ahead, by which means, and all the steam that could be put on, the boats, one by one, pulled over by their windlasses. The current very often was so great as to break the lines, and then the boats was driven over into the mud. Not one crossed however without dragging. Having finally overcome this difficulty, and passed through the Atchafalaya without much trouble, we were brought up at the mouth of the Courtableau in *no water*, or next to it for navigable purposes, and were again forced to work through the mud with ropes and steam. After getting in, it was almost as bad to get up further. But by dint of perseverance, the boat was enabled to reach as high as the Waksheer. From thence to Washington, skiffs were our conveyances.—No person, unless on the boats, could conceive of the trouble and inconvenience of such travel. Luckily for us, our captain was a determined man, else we should have been dropped at the mouth of Courtableau, as were some of our friends before us from another boat. This trip

## AMUSEMENTS.

"How the kingdom of heaven can come on earth without music, is more than I can imagine. It would make the company of the saints like a spring time without birds, or a year without blossoms."—Mrs. Child.

In again renewing this subject, we but relate former expressed opinions from other sources, when we call particular attention to the science of Music—and we specially press this object upon our female readers, for, without their aid, the whole must fall, like the "baseless fabric of a vision."

Music, in all ages and in all countries, has been looked upon as one of the most beautiful, as well as the most healthful accomplishments that can be possessed by an individual. It is not for this end that we would call attention to it, but because it is also useful. When we enter a place of worship, there is nothing (except the recollections that cluster around the house in which ascend our orisons,) that is so well calculated to smooth the nerves, and to prepare us with a proper feeling in listening to the Word, as the sweet and heavenly strains of a well-conducted and properly arranged choir. Melody is the mother of love—sweet sounds the father of devotion. Combined, the effect on both preacher and audience is so palpable, that all leave the "congregation" with increased fervor.

Let the Ladies and gentlemen at once go to work, and furnish each of our churches with good choirs—the raw material is here, and it can soon be worked up into a fabric so interwoven as to throw its influence over the whole community. Foster the science in *all* our good communities wherever it is practised; and the sooner we get about it the better. "Music is love," and we could feed on either, until—we got hungry! But, in all sober earnestness, we trust it will not be long, before a meeting may be called, and a choir formed. Will our readers think of the hints of a pupil lecture a few Sabbaths since, and these few crude remarks, and go to work, in good earnest, for its accomplishment! We shall see.

A few days ago, the locofocos in one of the interior towns of Ohio, undertook to show their smartness by tarring and feathering a coon. We rather think that their rooster would now be very much obliged to them if they would feather him. The miserable bird hasn't got a feather upon his carcass.—*Prentice.*

A similar piece of smartness occurred in this neighborhood a few days since. In the road which one of our Whig friends had occasion to pass on his business route, lay the carcass of a coon, which some locofoco had killed from pure spite, upon which the buzzards were feasting. On the approach of the Whig, a loco addressed him, whereupon the following laconic dialogue ensued:

Loco.—"Did you see your defunct brother

## SOMETHING ABOUT THE CALCASIEU VOTE.

"On account of a want of formality, these returns [from Calcasieu] were rejected by the Judge of the Parish of St. Landry, who brought to his assistance, the law."

The above, we believe, is a literal translation of a portion of the leading article in the Opelousas Gazette of last Saturday morning, published in French. The Gazette purports to be a neutral paper; and, as such, we presume, can have no object in leaving a false impression upon the public mind, in relation to the action of public officers, who have a supervisory control over the ballot-box. Yet, the above extract, more forcible in the original than a literal translation would render in English, seems to imply a strong desire on the part of the Parish Judge of St. Landry, to disfranchise a portion of the voters of Calcasieu. We shall offer no additional comments upon the matter, but merely invite the attention of our readers to the facts of the case, and the law by which our public officers have been guided.

In the year 1840, the Western portion of the Parish of St. Landry was created into a separate and distinct Parish, by the name of Calcasieu. For certain purposes, however, the two parishes were more distinctly understood by reference to the Act itself (Acts 1840, page 74,) the 11th section of which reads as follows:

"That the Parish of Calcasieu shall remain united with the Parish of St. Landry, in elections for State and Federal officers, and the Parish Judge and Commissioners of Elections shall, immediately after the polls are closed, transmit a certified statement of the vote of the Parish of Calcasieu, to the Parish Judge of the Parish of St. Landry, who shall receive and count the same as a part of the vote of the named Parish."

The powers vested respectively in the public officers of the two Parishes, are distinctly enumerated. And while the Law continues upon the Statute-Book, it must serve as a guide to the Officers of both Parishes. We can perceive no other alternative. Did, then, the officers of both Parishes act in accordance with the provision of the Law? We shall first dispose of the Parish Judge of St. Landry.

On the evening of Wednesday, the 6th inst., after the vote of St. Landry had been counted, Judge Garrigues proceeded to open the returns from Calcasieu in the presence of a throng of eager spectators, in the Court House of our village. A consultation took place between the Judge and Commissioners. Judge Garrigues then announced that the Whig Electors had received 42 votes, the Democratic Electors 128 votes, leaving a Democratic majority of 86 votes. These were the legal returns, consist-

## Presidential Election Returns

LOUISIANA ELECTIONS. We have very few official returns from the elections in this State, but give such reports as are received us.

	Clay maj.	Polk maj.
New Orleans,	414	
St. Bernard,	101	
Jefferson,	31	
Plaquemines,		970
Point Coupee,		1
East Feliciana,		89
West Feliciana,		70
Iberville,	18	
East Baton Rouge,		74
West Baton Rouge,	105	
Ascension,	6	
Assumption,		25
St. Helena,		69
St. Tammany,		103
Washington,		308
Livingston,		126
St. James,	170	
St. Charles,	54	
Lafourche Interior,	334	
Terrebonne,	141	
St. John Baptist,	115	
Concordia,	136	
St. Mary,	210	
St. Martin,	178	
St. Landry and Calcasieu,	297	
Orleans,	203	
Madryette,	198	
Natchitoches,	128	
Sabine,		
	2345	2080

Report says Claiborne has given Polk 207, and Caddo 150—Doubtful.

## MISSISSIPPI ELECTIONS.

	Clay.	Polk.
Adams county,	742	422
Warren do.,	415	majority.
Wilcoxin county,	148	do.
Hinds Co. 3 precincts,	285	do.
Claiborne county,	5	do.

The foregoing are all the returns we have received from Mississippi.

By fraud in Plaquemine, and other places, it is possible we have lost the State; Plaquemine has never before given 400 votes; she now shows upwards of 1000. Of this we shall say more next week.

The Mail yesterday brought no news whatever of importance.

We had intended, ere this, to have called the attention of our readers to the advertisements of J. B. Steel, of New Orleans, which will be found in our columns. It is decidedly the best book store in New Orleans, and for stationery, and every thing else usually kept in such a store, is certainly the cheapest and most accommodated in the Southern country. The best standard publications may be found there, at

The Naval General Court Martial at Washington have concluded the investigation in the case of Mr. Faron, chief engineer of the U. S. steamer *Missouri* at the time of her destruction by fire in the harbor of Gibraltar. On Saturday, Richard Muzzleton, seaman on board the U. S. ship *Potomac*, was put on trial on the charge of assaulting Julius S. Bohrer, a midshipman of the United States Navy, on the 13th August, 1844, while the said Midshipman Bohrer was in the execution of his duty.

President TYLER left Washington on the 22d ult. for Virginia.

The subscriber begs leave to inform his friends and the Public, that he has received his **WINTER STOCK OF READY MADE CLOTHING**, of superior quality and of the latest fashion. Also, a general assortment of

**Hardware, Saddlery, And Saddlery-Mountings; coarse and fine Boots and Shoes; ladies and children's fine Shoes, &c.**

And a general assortment of other articles, every thing of superior quality and of the latest fashion. Also, a general assortment of

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And a general assortment of other articles



Red River is a mud puddle! Unless something is done for it, at the mouth especially, a few years will render it useless altogether, as it is now many months in the year.

What then should we do? It may be presumption in us to mention a Rail Road in this connection, but the thing is forced upon us so indelibly, we are convinced that nothing but such a Road from here to Point Coupee, or some other point on the Mississippi, will meet the expectation of travellers, or subserve the interests of our citizens. By such a road, our Parish would be enriched, but more especially if the mouth of Red River cannot be kept open. The travel from all the upper country, and, indeed, from the lower country too, would pass through this place, and the produce from this Parish, Lafayette, and parts of others, would seek this road for easy, cheap, and expeditious transportation. But of this we have said enough. The subject has before received the attention of our citizens. This much, however, we do say,—we hope to see the day when a Road and a line of Steamboats will bring us within twenty-four hours travel of New Orleans, and ensure us prosperity, economy, and certainty.

Not inappropriate to this place is a paragraph which we take from our neighbor of the Gazette, published in that paper on the 6th inst.:

"Our communication with New Orleans by water at this time, is almost entirely interrupted. We were informed on Monday last, by Captain Adams, that when he crossed the bar at the mouth of Red River, a few days since, there was only 30 inches of water on it, and that at the mouth of the Petit Diable, only 22 inches.—This would be a good time to work on the Bayou Courtableau, and we hope our citizens will hold a meeting and request the Governor to order the public hands to this Bayou, as soon as possible. We have also heard that the mouth of Bayou Plaquemine is obstructed by a raft, that ought to be removed during low water, and which, if left till high water, will so obstruct the navigation, as to prevent boats from passing through it during the next steamboat season."

L. M. Archibald, the senior editor of the Alexandria "Transcript," has retired from that paper, to seek some more profitable business for his support. But paying subscribers often drive—as in this case—good editors into other professions. Luck be with you, Arch., whatever you undertake.

DUEL.—A hostile meeting took place last evening on the Metairie Track, between two well known members of the daily press. Weapons, pistols—distance, five paces. At the word, one pistol missed fire; the other's exploding, wounded his antagonist in the abdomen and left thumb. Bad consequences not apprehended.—The parties exchanged amicable salutations and separated.—N. O. paper.

We take it that the persons above referred to were Lucinda of the Picayune, and Wagner of the Courier, as those gentlemen have had a quarrel on the topic for some time past. Nobody killed—go ahead.

ALL SAINTS DAY.—We neglected to mention in our last paper, that this day was celebrated with its usual ceremony and imposing effect, in our town, at its last anniversary. It is a contemplation to make the heart glad, when we think that after this body shall have "shuffled off its mortal coil," and gone down to its mother earth; and its immortal parts ascended to realms where friends have gone before,—to know that the dear ones left behind us, shall wait the sod that covers our remains with tears of recollection and sorrow. The New Orleans Tropic, in speaking of the last anniversary of this Feast Day in New Orleans, thus truthfully discourses it:

"Yesterday the beautiful ceremonial of decorating the tombs of the dead, as practised by our Catholic brethren, was celebrated with more solemnity and strict observance than we have ever before witnessed. The assemblage of people was very large. The tombs were decorated with great beauty and richness.

"Remember the dead!" they are but gone before, to tell of doings here in the flesh of us who have not yet put off the mortal for immortality. Cheering the thought and sweet the consolation that after our bodies are dust, there will be those who knew and loved us in life, who will strew our graves with flowers, and plant sweet offerings about them, emblems of affection and esteem. To the living this would be but fulsome flattery, but no flattery can reach the ear of the dead; the offering placed about the last narrow resting-place of poor, frail humanity, are affecting memorials. Look into the cemetery, and we behold there tombs moss-covered and crumbling, like the more perishable contents that have decorated long since, decked with the fairest and sweetest flowers every day; and once every year on 'All Saints Day,' (the 1st November,) friends are seen to bend over them in silent prayer; to decorate them with fresh garlands, and perform all the beautiful services enjoined by their faith. It is well. The custom is a beautiful one, and we like it. We think we would be more ready to die—more satisfied to give up this life and this world, if we knew some of our cherished ones, who are to come after us, would now and then shed a gentle tear to our memory. The dew drop on the rose leaf, that sparkles in the earliest rays of the morning sun, is not more pure than the tear affection drops on the grave of the dead."

Among the many improvements in New Orleans which are now in progress, we were struck on our last visit, with the row of granite buildings which have taken the place of the Canal Bank, on Magazine street. We dropped in at the corner store—Mr. Daniel N. Pope's, dry goods merchant—and found his assortment large and well selected. Every person about the house appeared accommodating, and we could do as little than make a purchase. Should any of our readers go to Orleans this winter, let them call at Mr. Pope's, and we are sure his prices will be so satisfactory, that they will not leave without purchasing.

The Whigs of New Orleans had a torch light procession on the 2d inst. It is said to have been a most beautiful affair. Many houses in the city were illuminated.

inspired, he sent them to this Parish by the inspection of the Judges and Commissioners, requesting them to send them back by the same conveyance. The votes from these two precincts would have increased the Democratic majority by 67 votes, and not 90 as stated in the Pelicans Gazette. They were not only not counted, as required by law, but it was specially stated by the Parish Judge of Calcasieu, that he had rejected them as informal. Even candid man must then admit that the Judge and Commissioners of Elections in this place did not err in pursuing the course they did, as was prompted by the most exalted motives that can actuate the public officer,—an inalienable regard for the laws of his country.

We shall say but little in relation to the Parish Judge of Calcasieu. We believe he is not err. If he returns from the two precincts made in any other manner, than that prescribed by law, he was bound as an officer commissioned and sworn, to reject them at any price. He might have received them, with the objections of the party who now denounce them; but he would have trampled under foot the law by which he is sworn to act. He has respect, however, to pursue a different course, in which he has invoked upon himself every curse anathemas; but he has consulted the highest principle to which he could appeal—the Statute-Book of his country. In so doing he has offended the partizan Demagogue; but he has been true to principle,—such principles as can alone guarantee the liberties of mankind.

WE take pleasure in publishing the enclosed card to Mr. Webster. He is about leaving us for Alexandria and Natchitoches. We speak for him a hearty welcome, and have no doubt his merits will gain him such.

ORLEANS, 12th Nov. 1844. SIR,—The undersigned, having attended your private lectures on Mesmerism in this place, take great pleasure in acknowledging, that you have unfolded to our minds new views of mental philosophy, and have satisfied us that the phenomena exhibited by the application of animal magnetism, are nothing more or less than natural results from natural causes; and that under the management of an enlightened philanthropy, it may be made productive of much good in alleviating the sufferings of men.

Like all new discoveries, this science must meet with opposition from all who are unwilling to believe any thing they do not comprehend; but having, as we believe, truth for its basis, it must ultimately be generally acknowledged.

Wishing you success in disseminating the light which you are

Your obedient servants,  
THOS. H. LEWIS,  
W. B. LEWIS,  
JOHN J. TAYLOR,  
LUCIUS DUFRE,  
C. L. SWAZZE,  
NATHANIEL EAMES,  
JOHN E. KING,  
R. TAYLOR,  
J. POSEY,  
C. H. PORTER,  
JOSEPH ETTER,  
JOSEPH JIBBS,  
A. R. HAWKINS,  
S. W. HARDEKAN,  
C. A. FRAZER.

Mr. Webster.

Among the many new publications which we have received from Mr. Steel, are—  
"The Highlands of Ethiopia described,"  
"Texas, its Geography, Natural History and Topography,"  
"Life in the New World, or sketches of American Society,"  
"Woman's Worth, or Hints to raise the Female character,"  
"Mexico, as it was, and as it is;"  
"Allison's history of Europe;"  
"Kendall's Santa Fe Expedition;"  
"The Yemassee," "The Jew," in French and English, &c., &c.

All of these works are not only good reading, but all worthy the attention of the public for intrinsic value. We must close this notice by calling particular attention to the large selection of beautiful Blank Books, which, for durability, we know is not surpassed. To those who wish to purchase, we advise them to give Steel a call.

BLOWING UP OF THE STEAMER LUCY WALKER. The steamer Lucy Walker, Captain Cochrane, from Louisville for New Orleans, blew up on the 23d ult., 6 miles below Louisville, having on board a large number of passengers, numbering about 150 persons—from 60 to 100 of whom were killed. There were 18 ladies on board, 14 of whom were saved. The wounded were taken to New Albany. Among the killed were Mr. Kirby, the pilot at the wheel; Samuel Houston, son of the Captain of the Paragon! Wm. Tibbs; Capt. Van; 1st Clerk; and Engineer. Captain Thompson had his arm shattered. One trunk was the only baggage saved. The boat sank to her wheel house directly after the explosion; the balance of the wreck continued to burn.

BANKS OF NEW ORLEANS.—According to the monthly Statement of the Board of Currency, published in the State paper, the movement of the specie paying banks on the 1st inst., was as follows:

Cash Liabilities. Circulation \$1,992,997 50 Deposits 6,088,775 34 (Due to For. & Dom'tc. banks less exchange) 1,601,030 99 Other cash liabilities 60,770 52 Total \$9,749,574 35

Cash Assets. Specie \$9,316,880 79 Loans on deposits 2,655,514 01 Dtd by Foreign and Domestic banks 1,309,361 05 Local banks balances 1,134 53 Other items 47,372 71 Total \$12,434,651 35

RACCOURCI CUT-OFF.—We are informed by the gentleman who has contracted with the State Engineer for the performance of this work, that he is merely awaiting the arrival of the State bands to commence their work. A survey has just been made, and the distance required to be cut through is rather less than three-fourths of a mile.

Had this work been done at an early period last fall, we doubt not the loss in the immediate district would be to a great extent lessened. Concordia Intelligencer.

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA. The annual course of lectures will commence in this Institution on the 3d Monday of November, 1844, and terminate on the third Saturday of March, 1845. John Harrison, M. D.—Physiology and Pathology. James Jones, M. D.—Theory and Practice of Medicine. Warren Stone, M. D.—Surgery. J. I. Riddell, M. D.—Chemistry. A. H. Cenas, M. D.—Midwifery, &c. W. M. Carpenter, M. D.—Materia Medica & Therapeutics. A. J. Wedderburn, M. D.—Anatomy. John F. Davis, M. D.—Demonstrator of Anatomy. n14 fill 1st ed. A. H. CENAS, M. D. Dean.

THOMAS B. WINSTON, GENERAL GROCER, Wholesale and Retail Stores, Nos. 17, 19, and 21, corner of Poydras and Commerce streets, New Orleans.

HAVING taken these THREE STORES for a long term of years, I am determined to do business in such a way as to entitle me to the patronage of the Country and City Merchants, of Planters and of Families. One store intended solely for the Retail business, the other two entirely to the Wholesale department. To the Grocers, I have added a general Provision business—Pork, Lard, Bacon, Flour, &c. I shall be as liberal in terms as any established house in New Orleans, and for good paper I will give liberal terms.

I am now receiving my First Supplies, and shall continue to keep (what has always been admitted, even by competitors) the best and cheapest assortment of Groceries, Liquors and Provisions in New Orleans. New Orleans, Nov. 1844. n14 1yr

IRON, NAILS, TIN PLATE, &c.

RICHARDS & MONTGOMERY, No. 11 CHARLES STREET, NEW ORLEANS.

HAVE just received, per ships New Hampshire, Sweden, Huron, Bombay, Isaac Alleyton, Hamden and Alhambra from Liverpool, and by various other ships from the north, large additions to their stock of Sheffield, Birmingham and domestic goods, making their stock of HARDWARE, CUTLERY, &c., as extensive, complete and cheap as can be found in the southern country. Among their heavy goods are—400 tons Swedes, Tennessee and English Iron, assorted, all sizes; 3000 Swedes, Tenn. and English Ploughshare Moulds; 300 hundred hoop and band Iron; 3000 kegs best Boston Nails; 500 boxes Tin Plates, of most approved brands; a 300 dozen Collins's Hartford, King's, Davis's and Simmons's Axes; 500 dozen Whittemore's best Cards, assorted—cotton, wool and horse; 5000 steel cotton-gin Saw Plates; also, Gin Saw Sheet Steel; 100 tons Savery & Co's, and other castings, assorted; 2000 French Pots, assorted, 2 to 108 pints; 5000 gal's best winter strained and bleached Sperm Oil; 2000 do do do do Whale do; 1000 do Linsced Oil; 25 bins Spirits of Turpentine; 25 do best Tanners' Oil; 5 do Copal Varnish; 500 kegs Window Glass, assorted; 1000 boxes White Lead, assorted, 8 x 10, and 10 x 12; 10 casks Sheet Zinc; 300 kegs buck and drop Shot; 2000 Jaber King's genuine Carey Ploughs, assorted—Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5; 3000 dozen best Carolina Hoes, assorted; 100 pairs Cologne Mill Stones, assorted; 12 do French Burr do; 25 pieces general Bolting Cloths, assorted, 6, 8 & 9; Also—A general assortment of Mill and Gin Irons; Carriers' Tools, assorted; Houghton & Wallace's superior patent Lard Lamps. Their stock of CUTLERY is not surpassed. —ALSO— 3000 pairs Trace Chains; 400 dozen painted Wood Buckets; 500 coils Manila Rope, assorted sizes. New Orleans, Nov. 1844—n14-6t

Wilson's Surveying; MRS. WILSON'S—Days, Bonnycastle's, and C Mensuration; DRAWING—Davies' Shades and Shadows, Perspectives and United States Elementary Books; BOOK-KEEPING—Bonnett's, Preston's, Harbards, Marsh's, Edwards', and Coll's B B; GEOGRAPHY—Mitchell's, Otney's, Woodbridge, Brun's, Pasley's, Worcester's, Adams', I Smiley's, Blake's, and Smith's Geog Atlas; HISTORY—(United States)—Frost's, Hale's, Olney's, Grimsbaw's, Webster's, and History of the United States; Do.—(England)—Pincock's, Grimsbaw's, and sell's History of England; Do.—(France)—Grimsbaw's, Russell's, an History of France; Do.—(Rome)—Pincock's, Grimsbaw's, G and Ferguson's History of Rome; Do.—(Universal)—Robbins's, Peter Parley's, Wills's, Willard's, Dr. Lardner's, Worcester Tyler's, Francis's History; BIOGRAPHY—Marshall's, Webster's, and Spar Washington, Wecm's Lie of Franklin, I rion, &c.; NATURAL PHILOSOPHY—Swift's First Lesson do, for Beginners, Comstock's, Blake's, J Renwick's Natural Philosophy; CHEMISTRY—Linn's, Phelps' Chemistry for Comstock's, Young's Chemistry, Jones', C Blair's, Turner's, Kenwick's and Chaptal's try; BOTANY—Mrs. Phelps' Botany for Beginn stock's Botanical, Blake's, Comstock's, a and Wright's Botany; MINERALOGY and GEOLOGY—Comstock's J and Geology, Lee's, Hancock's, Bale Lyell's Elements of Geology; NATURAL HISTORY—Goldsmith's, Mudies', I Haskell's, and Ruschenberger's Series o Natural History; PHYSIOLOGY—Combs's, Comstock's, Russel and Lee's Physiology; ASTRONOMY—Peter Parley's, Whewell's, Will steers' Elements of Astronomy, and Ba ography of the Heavens; &c.; INTELLECTUAL and MORAL PHILOSOPHY—Uph tal Philosophy, Abbott's Aberrator's a Philosophy, Fales's Philosophy, and Moral Science; POLITICAL ECONOMY—Wayland's, Smith's, Potter's Political Economy; FRANCE—Gardner's, Bolmar's, Laporte's, Lebreton's, Le Tallier's, Chespal's, Wanostrocht's, and Cobbet Grammar, and Bolmar's Treatise on the FRENCH DICTIONARIES—Meadow's, Nugent Wilson's, Fleming and Tibbins', Mor Duffe's French Dictionaries; FRENCH GRAMMAR—Ferrin's Fabas, Balmar Fabas, Colloquial Phrases, Toulou Key, Rocchi Choix, Charles XII, and l Etats Unis; Conversations on Italy; SPANISH—Neuman and Baret's Spanish ar Dictionary, Cubi's Spanish Grammar a later, Sales', Jose's Spanish Grammar GERMAN—Hampel's German Grammar, Lloyd's, Fugler's, and Stuebel's G English Dictionary; LATIN DICTIONARIES—Ainsworth's, Lovett's and Anthon's Ainsworth's Dictionary; LATIN GRAMMAR—Anthon's, Adams', Fisk Russell's, Gould's, and Andrews' and Latin Grammar; LATIN READER and EXERCISES—Anthon Andrews' Lessons and Reader, Jacob Anthon's Ccesar, Sallust, Cicero, Horae sody; Gould's Virgil; Horace and O Horace Delphini, Juvenal and Clark's GREEK GRAMMAR and EXERCISES—Anthon's sons, Reader and Proseody; Fisk's Eac ton's Homer's Iliad, New Testament, GREEK DICTIONARIES—Anthon's Doane Grove, &c. J. B. STEEL, 14 Camp a Successor to Norman, Ste JOB PRINTING Of every description, neatly and expeditious the office of the "St. Landry Whip."

Opticians, via the port at Washington, to New Orleans and other points, except for shipping overland travel. These editorial notices continued in the various Opelousas and Washington newspapers until, finally, in 1853, the "Opelousas Railroad" was pushed through fr

PAGE 2. ST. LANDRY WHIG, of Nov. 14, 1844 -- this is the English page. The news paper also had the same news in French, as was the custom then. Note that the editorial of the day laments the difficulties of riverboat travel, then the only means to get from



# The Pavy Family

Among the prominent families of St. Landry Parish is the Pavy family, among whose members are numbered a great many of our well-known doctors, lawyers and educators.

Patriarch of a large family was Alfred Pavy, once Clerk of Court, who was born in New Orleans, Jan. 18, 1841, son of T.J. Pavy and Caroline Rautrop. His father was a prominent commission merchant of that city. He was educated at the Sorbonne University of Paris, and after graduating continued his studies at Frankfurt on the Main, Germany.

In 1865 he returned to the United States, and in 1870 married Laperle Guidry, daughter of Dr. Alexis O. Guidry, a pioneer doctor of St. Landry, and his wife Palmyre Dupre (descendant of Jacques Dupre). Together they raised ten children, six boys and four girls, as follows: Dr. Albert B. Pavy, Raoul Pavy, Hon. B.H. Pavy, Dr. Octave Pavy, Pierre Pavy, and Paul Pavy; Louise, Blanche (who married the late Dudley Guilbeau) Lilla Mae, Lucille (who married Dr. Edwin Bercier), and Alice (who died in infancy).

Dr. Albert B. Pavy married Elizabeth (Betsy) Dupre, and they had ten children. Dr. Albert Pavy practiced medicine in Opelousas and the surrounding area all of his adult life, devoting his efforts towards healing the sick until his own untimely sickness and death.

Of his children, two are full-fledged doctors, Albert and Robert, and one, Donald, is interning, while a fourth son, Octave, is beginning priest study. Laurent graduated from West Point and has followed an army career. He is now directing military training at McNeese College in Lake Charles. Albert practices medicine in New Orleans,

and Robert is in the armed forces in France (he had practiced in Opelousas, and later specialized in pediatrics and practiced in Lafayette). Donald is interning at Charity in New Orleans. Garland Pavy is a practicing attorney in Opelousas.

Adele is at Charity in New Orleans working on a medical technician's degree, following receiving a BS degree from Southwestern in Lafayette. Octave is in priest study.

Paul Pavy, beloved principal for many years of the Opelousas High school, retired two years ago after 36 years of service in the public school system of this parish. He is married to Aline Veazie. One of their sons, Edward (Dud) is a member of the State Legislature. A daughter, Coy, has followed a nursing career, and is instructor of nurses at the T.H. Harris Trade School Nursing Department.

Benjamin Henry, the late Judge B.H. Pavy, was married to Ida Veazie, and of his children one son, Veazie, is a prominent member of the parish bar, and two daughters are teachers, Marie at the Opelousas School and Yvonne (Mrs. Bourgeois) is librarian at Finch College in New York.

Judge Pavy was one of the well-known figures of St. Landry Parish, in which position he served for years. He was one of the outstanding citizens of the parish for half a century, until his death in April, 1943.

Serving with the late R. Lee Garland as district attorney, Judge Pavy was a familiar figure to everyone in the large parish, throughout which he was known and admired.

Dr. Felix Octave Pavy, still a practicing physician at the age of seventy-six, is one of the beloved doctors of this parish. Named for his uncle, also a doctor, who perished on the ill-fated Greely polar expedition, Dr. Octave is married to the former Famie Dupre, daughter of Judge Gilbert L. Dupre and Julia Estlette. They have one son, Edmond, who is married and resides in Opelousas.

Dr. Pavy lived in Leonville for many years, and practiced there most of his life. Several years ago he announced his retirement and moved to Opelousas, but his old patients kept calling and insisting that no one else would do, and Dr. Octave was soon back in practice.

Dr. Pavy was graduated from L.S.U. and Tulane Medical School, and in 1954 attended the 50th class reunion at Tulane with some of his old friends. He and his wife recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

He served as president of the police jury four times, was member of the Legislature from Allen Parish for four years, and member of the St. Landry school board. He ran for lieutenant governor with O.H. Simpson against Huey P. Long for governor.

He has delivered over 5,800 babies, and some of these are third generation deliveries for the active doctor. He was a "horse-and-buggy" doctor until 1911, when he bought his first automobile. "Dr. Octave" is a symbol of mercy and healing to generations of citizens of this parish, whom he has attended through the years with unflagging and devoted care.



JUDGE B. H. PAVY, born Opelousas, District Judge in 1910; served until Oct. 16, 1874. High school education; studied law in the office of E. P. Veazie. Elected. Died April 19, 1943.



ROBERT LOUIS PAVY, born Opelousas Hospital of Louisiana, 1950-'52. Ent. Jan. 2, 1923, BS, S. L. L., 1943. MD, L. S. U., U. S. Army as captain in September 1946. Practice general medicine, Opelousas. Presently stationed at Orleans, France. 1947-1950. Residency in pediatrics, Charity



ALBERT BERCHMANS PAVY, Sr., born Opelousas, April 5, 1889; died Sept. 21, 1940, BS, L. S. U., 1908. MD, University of Pennsylvania, 1916. Captain, U. S. Army Medical Corps, April 1917-Sept. 1919. Practised general medicine in Opelousas Sept. 1919-June 1941.



ALBERT BERCHMANS PAVY, Jr. Born Opelousas, April 30, 1919. BS, S. L. L., MD, Tulane University, 1944. First Lieutenant, U. S. Army Medical Corps, Dec. 1941. Sept. 1946. Presently in general medicine in New Orleans.



DONALD ADAMS PAVY, born Opelousas, May 9, 1931. BS, S. L. L., 1951. MD, Tulane University, 1954. Presently an intern at Charity Hospital; has volunteered for active duty in U. S. Army.



DR. F. OCTAVE PAVY retired in 1944 after 40 years of practice but his patients would have none of it. "Eh, Docteur Octave, we know you are there," they would say, rapping at his windows. So he continued, and is in practice at this writing.





# Lemelle House, Ancient

ONE OF THE OLDEST homes standing in this parish is the old Lemelle house, on the

Bayou Teche road from Port Barre to Leon-ville. It was built by Alexandre Lemelle, a free man of color. His son, Leonard Lemelle, now eighty years old, is living in the home with some of his family. His distinguished appearance and gentle good manners testify to his descent from aristocratic French stock.

Probably built about the turn of the eighteenth century, this is a solid old house, of poste adobe construction, as can clearly be seen from the accompanying photographs. Hand-hewn cypress posts are filled in with mud and moss. The walls are replastered white, and the exterior is weatherboarded except for the front gallery. The old battened shutters and doors have original iron hinges and locks.

Open rafters expose the beaded planks of the ceiling.

In the yard in front of the house are some large camellia trees, planted many years ago.

This is one of the few houses extant built by the free men of color who settled in the Leon-ville area. (Daily World Photos by Deville).



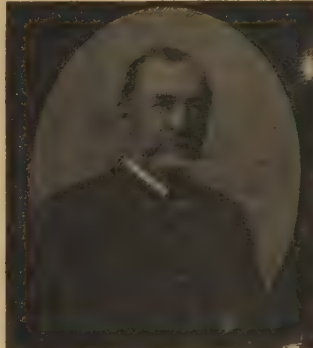
OLD SLAVE QUARTERS at the Barbreck plantation in northern St. Landry parish. Students of history say that these are among the finest examples of such quarters in the South untouched, rebuilt or otherwise altered.

Unfortunately, at the time of photography the weeds were rather high and somewhat

obscured the view. There are 16 such houses set in two rows on the plantation, now owned by Mrs. Claudine Moehlenbrock Cheuk, daughter of M. Moehlenbrock, who owned the plantation from World War I days until his death several years ago. (Daily World Photos by Bourdier).



SHUTE'S DRUG STORE, founded by the late Dr. Ira E. Shute, first of three generations of St. Landry parish physicians - surgeons. This was taken about 1904, at Court and Landry sts., where Shute's Drug store stands today. Five people standing are right are, from left, Ben Anderson, Dr. Theo Chachere, C. Hayes, Miss Irene Shute -- who still is a principal owner of the store, and Dr. I.E. Shute. Dr. Shute came to Opelousas from Shuteston in 1887.



DR. IRA E. SHUTE, born Nov. 26, 1850, and died Dec. 4, 1908.



DR. FRANK CREIGHTON SHUTE, son of Dr. Ira, and father of Opelousas' prominent present-day surgeon of the same name.



DR. F. CREIGHTON SHUTE, third generation of practicing physicians in St. Landry parish.

### PUBLIC SALE

THE subscriber will sell on SATURDAY the 22d January next, 1853, on the premises, through the medium of a public auctioneer, the property known as the

## Washington Hotel,

situated in the town of Washington, parish of St. Landry, being Lot No. 20, as represented on the plan of said town, bounded on the North by Carriere street, East by Washington street, South by Mountville street and West by Main street, together with all the BUILDINGS and IMPROVEMENTS thereon, and the Hotel's Furniture and Kitchen Utensils.

Also:—An OMNIBUS.  
Sale to commence at 1 o'clock, P. M.  
Terms:—CASH.

ISRAEL GULLORY.  
Washington, Dec. 18th, 1852.



HEAVY SNOWFALL in Opelousas--The rare occurrence of a heavy snowfall brought these Opelousas citizens out into the "weather." The old Opelousas court house can be seen in the background. This was in early part of this century. Note old "Elk Restaurant" sign on building at far right, past court house. Under it is "Chas. A. Last-ropes, Prop." That was the first location of Didee's restaurant, which was started as a coffee shop.



Grande Chancellerie  
de la  
Légion d'honneur.  
1.<sup>er</sup> Division.  
2.<sup>o</sup> Bureau.  
N<sup>o</sup> 1256

Paris le 19 Mars 1816

J'ai reçu, Monsieur, la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire et pour laquelle vous rappelez les propositions qui ont été faites en 1813 et 1814 pour votre admission dans la Légion.  
Lorsque les circonstances pourront me le permettre j'aurai l'honneur de prendre, relativement à votre van, les ordres de Sa Majesté. L'air l'honneur de vous adresser  
Pour S. M. le Duc de Valentinois, pair de France, Grand Chancelier de la Légion d'honneur et le Maréchal de Camp, Intendant général.  
C. M. de L.



GOLD MEDAL, with this certificate, was sent to Napoleon's officers, including Gabriel Pierre Wartelle of Washington. This was a death-bed request of Napoleon.

M<sup>r</sup> Wartelle,  
Capitaine d'Infanterie.

LEGION OF HONOR of France was presented Capt. Gabriel Pierre Wartelle in 1816. He was an officer of Napoleon's army.

Ministère  
de la Guerre.



Au nom  
de Sa Majesté l'Empereur.

Le Ministre de la Guerre  
ordonne à M. de L. de se rendre sur le champ à Chambéry,  
pour y joindre le Régiment, ou il restera à la suite,  
en attendant un Emploi vacant de son grade.  
Il jouira de son traitement d'activité.  
Paris, le 19 Mars 1816

Vu le Chef. ing. aux G. Pour le Ministre de la  
Guerre et par ses ordres  
Le Maréchal de Camp  
Le Ministre de la Guerre  
César de Welle

Secrétaire. LÉGION D'HONNEUR.

Paris, le 24 Février 1816

Son Excellence le Grand Chancelier Pair  
de France Ministre d'Etat, regrette  
infiniment qu'une indisposition  
le prive de recevoir M. Comte  
Wartelle ainsi qu'il le désirait.  
il le prie de lui faire  
connaître par écrit ce qu'il  
souhaitait de lui communiquer  
de vive voix.  
il a l'honneur de le saluer.

A COURTLY NOTE from the secretary of the French Legion d'Honneur expresses his regrets to Capt. Gabriel Pierre Wartelle that he was unable to present the medal to Wartelle, who moved to Washington in St. Landry parish, in person.



AVENUE OF OAKS at the Wartelle plantation near Washington, two miles long, leading from the lane approaching the house, past the house, to the banks of Bayou Courtableau. Gabriel Pierre Wartelle built the home in the late 1820s, after he came to Washington from France. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

ORDERS issued by the French war department in 1815 to Capt. Gabriel Pierre Wartelle, detaching him to report at Chambéry.



Captain of Napoleon's Army

Pierre Gabriel Wartelle

Pierre Gabriel Wartelle was born April 14, 1789 at Brie, France. He received his early education at the military school of Fontainebleau.

In 1802 he joined the army of Napoleon, giving thirteen years of his youth to the service of his country, during which time he was accorded the following promotions: Sub-Lieutenant of the 21st Regiment of Infantry Sept. 23, 1806; Lieutenant of same Infantry June 7, 1819; Captain of 128 Regiment of Infantry June 20, 1812. Active service was performed from 1806 to 1814 in Poland, Austria, Germany, and as a member of the Grand Army in Russia.

In recognition of his exemplary conduct, both public and private, his name was submitted in 1813-14 by his superiors for the decoration of the Legion of Honor. He had already received the Cross of Honor in 1813.

With the banishment of Napoleon to St. Helena, Captain Wartelle left France and came to this country, arriving in New Orleans, where he soon engaged in the mercantile business. Napoleon in exile had not forgotten his companions in glory, and in gratification of his last wish Napoleon III had made a bronze medal with a raised face of Napoleon Bonaparte and the inscription - "Medaille de Sainte Helene" and sent one to each officer of his army.

Pierre Wartelle later moved to Opelousas, St. Landry parish, where he continued his same business. His store was said to be located across from the St. Landry Catholic Church.

Soon after settling in Opelousas he met Louisa King, daughter of Judge George King and Amelia Lejeune. Judge King came to New Orleans from Kentucky and married Amelia Lejeune of New Orleans. He served as parish judge of St. Landry from 1806 to 1842.

Pierre Wartelle and his bride acquired a large plantation near Washington, at what is known as Moundville, so-called because of numerous Indian mounds in the vicinity. Here they built the home that is standing near Bayou Courtableau today. It is approached by an avenue of oaks that is two miles long, extending from the lane to the bayou, with the "big house" on a nice rise that commands a view of the terrain.

The original part of the home has been added to many times but it is still fairly easy to note the various additions.

The first building was erected in 1827. It is a story and a half structure with a pitched roof and gables. The large central hall leads to the dining room which is at right angles to it. There are two rooms on either side, the two front rooms being larger--master bedroom and parlor. Across the front and back run an open gallery.

Slender cypress posts support the roof, and simple banisters front the gallery, which is detailed with fine panelling at either end. A central doorway is very handsome, with an arched lunette and panelled French door. In the hall is a stairway leading to the upper floor.

The parlor has a very fine Adam mantel, and is ornamented with a central rosette of ornate design, with a cornice of plaster to match. The original fine Empire furnishings are all in this lovely old home, including a very early Hepplewhite table at which Pierre and Louisa had their wedding breakfast.

The interior was all plastered, and all woodwork is of fine workmanship, with beautifully panelled doors. The original kitchen was replaced by a brick kitchen built during the Civil War. This has huge fireplaces. Later additions on the side were bedrooms and an office, erected through the years as the family grew larger.

The garden in front is the original parterre, planted with old-fashioned flowers and shrubs.

Pierre Wartelle and Louisa King had eight children, and of these Ferdinand was born on Sept. 27, 1844. He was the youngest child. In 1872 he married Valerie Lastrapes, daughter of Louis Lastrapes and Irma Garrigues, and they lived with their family at the "Big House." Irma Garrigues was the daughter of Gen. Garrigues de Flaugac, Louis Lastrapes was the son of Jean Henri Lastrapes and Celeste Boldsore, who were early settlers.

They had twelve children, and of these eleven grew to maturity, Amelia died at the age of eight, and Charles and John died recently.

Maud, Clara, Aline and Henry still live at the big house. Alphonse and Lastrapes Wartelle, sons of Louis Wartelle, run the plantation; Other members of the large family live on plantations nearby, or in the towns of Opelousas and Washington. Very few have left their native parish.

128 Régiment de ligne  
Etat des services de M. Wartelle  
Gabriel, Capitaine, né le 14 Avril 1789 à Brie  
Conseil de Robert, département de Seine & Marne

Table with 2 columns: Détail des Services, Campagnes. Lists military service details and campaigns from 1806 to 1815.

Certificat par nous Member du Conseil d'Etat  
A Strasbourg le 2 Aout 1814  
Su par nous Sous Secrétaire au Ministre  
Wartelle

WAR RECORD of Gabriel Pierre Wartelle, listing his duties in various campaigns of Napoleon's army, shows he fought at Bologne, in Austria, the Baltic campaign, against the Grand Army of Russia and at Kehl.

Le Division.  
Bureau  
n. 114.  
Le Ministre de la Guerre  
Certificat à tous qu'il appartiendra, avoir, sous l'autorisation du Roi, accepté la démission offerte par le S. Wartelle (Pierre Gabriel) Capitaine Infanterie  
En foi de quoi, le présent Certificat a été délivré pour servir et valloir ce qui de raison.  
Le Ministre de la Guerre.



PIERRE GABRIEL WARTELE  
PUBLIC SALE  
Estate of Eugene Lavergne, dec'd.  
The public are hereby informed that by virtue of the powers in me vested by law, I will offer for sale, to the last and highest bidder, on the plantation of Widow Celestin Lavergne, in this Parish,  
On Tuesday, the 8th March next, the following property belonging to the Estate of said Eugene Lavergne, to-wit:  
A Negro-Woman, aged about 75 years.  
Two horses, a lot of gentle horned cattle, one brand, household furniture, &c.  
Conditions made known on the day of sale.  
URBALIN O. LAVERGNE, Administrator.  
Opelousas February 5th, 1853.

House for Sale.  
THE undersigned offers his property for sale, situated on Main street corner of Vine, in Opelousas. Said property consists of half a lot of ground fronting on Main, Vine and Union streets, most in the centre of the village, with a dwelling house, kitchen, &c.  
JOHN FRANCISCO.  
Opelousas, January 8th, 1853.-3m.

Sale at Auction.  
THE public is hereby informed that there will be sold at public auction, to the last and highest bidder, by the undersigned, public auctioneer for the Parish of St. Landry, On Monday the 10th January next, the following described property, belonging to Mrs. Adrienne Desbotels, Widow of the late Alexandre Fontenot père, to-wit:  
13 SLAVES,  
of different ages and both sexes, the greatest part of whom are creoles.  
Three gentle horses, a lot of corn and fodder.  
TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The purchase money payable in one and two years credit from the day of sale; purchasers furnishing security to the satisfaction of the vendor; and all sums not punctually paid at maturity, to bear 8 per cent. interest per annum from time due.—And moreover, the slaves remaining mortgaged by privilege until final payment of the principal and interest.  
Acts of sale to be passed by O. A. Guidry notary public, at the costs of purchasers.  
The sale will take place on the plantation, last residence of late Alexandre Baptiste Fontenot, at Old Grande Prairie.  
SIMEON FONTENOT, Auctioneer.  
Opelousas 24 December 1852.

DISCHARGE of Capt. Pierre Gabriel Wartelle from the French army was issued in 1815.



# Letters from Confederate Soldier to His Mother In St. Landry Parish Tell Gripping Story of War

A most engrossing account of the War Between the States is vividly told by a 17-year-old St. Landrian, Amos K. Anselm, who was killed in action in Virginia one year after he left his native Pine Prairie --- then in St. Landry parish --- for the war.

We are deeply indebted to Mr. R. W. Helmer of Pine Prairie for allowing us to use the letters of his great-great-uncle, and for his historic footnotes that tie in the war background with the letters.

First, here is Mr. Helmer's letter to the editor of the Daily World, which gives the initial background:

Dear Sir:

My grandmother, Mrs. Wilbur King Helmer (nee Rosa Tarran), was born in Bayou Chicot --- once one of the principal communities of St. Landry Parish, now the oldest and most historic of Evangeline --- taught in the public schools of those parishes for forty-five years, and is at present a resident of St. Landry, La., on Bayou Cocodrie.

She has in her possession quite a number of interesting old documents dating back to the time of the Confederate War, the majority of which consist of letters written by her maternal uncles to their mother, Mrs. Eleanor Gurnett Anselm, a widow and parent of four sons who participated in that great conflict, three of whom died on the field of battle.

In the belief that some of the sidelights of those troubled times may be of interest to your readers --- particularly to descendants of the vallant men who fought and died for the sanctity of their homes, the independence of their new republic, and the integrity of a cause in which they had undying faith and unyielding respect --- I have edited and chronologically arranged a series written by Amos K. Anselm, seventeen years of age.

There is little doubt that several of these war letters have been lost and that portions of others have become illegible through the years; but they have been copied to the best of my ability and, in general, offer at least a semblance of continuity.

A few interspersed general remarks may suffice to explain some of the events mentioned therein.

R. W. HELMER.

Mr. Helmer then gives the following background data, after which the letters will follow:

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For many years and through several presidential administrations, bitter animosity and sectional disputes had developed between the North and the South, on questions of states' rights, the extension or abolition of slavery, the protective tariff, and other explosive problems. Compromise after compromise had been suggested and many tried; none afforded lasting harmony between the two dissident groups whose social and political ideas were at such a divergence.

During the first half of the Nineteenth century, both enjoyed an era of prosperity --- the North industrially and the South agriculturally. Louisiana had become the nation's richest state in per capita wealth and New Orleans its third largest city.

Politically, a new party had evolved --- the Republican --- which recruited most of its support from the dying Whig organization, particularly in the North and Middle West, and from fragments of other extinct parties of lesser renown.

The Democrats had simultaneously become hopelessly split over regional issues, thereby insuring the election of the opposition candidate --- Abraham Lincoln --- who, in the eyes of the South, had in his nomination speech at Chicago expressed radical and completely unacceptable views on the controversial issues. Immediately upon his election, South Carolina --- as several states and regions had previously threatened --- announced that as it had once joined the Union an individual state and in a sovereign capacity, it now intended leaving it in like manner.

On Dec. 20, 1860, with utmost confidence in the constitutionality of their action, and by unanimous congressional vote, the Palmetto state dissolved its ties with the Union. Other southern states quickly followed suit, Louisiana seceding Jan. 26, 1861.

A provisional government was established in February at Montgomery, Ala., with Jefferson Davis of Mississippi at its head. The states mobilized their individual militias and the new republic quite naturally proceeded to occupy those military installations within its confines, with a few notable exceptions.

Near Charleston harbor, there happened to be a contingent of federal troops garrisoned at Fort Sumpter which refused to evacuate that fortification even after the separation of South Carolina from the

Union. Lincoln had no intention of relinquishing by default this thorn in the side of the Confederacy and, in spite of repeated warnings by Governor Pickens that such action would precipitate war, made plans for reprovisioning with arms and supplies the federal troops based on South Carolina soil.

When the situation at last became intolerable, General Pierre Gustave Toussaint Beauregard --- a Louisianian --- was ordered to force the evacuation of Sumpter by bombardment, which was accomplished April 14, 1861. Although there were no casualties as a result of the action, the course of both sides became clear.

Four more states seceded from the Union, and Lincoln directed that a substantial increase be made in the size of the federal army, even without the consent of his Congress.

Each southern state was called upon to provide volunteers for the new army and to help in the defense of the permanent capital situated at Richmond, Va.

The Louisiana Brigade, which was dispatched to help in this function, was placed under the command of Colonel Richard "Dick" Taylor, socially and intellectually prominent sugar planter, a son of the late president.

Five regiments from Louisiana were in his charge, that of Amos K. Anselm among them.

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Opelousas, 8th May, 1861

Mrs. Anselm

Dear Mother:

Tonight is my last night's sleep in St. Landry Parish. 'Tis somewhat late --- I have spent the evening with Jacob Anselm. I took supper with him and we attended an evening's entertainment or show --- upon the whole, spent a very pleasant time.

Last night I spent with Mr. T. H. Thompson. They are well, etc. --- Mr. and Mrs. Thompson both just the same clever people. Mr. Thompson last evening solicited my going out with him --- came into the hotel after me as I was in the act of seating myself to supper.

I have not seen Mr. Dessassarts or family. Jake told me he is on one of his drunken sprees.

Tomorrow, we --- the company of the Opelousas Guard --- march and take a boat at Washington --- and away.

Don't be uneasy --- I'll write you from New Orleans. I am well and hope to remain so. Mr. Robert and Mr. Hargrove are here, Bob Singleton, etc. (I mean they are in town).

I wrote in pencil only because it is more convenient. From this time most of my correspondence will be in pencil mark.

From your same boy,  
Call him Amos.

P.S. --- What I send, I won't need. Don't be uneasy about my money. I have plenty.

Amos.

Camp Moore, St. Helens Parish,  
La., June 14th, 1861

To my dear Mother

The present is the first opportunity I have had to write to you and I guess it will be short anyhow. I am sitting on a knapsack and my paper on my thigh --- ain't it comfortable!

I am getting along as well as I can expect. I am perfectly well, etc.

Provisions are mighty scarce --- none for breakfast --- almost board our siles. Those who have no money have to go dry.

We are camped on a beautiful ground 75 miles above New Orleans --- the Tangipahos River on one side and a creek on the other. Both run pure, clear water --- pine woods.

There are about 2,000 soldiers here now --- some time ago there were 8,000.

We are in the Eighth Regiment of Louisiana Volunteers, Col. Kelly, Com. I wrote to you from N. O. --- sent a picture, etc.

We stay six in a tent, cook turn --- about --- Dick Love and I and two fellows you don't know. Mighty few of the boys are satisfied. All say if God forgives them this time they will not do so any more. I am not sorry at all --- if I were back I'd go again.

I wish you could be here --- an hour or two --- is a more interesting place than N. O.

Well, I must stop --- I wrote enough for today.

Don't write yet until I say where to address the regiment. We think of leaving Tuesday --- today is Sunday. Tell George to come --- I think this would suit him.

Your same son,  
Amos.

Camp Moore  
June 23rd, 1861

Mrs. E. Anselm

My dear Mother

In the morning we march for Richmond, Va. Please write to me immediately, and address me at Richmond, Va., care of Capt. J.

C. Pratt, 8th Reg. Louisiana Volunteers. All the boys are well. Don't fail to write immediately --- I have written three times to you. I hope you have received them.

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By mid-July, McDowell --- with his 36,000 Union troops --- had crossed the Potomac, seized Alexandria, and had begun to march toward Manassas, a strategic railroad junction in northern Virginia where Beauregard had assembled his 22,000 men in preparation for defense. Both expected reinforcements from the west.

The opposing factions clashed on Bull Run early on the morning of July 21st. Until 1 p.m. the Unionists seemed to have the advantage, but, at that time, Confederate reinforcements arrived and, with the wondrous cry of the foxhunter, the southerners gained the initiative and drove the federals back in disorderly retreat, thereby commencing the oft-described rout of Bull Run.

Union soldiers poured into Washington all night and news of their defeat spread throughout the North, causing near-panic in many of the larger northern cities. Fear led to greater caution and preparation, however, whereas the South became jubilant and over-confident. Victory was not followed by pursuit.

Manassas Junction, Va.  
July 14th, 1861

Mrs. E. Anselm,  
Bayou Chicot, La.

My dear Mother

Yesterday evening, happily, your kind letter of the 4th inst., reached me. I think it afforded me more pleasure than any letter I ever received yet. I was glad of all --- only the difficulty spoken of.

Fortunately, I have a good opportunity to answer your letter. Today is Sunday and on that day we have nothing to do excepting about one hour in the morning and evening --- only those who are on guard duty, which is the same that day as it is any other.

I feel first-rate today. I had a good dinner just now and am just over a slight diarrhea I had 4 or 5 days. Considerable sickness has been in the camp --- but not serious.

Some time ago, I attended the burial of one of my acquaintances in the Washington Company --- Toledoano Guidry. I guess you do not know him --- he used to clerk for Bob Wilkins (also Fuqua) last May. Our company buried him.

Camp Pickens, Manassas Junction, Va.  
Prince William Co., Sept. 2nd, 1861

Mrs. Eleanor Anselm,  
Bayou Chicot, La.

My dear Mother

Your most interesting favor of the 19th ult. congratulated my good feelings by coming to hand two days ago. I choose this pleasant fair Sunday morning to reply.

Recently we have had a great deal of wet and disagreeable weather. This morning being one of beautiful sunshine and just cool enough to be right pleasant, we are pleased to appreciate it in the proper spirit. In your letter you acknowledge receipt of a letter by Mr. Cole and of 3 others previous to that --- also you refer to the number you have written to me.

I will now give you the number I have received --- one in Mr. Allen's letter July 22nd, one dated July 4th, one Aug. 6th, July 27th, and two more which I have misplaced --- in all, counting the last one of Aug. 19 and the two lost, make 7 letters. The number I have written I am not able to say, as I have kept no accounts, but I endeavor to write weekly. Don't be afraid of writing letter: too lengthy. Our letters are not opened at all. That is a big mistake --- correspondence here is the same that it is anywhere else. They are in the care of the Captain only as a matter of convenience in getting them. If you were to send me a letter to Richmond, and not put in care of the Captain nor the regiment, the letter would stay in Richmond. But when directed in care of the Captain and the 8th Reg. it will be forwarded no matter where the regiment.

A company always marches and buries a soldier. Eight men go with guns and accoutrements and fire three times over the grave --- quite an affecting scene. We have had no fight yet, but don't know how soon we may. We are expecting an attack all the time --- in reality, every moment, 16,000 troops are expected here in a day or more. Our regiment is under the command of Gen. Beauregard --- the man you hear so much talk about who took Fort Sumpter, in S.C.

Tell Miss Francis and Miss Lacombe I will try to fill my errand here and kill as many Yankees as I can. If we fight here

and they attack us we don't expect many to be killed as we will have the advantage over them. The supposition is that 300,000 men could not whip us the way we are fighting for them.

The officers are trying to coax them attack us by drawing back the guards, letting the enemy advance. If they were to come into us we could chew them up presently. I think if you were here to see us would please you --- make you smile.

I was glad to hear from Adolph --- please give him the contents of all my letters. My idea is to keep you well posted and you keep the balance. All of us here heard from home at the same time. Louie got a letter from his wife, Oscar Dawson from his dear Miss He is nearly right well now.

I wrote to Sis and to Ellen some time since --- I hope they got my letters. Have you seen Fuqua or heard from him since I left in regard to my business?

Right now we are having our regular afternoon shower, to come up the last 10 days at 3 o'clock. We have the heaviest kind of shower and wind --- but not destructive --- just a blow. The climate or the degree of heat and cold here now is like the beginning of fall at home --- say 1st of Oct. Two blankets for covering is not at all too much and of blue coats or the uniform you saw are rather light for morning service.

A letter came from Chicot yesterday from a damsel of that vicinity stating a desire if the boys not to write any more discouraging letters home. Now let me tell you one thing --- don't get uneasy. Right now I will give a small outline of our situation which you can rely on.

There is nobody at all suffering here --- only in an imaginary way. The discipline is stricter than one has an idea of its being, but few of us are not deceived in that. You can't fight or quarrel here and the trouble superiority of officers. If you give an officer any slack at all, you are subject to punishment.

There are two ranks of officers, commissioned and non-commissioned. An officer from a private soldier to a commissioned officer is death if they feel like doing so, but I have not heard of any death yet. Other severe punishment I have seen, but not one member of this company has been punished yet --- not one, so we must get along pretty well.

There are guards kept day and night in our camp. We cannot go more than ten yards without a pass written just like a negro's pass, only three men have to sign it --- one man will do for a negro. The Captain writes, then you get the Colonel to sign it, then the Officer of the Guard. (Delete) is the damsel referred to. I tell you this just so you may be easy.

We get plenty to eat --- flour, etc. Some starve but there is good reason for it --- is only them too lazy to cook. We don't get any turkey and baked pudding and so on, but we get plenty.

The discipline I think is necessary. It had the making of the law I would make just as it is --- can't get along any other way. I find some things sometimes I don't like but then I go on the same as if I did like it. However, at the end of my 12 months I am through certain.

The whole trouble is a man is not free of all. As for my own part, I treat them like gentlemen and those who do not treat me as a gentleman I let them alone.

Another thing if a man is sick, there is hospital for him to go where he is well taken care of. I have not been sick but some of the boys have and all of them were taken care of.

Everything is just as I tell you. Upon the whole I admit it is a pretty good thing. . . . . fight or two among themselves so much excitement among them. I am sure they would render me quite an accommodation if they were to decline peace.

A battle a few days ago was fought in Missouri. I am not posted with the particulars but we gained the day.

Up to this day I have had paper for myself and all my friends and right now I am in possession of barely enough for this letter but I send one good sheet anyhow and one more and then a scrap. So now don't ask why I don't write a longer letter --- just know that it is all my paper.

I wrote to Mrs. Fiset to give you an address but now I am going to give another one --- be guided by this one. Also, if you ever tell her Louie and I were mistaken when we did that so you direct from this time and tell Mrs. Fiset to do it. Tell your friends, if you know any of them, to write to me. Address care of Capt. Pratt, 8th Reg. La. Vol., Richmond, Va. Mark that as further instruction. I am sorry Louie and did that.

My love to my friends, and especially Misses Frances and Lucretia. Is Miss Lucretia a Miss yet . . . . .



Manassas Junction, Va.  
July 21, 1861

Mrs. E. Anselm,  
My dear Mother  
This morning yours of the 10th inst. came to hand. This afternoon I hastily compose myself to answer. Right now is the most important day and time of the present war. One reason of my writing now is to make sure of the opportunity.

Day before yesterday a hot battle was fought on what is called Bull Run, three miles from here. Federalists got badly whipped, loss -- 900 killed; wounded -- I don't know. 70 prisoners came to our camp. Our loss -- 100 killed.

The hottest sort of battle has been going on since morning. Our troops engaged there are 50,000, Lincoln's 60,000. The news I heard was unfavorable for us, but reinforcements are coming.

Gen. Beauregard says he will conquer today or die. He had his horse killed under him this morning. He immediately mounted another and went on about his business. About one hour ago Jeff Davis arrived to take command. Reinforcements have been coming by R. R. -- a regiment (1,000) by train all night and all of today.

Day before yesterday our company left camp for the regiment, left two companies and all that were on guard when they left to protect the place or the batteries here in case of an attack, amongst whom I am one. I am sitting here with my accoutrements right by me -- ready for rally.

I don't feel the least alarmed. About two miles off I hear the cannons -- bang, bang -- faster than you could count 1, 2, 3 -- sometimes so fast you can't distinguish them at all.

Thousands of good men are in eternity now. Hearing it so much is common -- don't pay it as all. It is nothing new now. For myself, if we fight this afternoon, it will be right here where we have breastworks. But tomorrow we will, i.e. I think I will, be out here where I hear those guns.

If we get them today, they undoubtedly are whipped. This is the big fight that Lincoln and Scott were going to sweep the country and go on to Richmond. They said on the 4th of July they would take dinner there. This is the 21st. -- they ain't there yet.

Several wounded have been brought in from the battlefield already. I wish to state that I have written two or three letters from this place to you. I hope some have been received by this time. I have written every week -- just that often. Ah, let me tell you some of our profits. Our company alone got quite a prize yesterday in captured goods. We got 75 pair of blankets and a number of mapsacks, uniforms, accoutrements, a number of oil cloth coats, etc., amounting, I presume, to upwards of \$500.00. That is making money for one day. Our company are all yet alive but some of the regiment are killed. Dick got a letter from his wife two days ago.

You can tell all those patriotic ladies I see a good place for them here nursing the sick and wounded. There are six or seven in the regiment -- amongst them only one is a lady -- the others are Mrs. Trainer's kind of women.

In your next letter tell me if Joe was in the difficulty of Sam Haas and John Walker. In your letter before this you say that Joe was concerned in it. I don't understand it -- let me know in your next.

That letter this morning is two since I left home. Well, just this morning good news came. Our loss -- 5,000 today, the enemy -- 20,000. I think this is reliable -- from the Major of our regiment.

They are now finishing the enemy with the Washington artillery from N. O. They got here just in time to follow the enemy and stem them on. Flying artillery is small or travelling cannon.

Well, I have given you plenty of news, so I will close. I understand we are going to attack the enemy tomorrow, if possible. Adieu for the present.

Yr aff son (sic)  
A. K. Anselm

Manassas Junction, Va.  
Camp Pickens,  
July 24th, 1861

Mrs. E. Anselm,  
My dear Mother

I wrote you only a day or so ago, but Mr. S. S. Cole is agoging home on account of his health, by which means I am afforded an opportunity of writing by hand. I am then certain you will get the letter without delay in any P. O. I have written several letters from this place and not heard of one being received yet. It appears by this time I should have heard of them getting there.

About three days ago my shoes were very wet. Having only one pair and it being a fine clear morning, etc., I thought I would put my shoes in the sun and go barefooted. That I did for 5 or 6 hours and the consequence is I am an invalid with blistered feet. 'Tis not anything fatal in my ideal, but I assure you it is a great inconvenience. They are the worst case of drying shoes I ever saw. Today is the third day and I guess it will take 3 or more for them to get well.

In my last I spoke of the battle of Stone Bridge, etc., and deem it useless to restate the same, if you see Cole he can give you

some idea of camp life.

Right now is the first time we have not had enough to eat, by neglect of the commissaries and the men who get the provisions and give out the rations. We have had none yesterday nor today. As to my own part, I had all my meals but one -- breakfast this morning, I got my dinner.

I am writing this letter only to accept the opportunity -- I guess most of the boys are going to write. The most of them are well. Several have had the measles -- some have it now. You know I had measles eleven years ago.

I got Sis' letter the day after I answered yours. My next letter home will be an answer to it -- I am glad to hear a few sentences therein expressed.

I have had gotten that before yours. Arthur Singleton went off with it in his pocket and was gone 3 days. He could not see me in time and forgot to leave it with anyone in camp. I was off on picket guard.

We are having a fine evening, I must say. I have had a pleasant time in penning this letter, only the damn flies bother me awfully. I have partially quit swearing. That little word there made me think of my reformation. Well, dear Mother, good evening -- I am well. I must stop. My paper is out. Your aff son,

A. K. Anselm.  
P.S. -- On Sunday we captured 5 batteries of artillery, 100 wagons, 2,000 prisoners, provisions; oh, everything. Three colonels taken prisoner today. I saw 65 of those cannons myself -- one 14 ft. long -- call it Old Black Abe. ....

Meantime, General Joseph E. Johnston and his army were sent to the "peninsula" of Virginia to protect Richmond from an advance by McClellan's forces, who had landed on the eastern coast and moved into Yorktown, slightly more than fifty miles east of the capital.

You speak of my poor sore feet. I had forgotten all about having sore feet at all. It had been so long since they got well. I will here insert that I am blessed with fine health. I feel splendid -- as Aunt Mary used to say, fine as a race horse.

I am answering your letter perfectly. I read it over and took a note of the subjects to refer to.

The next is that all-important subject -- the industry of the ladies of St. Landry. I am deficient in reference to flattering capacity so I will not attempt to flatter the ladies. But as a soldier and a friend and citizen of St. Landry, I must express my gratitude and gratefully offer my thanks for their philanthropic patriotism and their good manner of exhibiting their well wishes and good feeling for us whilst in this land which is called the seat of War, battling for our freedom and their benefit.

But, dear Mother, aside from all this, allow me to assure you that we get along finely. We get an abundance to eat, &c., in our rations. We get meat -- salt, pickled, and fresh -- any quantity of fresh beef, splendid bacon and pickled pork -- plenty of flour. I am certain that you could take the amount of provisions that is wasted and thrown away and feed 30 regular boarders of our company alone.

I just read this sentence to Messrs. Allen and Fiset and asked them if they thought that story would do to send home -- they say yes, yes, certainly, and more too. If a soldier don't do well here it is solely from being too lazy to cook. We get coffee, sugar, soap, candles, &c. -- all the necessaries. This is a fact so far, you may rest assured.

Clothing I have refused -- socks, drawers, &c. I have a good pair of shoes -- just got them two weeks ago. The Confederate Congress passed an act allowing every soldier 21 dollars every six months for clothing extra from his pay of \$11 per month, which makes \$42 per year. I think we get along quite well -- no more of that.

I am glad to learn Mrs. Grey is general superintendent of the sewing & knitting institutions; she is, I think, fully competent and faithful to duty. I remember how she punctually filled her duty and position in fitting out this company with uniforms. Nearly every member bid Mrs. Grey adieu the day we left Washington.

Does Chicot represent itself pretty well in the benevolent patriotism of sewing for their country?

In your letter there is something I don't understand -- you say "I get only \$125 per year rent, coffee is forty cents per pound. I forgot my board."

Do you mean that you forgot to include your board with the rent in your bargain with Mr. Going or do you mean that you meant to say you only get \$125 and your board. Answer in your reply.

I must stop writing a while and help the boys sing, Dick, Jas. Allen, have raised the tune -- I am a Soldier of the Cross. I will then resume my pen. We are in a tent together. I am writing on a box.

After finishing our song, Mr. John Hudson, a member of our company, solicits our company to accompany him to the depot to hear the distinguished Rev. C. K. Marshall of Miss. preach, so I am going. After I return I will finish my letter.

well, dear Mother, I am now again at my post -- have gone about 2 hours. I went to the place reported to be the one Mr. Marshall was at and was sadly disappointed -- he is not about Manassas Junction anywhere, so I am none the better off for my trouble.

I can give you some information from Theodore, but not much. I only know where the regiment is. The 10th La. is at Yorktown, Virginia. According to all accounts I have, Yorktown must be a better location that ours -- it is, -- I am certain, on the sea coast.

It was there the final and concluding last fight of the Revolutionary War came off -- known as the siege of Yorktown. I am going to write Theodore some time soon, but I can't do it today. I want to rest when I get through with this one.

In looking over my sketch from your letter I find one not answered -- that our bread, I wish to say, we can cook just as good as we want or, in fact, as anybody wants or generally gets.

Some time ago a regiment camped near us, broke up, or pulled up stakes, is the usual expression, and went off. Amongst the plunder they left was a pretty good cooking stove which Louis Fiset and I and John Waldrum brought up to our camp, so we have a stove to cook with. That is more than anyone else of this regiment has -- Col., Maj., or anybody else.

They generally dig a hole 2 or 3 feet long, about one foot wide, and one deep -- cook on that.

I may consider now your letter is well answered. Any more you must consider extra and over-plus. But I am not done yet -- I am agoing to write more after dinner.

In my last letter to Adolph I sent a spy-glass view of Beauregard's command. I requested him to send it to you and you put it in my portfolio. I am agoing to send another -- a map of Manassas Junction -- something different -- a map showing the situation of our batteries and breastworks, and so when he sends it please put it also in my portfolio. At least just take care of it -- it don't matter about it being in the portfolio I sent to Adolph. He will send it to you.

Well, Ma., after dinner has come and some time since and this is my last lick on this letter.

Before closing you may expect to hear something from the war. I can only say I am not able to say anything about it. We know nothing here more than what we see in the papers. That, your opportunity is the same -- it is seldom I see one. Our own regiment is here -- just the same I notice there is not so strict a guard kept as there is when an excitement is up.

In your reply to this inform me if you received a letter written on several pieces of paper -- one or two scraps -- in fact, quite a long letter, the longest I have written since I have been here. I am sure I have written twice as many as three letters -- I disremember the dates.

Jas. Allen is here teasing me to write him a letter and I must close. Remember me to friends -- you know them I presume. Tell me why none of those fellows don't write. Sisters of mine -- it you may tell them affords me much comfort to hear from them so often.

I am thankful to you for your punctuality in writing. I am afraid I am behind a letter or two with you, but I shall endeavor to rectify it. Tell sister Adeline I received one letter from her and immediately answered it -- that is all.

From your ever aff son  
A. K. Anselm.

Camp Walker, Fairfax Co., Va.  
Sept. 27th, 1861.

Mrs. E. Anselm,  
My dear Mother,

I wrote to you 2 or 3 days ago -- I think on the 23rd inst. -- so I am agoing to write only a short letter to you this time.

It is raining and we are amusing ourselves at nothing in our tent, it being among the most virtuous tents in our camp.

A few days ago the regiment was paid off and the consequence in one respect is quite an evil. Of all the poker playing I ever saw, this beats it. There is scarcely a man that ain't engaged during his whole leisure.

I am just as I was -- I presume you are aware of my never having gambled any at all.

My letter of the 23rd, gives an account of our march from Manassas Junction to Centreville yesterday. The whole brigade marched from there to our present situation about 1 mile beyond a place called Germantown. We arrived about 12 o'clock and got fixed up first rate for camping & so on.

Our situation is the most beautiful in the world -- the loveliest landscape imaginable I am informed this is the most beautiful portion of the state. Our position is now really near the enemy. I am informed our picket guards are within 400 yards of each other.

On frontier our march yesterday was about 7 miles. We are within about 17 miles of Washington City -- you may judge quarters are close.

wrote to Ben Anselm and Ben wrote to Wm. Schwing informing him of Geo. & I being in 8th. La. &c. Wm. said as soon as he learned he inquired for the 8th. La. Reg. -- until I he learned where it was. His camp was within 1/2 mile of us.

I found him to be really a genteel and intelligent young man. I enjoyed his visit very much, also a return of the same at this camp. It is raining like fury, but I am as dry as you are.

I am in perfect health.  
Your aff son,  
A. K. Anselm

Please file these letters.  
Amos.

.....The ground which our camp now occupies was covered the other day with the remains of their camps made of bushes, something on the plan of Indian camps -- it is so all over this section. They committed all kinds of depredation -- go into houses regardless of the inmates whether male or female, and demand their wishes, pillage, plunder, and take anything they choose, burn up fences, just help themselves.

This morning I came off of guard duty in the village of Centreville, which is a perfect wreck, in fact, nearly all the people abandoned their homes and property and went further back into the interior of the country for protection and are there yet, notwithstanding it has been two months since the Yankees were driven entirely from the bounds.

Centreville contains I suppose about as many houses as Flat Town, (Editor's Note: Ville Platte) -- a strict guard has to be kept up against thieves from our own camps.

Last night I took a prisoner up myself in case as base an act as a man can do. He went into a man's lot & bridled the man's horse. I did not see him then -- but I was close and heard an old man tell him to let his mare alone &c. About that time he had the bridle on.

I took aim at the gentleman and politely informed him not to move. He was my prisoner. In the military service you don't have to hunt up the constable and magistrate and get a warrant to take a man up -- you pick him up right there or shoot 1 oz. lead into him. That is about what the balls weigh.

Since we left Manassas our drill parade is a great deal more interesting than any yet. We go out and the general marches his whole command of 5,000 around. First thing you know 5,000 muskets shining like glass make things look like war was no joke. We have a large open field fully a mile across. When they all get into a line it goes across the field I speak of. I guess it looks a little more wild than your Chicot Militia. Within a mile and a half of us I think there must be near 10,000 soldiers. Six thousand are in sight -- I am sure of that number.

About Theo I cannot give you much information. My time for writing is nearly out and I must begin to look for a focus to my letter. I could write 3 or 4 sheets if I had the time because I am full as I can stick with talk -- just full as a tick.

Well, about Theo, I got a letter from Alex Haas. He answered my letter to Theo -- gave me only some information -- said Theo was well only he had diarrhea for some time but was better and getting well. The 10th. Regiment is at Camp Spradley on James River. I don't know where it is at all. He said to address Richmond 10th. Reg. La. Vol. &c. Alex expects to remain the winter out.

One thing more -- don't think I am in any need of clothing. I have more than I can carry anyway. Some time ago, Jeff sent us all first rate overcoats at \$6., socks -- I had plenty of them, pants, and all those necessaries of a soldier. But tobacco, whisky -- we have to buy those articles. I have not sunk any money for whisky yet but tobacco I occasionally drop a little for.

Well, I hope I have omitted nothing & hope daily to hear from you.  
My regards to friends, &c.  
From your truly aff son Adieu  
A. K. Anselm

Shoes 42.50  
Tobacco 20  
Paper 20 P.S. Just file this.  
Amos.  
.....

On October, 21st, four regiments of Federal troops were ferried across the Potomac at Ball's Bluff in reconnaissance towards Leesburg, Virginia. They were sharply rebuffed and before recrossing the river to safety, has lost about half their number. Confederate forces in the West and on the peninsula, however, were not faring quite so well. It was definitely a dark winter for the South, but the army of the Potomac was relatively inactive.

.....  
Camp Reserve, near Centreville, Va.  
October 30th, 1861

Mrs. E. Anselm  
Bayou Chicot  
My dear Mother

I have not heard from you for some time. I think since your last came to hand I have written 3 or 4 letters to you. Recently our regiment has been pretty active. Night Be-

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ANSELM LETTERS (Cont'd)

fore last we came in from a very long & fatiguing march. We were gone 7 days from camp -- left on Oct. 22nd, in the rain about 8 o'clock and went from camp to Gum Spring by dusk -- 20 miles, in the mud every step of the way. After resting until 9 o'clock -- the rain still falling -- we marched on 5 miles to Goose Creek and stopped until 4 o'clock next morning.

I stood it first rate but, I am sure, I was much fatigued.

The second night we called Curtis Mill, some 12 or 15 miles further on the same Goose Creek. The third day we went to Leesburg -- 7 miles -- camped there until the 5th day and then went 7 miles further up to a little town called Waterford, Loudoun County, camped one night there.

On the 6th, we returned to Leesburg, & on the 7th day, came gloriously a distance of 30 miles into our camp.

I found our tent quite a comfortable home to being entirely out doors, but I must say I enjoyed the trip indeed very much -- through an interesting portion of the country and inhabited by as hospitable class of people as any county can afford and moreover, a rich section.

I was really delighted with the landscape. I remember going over one plain or elevation that we could see to the zenith of my vision, i.e. I saw as far as the eye could reach from Virginia into Maryland. We were then about 5 miles from the Potomac River, which divides the states of Maryland & Virginia. I presume that we saw 15 or 20 miles beyond the Maryland shore.

One thing I remember seeing plainly -- the numerous and extensive encampments of the enemy -- just could see them, but they were plenty -- just as thick as hops. I have spoken of our march &c. Now I will tell you the object. I am going to send a map of this section to you and you can see the situation of the country.

Oct. 31st, 1861.

From the extra date you may see to get this letter off, it takes two days and 2 trials. I will continue my subject.

On the 21st, a lot of Yankees crossed the Potomac -- some 5000 in number, for the purpose of taking Leesburg, pretty much of a little town -- 4 or 5 thousand inhabitants, I would judge.

After crossing the Potomac they came in contact with 3 regiments of our troops -- 18th, Miss., 8 Virginia, and 13th, Miss. A hot battle was fought on the 21st, and 22nd. The 8 Regiment left here as a reinforcement to those troops at Leesburg.

When we got to Leesburg, the Yankees were whipped & crossed back over the river, so they did not take Leesburg that time. Our loss was 50 killed & some wounded. The enemy's loss -- 400 killed, 300 drowned, 720 taken prisoner.

Among the captives were 5,000 stand of arms & 2 beautiful cannon -- 1 rifle cannon and 1 howitzer. The victory was not so large, but fully parallel with that of July 21st.

If our regiment could have gotten there in time, we could have taken 2,000 prisoners. From accounts, their position was such that they could not have resisted, but before the reinforcement arrived, they had succeeded in crossing the river.

I found Leesburg quite a beautiful town -- the cleverest sort of people to soldiers. I called in a house to get something to eat -- a Mr. Hemstead, seemingly rich. They took us in & gave us a nice breakfast. I offered to pay -- they replied they never charged soldiers for anything & refused my money.

That was the second time I sat in a chair since June 12th, 1861, being all the time in camp.

We have just been having some excitement in our company -- an election of a corporal. It interrupted me in writing my letter. Today we are mustered for the pay roll that comes off every two months. Yesterday our old state sent us another suit of clothes -- pants & coat. Common stuff, but durable.

Ma, evening is drawing near at hand and I must close my letter. I am going to send two maps -- one of the seat of war and the other of the position of the 2 armies on July 21st.

From your aff son,

A K Anselm

P.S. I have no time for punctuation. Please excuse. A.K.A.

Take care of the maps for me. From St. Landry Parish 30th, October \$4.30.

Camp Reserve near Centreville Prince William Co., Va. Nov. 9th, 1861.

Mrs. E. Anselm

Dear Mother

This afternoon I seat myself not for the purpose of writing what I call a letter. I am only intending it as a note, as I send a newspaper giving the latest war news from this section.

At last -- 3 days ago -- I heard from you again. Your letter Oct. 17th, came written at 6 o'clock, informing me of the birth of a young girl. I hope it is as fine boy as Housin. I was glad to hear from them all and of their

well doing.

I might say I surmised the whole circumstance of your not writing &c. I am pleased to hear from Mr. Moore and his doing well -- also of his removal from Chicot. Big Cane is a better country.

While I think of it, I must give you Frederick Lambert's respects. He came over to see us about 2 weeks since. He is in Griffith's Company, 6th, La. Regiment, the brigade we are in. You tell Mrs. Tubre, Henry is doing finely and is well &c.

Yesterday all the articles of winter clothing from our friends at home came to hand for the company. Some unknown friend thought of me. A bundle came directed to me from somebody, nor can I guess who. In it was 1 pair thick fine blankets, 2 pair fine flannel drawers, 2 pair good woolen socks, 2 fine flannel undershirts. I have not the least idea where they came from. If you can enlighten me on the subject, I wish you would do so, as I don't know who to thank.

I am fully supplied with clothing. In fact I refused the amount of clothing for me which was sent in a lot to be distributed amongst us equally. I let mine go to those who may need it worse.

The north wind begins to whistle pretty sharp and the frost came right white.

I am getting along as usual -- top up, &c. Tell all the folks how d'y.

Another thing -- when you write again tell me if Billy Fiquis is at home or at war, as I want to write to him.

I wrote to Theo last week by hand -- sent the letter by a young man belonging to Captain Spencer's Company from Opelousas -- Jas. LaBlue.

From your aff son  
A K Anselm

Camp Florida near  
Centreville, Va.  
Nov. 27th, 1861

Mrs. E. Anselm

My dear Mother

Yours bearing date of Nov. 14th, has just come to hand, which afforded me great ease and satisfaction as I had not heard from you in 2 or 3 weeks. The last letter was written at Ob's.

I have received every letter you spoke of -- the one which Ellen wrote a part of, also, the one Sis wrote a part of. I should have written a week ago, but I must confess my negligence and beg forgiveness.

I heard from Adolph one or two days ago. He was well and doing well, from the language of his letter.

It is so near night I am afraid I am going to be compelled to stop writing before I finish.

You express some uneasiness about me. You must not be so hasty in getting uneasy. I have been well ever since I left home excepting 2 days some time in the summer & my sore feet in July and 3 days diarrhea last week. I am sound as a dollar now.

From the heading of my letter you may observe we have changed camp again. On the 10th we left Camp Reserve & came here 2 miles. We are within 1 mile of Centreville. Within sight of us are about 30,000 troops, I judge from the number of camps, ours being on a hill.

We have made no preparation yet for winter quarters but the presumption is that we will soon. Our command are awaiting the action of the enemy -- an attack and a big fight is expected before the close of the campaign. After that, or after they give it out, we expect to go into winter quarters. The enemy are still advancing. They are now within ten miles of us.

26 Pennsylvanians were brought into Centreville today by our picket guards. Our regiment goes on picket Saturday -- today is Wednesday.

I am quite anxious for the Yankees to come as I am satisfied we will rout them again gloriously.

I wrote to you from Camp Reserve giving an abbreviated account of our march to Leesburg and the battle &c. Let me know if you got it. I will endeavor to be punctual again in writing to you.

We are having cold weather in earnest. We had snow on the 25th, sleet today, & the chilly winds blow pretty briskly. Be assured I am well provided with clothing. Some friend sent me 2 blankets, 2 shirts, 2 drawers & 2 pair socks & did not give me so much as his name. Can you tell me who it is -- I am anxious to know. If you did not yr son has some other friend, you may be sure.

I have 5 good pair socks, 5 old pair -- oh, I have plenty everything but gloves. I can buy them when I go to Centreville.

Ma, I must close. It is too dark to write. I reckon it is better than one longer and later to make up for it.

In my letter before this, I sent 2 maps. Let me know if you got them, 3 days ago I saw Wm. Schwing. He has become quite, quite an intimate friend.

Well, good night. I can't see any more.

Yr aff son

A K Anselm

Camp of the 8th. Brigade  
near Manassas, Va.  
December 19th, 1861.

Mrs. E. Anselm

My dear Mother

Yours of the 3rd. inst. came to hand. It

is really discouraging to learn that you had not heard from me in nearly a month as I am sure I have written much oftener and withal quite punctual. I wrote some letters headed Camp Reserve. Let me know if you have received them. If you will have by the time you do this, my next number of letters are from Camp Florida.

Yesterday we came from Camp Florida to this place. I understand we are going to build our winter quarters here.

We are near Manassas Junction -- within 1 1/2 miles -- nearer than any time since we left Manassas in September.

I cannot understand the failure of my letters, as others here tell me their letters go direct. From Camp Reserve I wrote some letters which I was really quite anxious for you to receive.

My time is somewhat limited today as I have small jobs of domestic duty to do, such as washing & so on. In your letters you don't write me a sufficient detail of the times. You must remember you are my only correspondent. What you don't tell me -- unless I see it in the Richmond papers -- I don't find out at all.

It strikes me all the poor people around Chicot must be on a point of starvation or at least seeing mighty hard times.

Congress is trying to encourage volunteers to remain in the service by offering them a bounty of \$50, &c., a furlough for 60 days, &c., then passage from their home and back again. As for my part, I am thinking when my term of enlistment expires I am going home and if I feel like volunteering after I get there I may -- but I am going home first.

We stand the weather pretty well so far, and I presume after we build our winter quarters we will be quite comfortable. Six months of our time has gone. If I can get through the next six as well as the first I will land home safely some time July 1862.

Well, I must close. Matters are just as I spoke of about my domestic duties. Elmus West is well and is doing quite well. His parents should not think any serious accident befalls him just because Elmus don't write.

Well, adieu, I am as ever

Yr son

A K Anselm

P.S. I had 2 papers to send but I got them to duty by carelessness. Amos.

Camp Carondelet near Manassas, Va.  
January 27th, 1862.

Mrs. E. Anselm

My dear Mother

Your interesting epistle bearing date of Dec. 30th, came to hand 2 days ago. I assure you in perusing its contents it afforded me the greatest pleasure. I am sorry to see that our letters can not go direct, although I am glad to see that they go through some time.

I am going to send this letter by Mr. Burton Morrow -- a friend of mine who has got a discharge and going home in 2 days. Mr. Morrow is a gentleman -- I shall request him to call on you and give you the news. I shall write by mail soon too perhaps.

The letters by mail may get there first as he may go slow. He has promised me to deliver the letter himself. He can give you any information in regard to me or the company as he has been with us all the time.

I shall not make this any length as I expect soon to write by mail, and Mr. Morrow can give you any information at all wanted. You may rely on what he says with all safety.

George Anselm just got his discharge two days ago and started off for home. He was a long time getting it but it came at last. I sent by him this time for you \$40. He will go up and see you, and give you the news. He is off for home now -- straight -- I guess in ten days he will be there.

I am going to write to Ellen by Mr. Morrow. He lives at John O'Quinn's on Bayou Rouge -- is his nephew.

Well, good-bye for the present.

Your aff son

A K Anselm

P.S. I have not heard from Theo. Camp Carondelet, Va. Feb. 12th., 1862.

Mrs. E. Anselm

Dear Mother

This calm & comfortable night I seat myself to answer your interesting favor of 30th. Dec. We are now in winter quarters pretty well fixed & oh, vastly more comfortable than before. We are in a room well dobed -- built of logs, and a fine chimney made with a fine rock back &c., &c.

You may consider I am comfortable -- also I am favored with as fine.....as any one can be; I will give their names for..... All of them you not acquainted with -- W.H. May, W.H. Lewis, L. Fiset, Elmus West -- all fine boys. We came into our cabin on the 8th. of this month. There has been quite an exciting time in our company this week. Some of them are reenlisting for the war -- nearly 40 of them took the oath today & were mustered in for the war. They are now going home on furlough of 60 days.

I am not among the number -- I choose to go home at the end of my time. I might have done it but this company don't suit me at all. After I go home, I can join any company I want to, so you may expect me in July.

You will see some of those boys going home, I guess, but they won't be there long until they must come back. If you have not seen George I guess you will soon see him.

In your next letter tell me what you of your reenlisting anyhow -- don't. From what I learn about home I don't I could do much more than make my at home now and then not a very good.

Arthur Singleton returned 3 days gave us all the news, &c. He is now to get a discharge, I guess he will get it.

I have not seen Wm. Schwing for 2 months. His regiment is at Leesburg and 10 miles from Manassas about 30 miles so not telling when I will see him. I must I received those two papers from

Some days ago I got a letter from and he seemed to be well.

I am thinking I must close with a letter -- it is 12 o'clock. All the other are in their beds sleeping, I am getting the last one to bed, consequently the

I am going to try a cup of warm coffee. We still get coffee issued to us -- coffee all the time.

Since we got in our cabin -- I must you -- we are just at home. Our O.K. not much -- not much guard, &c.

We have plenty of snow but upon the it is a remarkably mild winter. Our trouble now is to get our wood -- we it nearly a mile on our shoulders but turn or two. A piece each day does us are doing finely.

Well, good-night.

Yr aff son

A K Anselm

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Beauregard, during the winter of had been transferred to command the fighting in Kentucky and Tennessee. Ft. Donelson had recently surrendered. Federals with 14,000 troops. Those so in Virginia who could be persuaded to remain in the Army by various attractions were given the privilege of being by secret ballot the men they command them -- a very democratic tem but, as often as not, unsatisfactory from the standpoint of obtaining efficient ership.

Because of a marked shortage of army powder, in large part due to the Yankee blockade, it was decided that the Confederacy should be led southward from position on the Potomac to more secure locations. This was to prove to be a tremendous undertaking because of the extensive accumulation of subsistence stores around Manassas during the winter trunk had come with every volunteer.

In the expectation that an enemy approach would be made in the early spring and the knowledge of unusual activity among federal troops, it became apparent that of the urgently needed supplies would be sacrificed -- a truly disastrous decision. Over one million pounds of meat were trod or given away; blankets and clothing were up in smoke; storage depots burned to the ground in exemplification of the "scorched earth" technique.

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Camp Carondelet,  
Febr. 26th.,

Within 2 miles of  
Manassas Junction

Mrs. E. Anselm

My dear Mother

Tonight I seat myself for the purpose of accepting the present opportunity of writing to you, as we are now under many orders, without any idea when or where we are going or anything else.

So far as I am able to comprehend, the movement of the enemy is soon expected upon which our destination entirely depends. Our orders are to ready at a moment's warning. Our officers are making such hasty preparations for some movement.

Two days ago our company -- I am the crowd -- came in from picket guard duty and the first subject before us was to pack up our articles most valuable to us in our knapsacks -- guarding against too much burden to carry on a march up being moved.

I have my arrangements all made. good suit on me, one in my knapsack balance in a box ready to nail up, and 44 rounds of cartridges in my box, &c. Our picket tour passed off finely, the weather being rather mild.

At Manassas Junction the authorities sending all baggage & plunder back for us to Lynchburg -- 240 miles -- so that, in case we are defeated and are compelled to abandon Manassas, baggage, &c. will be saved.

We may march in the morning or so & then we may not move for weeks -- the troubles of a soldier. At present, they are as easy to me as any period of my existence, but I know not the moment I may be off for days of the greatest fatigue in the world. I thought if we go, this letter keep you from finding it strange to not hear from me for some time.

Rain is falling at a pretty fast rate on cabin and if we go tomorrow -- oh, what time the gallant sons of the South will be in the mud.

Muds gets worse by far than any you find in St. Landry, Bayou Boeuf is



stance to the mud here. Suppose you have by this time heard of defeat in Tennessee & the great disaster our arms -- I tell you the South must get from her slumber and come to arms every man -- or we are ruined.

Our reports are that we lost heavily at battle of Ft. Donelson besides 18,000 prisoners taken.

The Army of the Potomac there has no occurrence of interest of late more the present excitement throughout every of readiness and preparation. I can re- one small circumstance which occurred 2 days ago while we were on picket. Eight regiments of Yankees advanced and took our cavalry pickets prisoners -- the in- ation was soon reported to Gen. Stuart manding our cavalry on the Potomac. immediately put 2 regiments under march- orders and in the same day recaptured our valrymen and 20 Yankees.

Gen. Beauregard has left us and gone to lucky to assume command there. He left the time about the 14th. inst. The account of him was in the papers showing to be in Nashville, Tenn., very sick of cold fever.

Well, dr Mother, good-night -- my candle getting short and I must retire -- write me and often, I am afraid our communica- tions through Tenn. will be cut off soon -- Yankees are playing havoc in that sec- tion. -- m-n.

From your aff son & c. & c.,  
A K Anselm

S. Theo. writes that he is well.

On the Bank of the Rappahannock, Va.  
April 16th, 1862.

Mrs. E. Anselm  
My dear Mother

Day before yesterday your letter of Mch. 26 came to hand. I answered the last one when on picket and am on picket again -- we came out yesterday. The weather is quite mild now, although on the 7th, 8, & 9th. we had snow & cold, rain and everything else to make us suffer at night. During these cold nights I did finely -- I stole off from Camp to an old house and slept perfectly dry there.

From appearances, I am not going to be able to see you in June or July. I have not seen any papers at all for some time -- we cannot get them now -- but I am told Congress has passed an act drafting all 12 months men in the field. It disappoints me only this way -- I lose my visit to home and I wanted to reenlist in a differenz service and army too.

I am not yet certain that we are drafted but I will soon leave and I presume you will know as soon as I will or perhaps now you know.

There are 45 of us in this company and about 150 more in our regiment so I am not alone. Capt. Pratt has not got here yet nor any of the boys but they were in Richmond some days ago. I think we will find them all in camp when we go in from picket -- day after tomorrow.

I have seen several persons from home lately. Capt. Keary's recruits came in yesterday. His company is our regiment. I saw Elisha Foreman, Mrs. Booker's two sons, Tomy Cheney and some more fellows. I saw Wm. Anderson of Holmesville in Capt. Stafford's Company in the 9th. Regiment, Silas Tear, some in Offutt's Company in the 6th. Reg. &c.

When I wrote before I wrote with a pencil and franked my letter. We cannot obtain any stamps now. I have heard of the victories in Tennessee -- I suppose you did, too.

My patience is almost wearied out with this pen. I can't get it to make a mark until I make 4. or 5 scratches with it. In my next, I will try to give you more satisfaction about the draft.

Well, adieu, dr. Mother  
Yr aff son  
A K Anselm  
\*\*\*\*\*

Events in the spring of 1862 were to regain for the Army some of the prestige lost by those of the preceding winter. The Louisiana Brigade, under General Taylor, had been transferred to "Stonewall" Jackson's command in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, where a series of brilliant maneu- vers and spectacular battles were to take place which would make the world take note, and, for that matter, were to be such an im- portant display of military tactics as to -- conscientiously studied even to this day -- and particularly by the German high com- mand prior to World War II -- By historian and strategist alike.

In May, Jackson launched his campaign to rid that valley situated between the Blue Ridge and the Allegheny Mountains of its invaders and, indeed, to drive them back into Maryland and Pennsylvania. Because of its well-known marching abilities and fight- ing qualities, the Louisiana Brigade was consistently chosen as the pace-setter for the advance. They started, as General Taylor remarked "over 3,000 strong, neat in fresh clothing of gray with white gaiters, bands playing at the heads of their regiments, not a straggler, but every man in his place, stepping jauntily as on parade. . . " and covered 26 miles the first day. Battle after battle was fought, each as victorious as the last, releasing the overjoyed valled populace from control by their northern invaders.

Camp near Port Republic  
Rockingham Co., Va  
June 16th., 1862.

Mrs. E. Anselm  
My dear Mother

Opportunities to send a letter seldom come since the downfall of New Orleans, but I have written every opportunity -- once by Geo. Hudspeth, once by Karl Hoyt. Mr. Vandy of Big Cane in Offutt's company is going home by whom I am going to send this.

We have had a hard time since we left Manassas. In the last 40 days we have march- ed upwards of 400 miles without any exag- geration -- fought 4 battles, successful in all of them -- captured 3,500 prisoners & millions of dollars worth of stores.

I would state I am still amongst the living. I have been struck by one ball which was spent and did not hurt me -- went through my coat & shirt and made a little sore that is now entirely healed up and the scab off.

If I had time I would give you a full ac- count of the fights & marches. The battles were fought these days -- Battle of Front Royal May 23rd., Winchester May 25, New Church June 9th., Port Republic June 10th. In our company Lieut. A.G. Moore & Mr. Cohannan were killed, S. Andrus, Edmond Guidry, Jno. Hudson, Mr. ---, Robt. Mack- lin -- some were taken prisoners. I am not

# Old Sandefur Place



THE OLD SANDEFUR PLACE--On the border of Avoyelles & St. Landry Parishes at Gold Dust "the Old Sandefur place", once a thriving pre-Civil War plantation, is reminiscent of the way of life known to the Old South.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard LaHaye (Mrs. LaHaye is the former Inez Sandefur) live in a modern home on the plantation, and the old two-story brick house sits further back on the banks of the Boeuf. Ancient cisterns and festoons of Spanish moss falling from old oaks add to the surroundings.

Mrs. LaHaye has in her possession some documents found in the old house. One is a letter written to one Thomas McCrary, Esq. by E.C. Milburn, back during the Civil War. The other is the Amnesty oath taken by J. M. Sandefur after hostilities ceased. They follow:

"Mr. T. McCrary,

"Dear Sir

"I leave tonight--I think it is best as my wife is very anx- ious to go. If my negroes do not leave I wish you would come over occasionally and see what they are doing -- and advise them what you think best -- If Mr. Fanches (?) has not left and will come and live in my house I will be very glad, or any one that you can get to stay in it that you think will do any good -- I guess that the most of my negroes will go with the Yankees -- You will please do all you can for me and I will be under everlasting obliga- tions to you -- I will leave my storehouse key with Andrew and for him to stay in my house -- with my best wished I re- main your friend.

12 o'clock P. M.

E. C. Milburn

"I send you an ounce of cal- omeil, if my negroes get sick please doctor. Thanks--

"Addressed: Thomas Mc- Crary Esq. At Home."

"AMNESTY OATH

"Washington, La.  
August 11, 1865

"I, J. M. SANDEFUR do solemnly swear, in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support,

protect, and defend the Con- stitution of the United States and in the union of the States thereunder; and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all laws and proclamations which have been made during the existing re- bellion with reference to the emancipation of slaves. SO HELP ME GOD.

"J. M. Sandefur  
"Sworn to and subscribed at Washington DC this 11 day of August, 1865, before me  
"Franklin Brown  
2nd Lt. 98 U. S. C. I  
Provost Marshal

"Description:  
"Age 33  
"Height 5 ft. 7"  
"Color of eyes Dark  
"Color of hair Dark  
"Characteristics

"HEADQUARTERS United States forces  
"Washington, La. Aug 1p, 1865

"I hereby certify, that the Amnesty Oath prescribed by the Proclamation of the Pres- ident of the United States was duly administered to J. M. Sandefur of St. Landry La. by my order, this eleventh day of August 1865.

Robt. F. Atkins  
Lt. Co 98 U. S. C. I  
Commanding. (lost)"

able to give their names.

When you don't hear from me, just think I am top up &c. Remember this -- we whipp- ed the enemy clean out every engagement. Fighting is hot & disagreeable work.

Well, Ma, I must close. I told you all the news. I must take this to Vandy. I will ask him to call on you. Mr. Foot is going too -- that big tall fellow I saw at Mr. King's, if you remember.

Adieu.

Yr aff son

A K Anselm

The Federal retreat continued, but casual- ties were heavily inflicted on both sides. Among them, during that illustrious campaign, was one Amos K. Anselm, eighteen, killed slightly more than a year after his first letter away from home -- "Tonight is my, last night's sleep in St. Landry Parish."

Then, a short time later, in the hand of one of his bereaved survivors, was penned the following:

We shall meet, but we shall miss him -- There will be one vacant chair; We shall linger to caress him While we breathe our evening prayer.

When a year ago we gathered,  
Joy was in his mild blue eye,  
But a golden cord is severed,  
And our hopes in ruin lie.

At our fireside, sad and lonely,  
Often will the bosom swell  
At remembrance of the story  
How our noble Amos fell:  
How he strove to bear our banner  
Through the thickest of the fight,  
And uphold our country's honor  
In the strength of manhood's might.

We shall meet, but we shall miss him --  
There will be one vacant chair;  
We shall linger to caress him  
While we breathe our evening prayer.

True, they tell us wreathes of glory  
Ever more will deck his brow,  
But this soothes the anguish only  
Sweeping o'er our heartstrings now.  
Sleep today, O early fallen!  
In thy green and narrow bed:  
Dirges from the pine and cypress  
Mingle with the tears we shed.

We shall meet, but we shall miss him --  
There will be one vacant chair;  
We shall linger to caress him  
While we breathe our evening prayer.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanking you for your courtesy, I am  
Yours Sincerely,  
Robert D. Helmer, M.D.

Camp Bellevue Rappahannock Station, Va.,  
Mch. 23rd., 1862.

Mrs. E. Anselm  
My dear Mother

Your letter of Mch. 1st. came to hand this morning. I assure you I was glad to hear from you. We left camp Carondelet on Mch. 9th. The whole army has retreated or fallen back from Manassas -- our regiment was the very last infantry that left.

The enemy made an advance and were with- in 2 miles of our camp when we left. Our regiment went on picket guard on the 10th. and retreated on the 10th. -- stood picket Bull Run beyond Manassas.

On the 10th. we came through by Manassas and saw it all in flames. It was the most terrific sight I ever wit- nessed. Our troops burned it down -- I guess there were 40 or 50 huge buildings reduced to ashes.

We came on 2 days and then on the 12th. struck camp here. Amongst the things destroyed by that fire was all the baggage of most of our Army. We had sent our baggage there for safe-keeping and then when time came for us to evacuate Manassas either had to burn it or let the enemy get of course it was better to burn it. I am sure there were 20 steamboat loads of trunks and boxes of clothing &c. belong- ing to the Army lost there. They succeeded in getting all the ammunition off and arms, &c. of the government. None of use have but little clothing now. I had 6 blankets, 3 or 4 coats, 3 or 4 pants, socks, &c. and other things in proportion burned there, but we are getting along pretty well.

I am hearty yet. I have a change of clothing and blankets enough, too. I expected when I packed up those things and sent them to Manassas to supply Theo. with as much as he wanted and take the balance home with me when I went.

If you get a map and look where the R.R. crosses the Rappahannock River you may now where camp is.

I got a letter from Theo. this morning written on the 14th. inst. He was well &c. but had not got the clothing you sent him -- I reckon they are lost entirely, but summer is coming -- I suppose he can get along.

We have had no snow since the 4th. of Mch. although we may have some yet. We can see plenty of it on the mountains from here on the top of the Blue Ridge.

I also got a letter from Aaron Prescott this morning -- he is on furlough home. I am sorry times are getting so squally at home, but it can not be helped. If the Yankees keep on they will be in New Orleans by the time I go home. You may rest assured that I will not reenlist until I see you or go home.

I am thinking we may be detained here until after our time is out but I don't think that if we are detained that they can keep us any longer than fall anyhow.

I mailed a letter to you on the 8th. -- let me know if you got it. Our mail is irregular now. This morning was the first mail we got for 2 weeks.

I am writing under considerable inconve- nience so I will close. Fenton got Joseph's letter of 14th. February this morning.

Ma, let me request you all don't get un- easy about me so soon. Easy half my letters don't go -- so you can't hear from me so often, but I will try to write punctually -- also try to go home this summer.

Your aff son  
A K Anselm

P.S. Jacob Anselm died in the 18th. La. Reg. in Ky. A.K.A.



# 'No Man's Land' --

## Fabled Bellevue Grant

(Staff Compiled)

A "no man's land" exists in southern St. Landry parish, the fabled Bellevue Grant, some 1,231 acres of land approximately three miles southeast of Opelousas, east of Shreveport.

Nobody owns it but "the people," although a number of people are today claiming acreages in it and are attempting to secure title to the property from the U. S. Department of Interior.

The facts of the case date back to the days when Spain owned Louisiana.

On March 10, 1779, a group of residents of the area petitioned the Spanish government to allow them to cut timber in that area. Petitioners were Louis Lavergne, Charles Comeau, Joseph Bourque, Siliere Sonnier and Cyril Thibodeau.

The group set forth that they had lost a lawsuit -- they did not say to whom or what property was involved -- and that in consequence they had lost their right to cut wood for their use in the Bellevue area.

They would have to abandon their farms, they said in their petition, unless they succeeded in obtaining a source of timber.

(In those days wood was a vital necessity. It was the only fuel for cooking and heating, and farmers in a prairie area such as Bellevue had to have an available source of wood nearby or else they could not exist.)

Their petition was granted. The Crown, anxious to settle the rich prairie, was quite willing to grant timber-cutting rights so as to encourage the farmers.

Accordingly, the people of the Bellevue area were granted the "Bellevue Grant" of land on which they could cut timber. This right, referred to by the French speaking people as "Le Droit de Hache," emanated from King Charles IV of Spain. Baron Carondelet, governor of the territory, as representative of the crown, ordered the survey made in compliance with the grant authorized by the king.

The Louisiana Territory remained under Spanish domination from 1763 to 1803, at which time Spain granted it to France, which held it for a few weeks during which its sale to the United States was negotiated.

This portion of the "Louisiana Purchase" -- Bellevue Grant lay just inside the purchase -- was incorporated into the "Territory of Orleans," and in 1812 became the state of Louisiana.

A number of people have taken over tracts of land, some having fenced it and are farming or otherwise using it. A group of them have a case today pending before the Interior department seeking patents, or grants, to the land.

One of the issues on which ownership hinges is whether the king of Spain intended to reserve title to this land. Claimants contend that the king, who granted it to the people, did not keep title for the Spanish government. Thus the treaties turning over the territory could not give title to the United States, they claim, and the national government does not own it.

CAPTAIN ETIENNE Robert dela Morandiere, commanding the military garrison of the Poste des Opelousas



Her husband Charles Henry Bonneval served in the Confederate Army, and died a few days after his return home in 1866.

Madame Bonneval was the grandmother of Edmond Dupre, as her daughter Felicite married Lastie Dupre (young Lastie), son of Dr. Edmond Dupre, Young Lastie was Edmond's father.

Several other portraits in crayon done at this same time must have made by the same artist, who signed none of these sketches, Madame Bonneval told the family that he was "a teacher" -- evidently a tutor who lived here at a home or a teacher who took private classes.

De la Morandier was married to Marguerite Gradenigo, daughter of Juan Gradenigo and Marguerite Krebs.

The portrait of Etienne dela Morandiere II and his wife, Felicite Robin, and a child, Marguerite, were all executed on a single



FELICITE ROBIN de al Morandiere and Dr. Edmond Dupre.



CAPTAIN ETIENNE Robert de la Morandiere and his son, bearing the same name

large sheet of paper and preserved by Madame Charles Henry Bonneval, who was born Lavina dela Morandiere, daughter of Etienne II. Madame Bonneval lived to be very old, dying in 1932 at the age of 103, said sketched in meticulous detail, showing the uniformed officer. This and other portraits by the same artist are in the possession of Edmond Dupre, a direct descendant of the captain.

(Daily World Photo by Deville).



CIVIL WAR DOCTOR'S KIT is owned by Mrs. S.B. Wolff of Opelousas. It's a fascinating thing, looking more like a woodworker's outfit than tools to use on human beings. The kit, manufacture in 1854, was the property of the late Dr. D.L. Todd, who practiced in Washington. It is beautifully and sturdily built, and lined with red velvet. There are saws, a large one for big bones and a smaller one for little bones. There are several different sizes and shapes, a tourniquet with metal tighteners (rolled up at left several empty slots evidently designed to hold scalpels and probes. (Daily World Photo by Deville).



SUGAR FACTORY on Augusta plantation at Barbrech, silent since 1946, stands today as a relic of Old South. The plantation dates to Spanish grants. It was formerly a part of St. Peter's plantation. Augusta plantation was owned and operated by August Hamilton de Lesseps from about 1900 to 1905. Plantation got its name from his wife, who was August's daughter. Upon August's death the plantation was operated by an investment company, his son, Hamilton deLesseps, as president. Hamilton converted old syrup mill into a refinery and continued operations until 1910, August then went into hands of the Haas Investment Co., with Dr. W. D. Haas of Bunkle at the head. The Augusta sugar factory ceased operations in 1946. Sam Haas is now president of the Haas Investment Co., owners of Augusta. Other members are W. D. Haas, Jr., Mrs. Roy Harrison and Franklin Mikel.



HOME OF A PIONEER MERCHANT of Opelousas, this charming gingerbread house on North Court was built in the late nineteenth century by Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Dardeau, their residence. They had bought a very old store that stood on the corner of North Court. Later on the old store was torn down, and a new store built in its place - the present Dardeau building on the corner.

The home has a central portico, to which wings were later added, making a long gallery frosted with lacy gingerbread. It is charming and thoroughly attractive old place, with nice woodwork, louvered shutters, and French windows. In the interior is a lovely veranda opening onto the back porch.

Mrs. Herschell Roberts makes her home here at present. (Daily World Photo by Deville).



EARLY TOLL FERRY on the Atchafalaya river at Melville. This ferry was operated by Ros Dupuis, who had the franchise for ferry operation at the time. Mr. Dupuis now resides in Lafayette and is a member of the firm of Parkerson & Dupuis. (Photo property of F. J. Dietlein Sr.).



# Second Lake-Half Century of Pleasure

institution that has brought almost a century of pleasure to outdoorsmen of dry parish and their families and the Opelousas Rod and Gun Club continues in existence today, now under the name Second Lake Pleasure Club. Its clubhouse is on Second Lake, south of Melville. The club name was changed when it was reorganized after World

membership. And the club was in business. The only logical way to reach the club for many years was by rail. Parties would board the "OG" railroad here, be let down at the camp, and flag the train for the return home. Fish and game were plentiful, and for years it was a mecca for sportsmen of the area.

Judging by the minute book, activity at the club was high until World War I, when it was not used for a time. At one of the first meetings someone proposed a rule to prohibit gambling, and the minutes reported that the motion lost. Initial dues were 75 cents per month.

No full list of the membership was included in early minutes, but these members attended the first annual meeting in April 1908:

L. S. Haas, J. A. Haas, R. M. Coltrin, Adolph Jacobs, P. A. Rutledge, M. Vileseca, J. P. Saizan, J. M. Mornhinweg, J. J. Perrudin, Jos. Firnberg, Louis Hebert, T. H. Lewis, A. L. LaCombe, L. J. Dossman, Sam Evans, J. A. Budd, L. Bienvenu, E. T. Lewis, A. J. Bercier, Frank Dimmick, Dr. R. L. Walker, S. L. Hebrard, A. S. J. Campbell, Mason McBride, L. S. Isacks, A. S. Brown, and by proxy —

E. D. Estlette, B. Bennett, G. H. Cretin, M. L. Swords, R. Lee Garland, G. R. Baillo, H. E. Estorge, R. LeBourgeois, Y. Andrepoint, F. Charleville, R. L. Andrews, J. B. Clements, W. D. Lewis, R. Mornhinweg, Arthur Valtin, F. Dietlein, J. W. Lewis, J. G. Lawler, Isaac Roos and E. G. Richard. The club grew and prospered. Members added in early years, most of them having bought stock of some other member, as the club was full, included:

1908, Dr. L. Daly, Oct. Durio, E. B. Dubuisson, D.M. Fontenot; 1909, Cliff Allen, Theo. Daigle, J. W. Jordan (and the club made Gov. J. Y. Sanders an honorary member). A. D. Steward, J. P. Troclair, R. B. Christman, A. S. Simpson, John Ware, P. Alexis Sandoz and Willis Burr; 1910, Jesse Barnett, Henry Larcade, J. S. Lemec, F. L. Sandoz, E. T. Bercier and Sidney Amy; 1911, Dr. J. A. Shaw and Herbert Creswell 1912, Willie Ardoin; 1913, August Amy, J. J. Henderson, W. T. Stewart, Charles Thibodeaux, C. W. Roy, J. A. Haas, A. S. Stewart, L. Daniel, Leonc Littell 1914, George Bienvenu.

In April 1911 the club had the governor and the state fish and game commission as its guests, chiefly in an effort to get help to rid the streams of water hyacinths.

In July 1914 the club house was enlarged, costing \$500. In May 1916 a tornado struck the club house, the repairs costing \$50.

The final meeting of the "Opelousas Rod and Gun Club" was held July 1, 1916.

A list of stockholders as of March 10, 1917, handed us by a friend, shows the following had shares in the Opelousas Rod and Gun Club at that time, prior to its reorganization:

Lionel Bienvenu, Raoul LeBourgeois, J. B. A. Stagg, M. L. Swords, Frank Dimmick, J. R. Evans, Louis Hebert, W. J. Sandoz, A. S. J. Campbell, S. L. Hebrard, E. T. Lewis, G. R. Baillo, R. L. Andrews, E. D. Estlette, J. J. Perrudin, A. S. Brown, John W. Lewis, J. M. Boagni, Paul Hossain, Jos. Firnberg, A. L. LaCombe, A. Moresi, H. E. Estorge, R. Lee Garland, R. L. Walker, J. B. Clements, J. T. St. Cyr, E. B. Dubuisson, Octave Durio, R. Cliff Allen, A. D. Stewart, L. T. Castille, R. B. Christman, Alexis Sandoz, Sidney Amy, E. T. Bercier, Will T. Stewart, Jno. J. Henderson, J. A. Haas, C. W. Roy, Charles Thibodeaux, G. H. Cretin, L. A. Guidry, George Bienvenu, C. J. Thompson, C. P. Dunbar, Lester J. Williams, T. H. Harris, D. L. Guilbeau, B. A. Littell, L. L. Perrault, J. A. Budd, Isaac F. Litton, Robert Sandoz, L. A. Fontenot, C. A. Emory, B. W. Clopton, A. J. Richard, S. W. Dunbar and L. G. Hicks. That was a total of 60 members.

**REORGANIZED**

The "Second Lake Pleasure Club" was organized Feb. 21, 1918, during a meeting at the LaCombe Hotel, with the following charter members present:

H. E. Estorge, L. Bienvenu, J. A. Budd, George Bienvenu, S. R. Garbo, J. B. Clements, G. H. Cretin, C. P. Dunbar, Frank Dimmick, John Mornhinweg, A. L. Dejean, E. B. Dubuisson, J. R. Evans, R. L. Garland and W. T. Stewart.

Dimmick was named president, Lionel Bienvenu, vice-president, and J. A. Durio, secretary-treasurer.

The club grew during the ensuing few years. In 1920 the membership limit was increased to 65. Officers elected in July 1920

were Frank Dimmick, president; Lionel Bienvenu, vice-president, and Edwin Stagg, secretary-treasurer.

Officers elected in 1921: Armand L. Dejean Dimmick and J. A. Durio, who served through June 1924. The club then elected Dejean, Dimmick and A. J. Bercier Jr., and continued them in office until July 1932.

In 1926 the club was enlarged to a maximum of 75 members.

The depression must have been tough on secretary-treasurers, for in 1932 Edwin Stagg, elected that year to the office, directed this letter to Archie Dunbar, president: "I hereby tender you my resignation as Secretary and Treasurer of the Second Lake Pleasure Club, as I do not care to officiate further with the messed up affairs of this club."

The club continued in existence, however, although activity dwindled, but gradually picked up through the years. Membership had declined, and in 1939 the club voted an "active member" setup whereby by the payment at that time of a fee the member became an ownership stockholder.

Through the years many of these have passed away, leaving at this writing only seven. They actually own the club. The membership limit, including the active and the associate members, is now 50, and the club is full with a waiting list.

But as those active members dwindle one man — the longest lived — will end up owning the club. The seven such members are A. V. Pavy, Frank Troclair, Lawrence Hightlethwaite, Vincent Savoy, Leol Fleur, and L. Austin Fontanot Sr., of Opelousas, and Kenneth Reed of Mamou. Pavy is president, LaFleur is vice-president and George Gallenie is presently secretary-treasurer.

For many years the "OG" railroad was the only convenient way to reach the club house, roads being what they were. Later, the OG could still be used but its schedule became erratic, and the best way to reach Second Lake was by car to Bayou Petite Prairie, at the Atchafalaya river levee, and by boat to the lake, although it could be reached in dry weather by driving through the woods.

An oil company some years ago built a road to a well near the club house, and it is readily accessible by automobile now.



**CHARLES HENRY BONNEVAL** was an Opelousas veteran of the Confederate Army whose untimely death came just a few days after he had returned home in 1866 from the war. This excellent crayon portrait, done in meticulous detail, is owned by Edmond Dupre, a descendant. His wife was Lavinia de la Morandiere, daughter of Etienne de la Morandiere II, who lived to be very old, dying in 1932 at the age of 103. Bonneval was the grandfather of many other residents of St. Landry parish. His daughter Felicite married Lastie Dupre, son of Dr. Edmond Dupre and not the earlier Lastie Dupre who was extremely wealthy, and Lastie was the father of Edmond Dupre. The artist who made this and several other portraits of the family was "a teacher," Madame Bonneval told her family — probably a tutor who lived here for a time or a teacher who gave private classes. (Daily World Photo by Deville).

**Sheriff's Sale.**  
STATE OF LOUISIANA.  
J. W. Offutt vs. Philip Carroll. District Court, St. Landry. No. 5233.  
BY virtue of a writ of alias f. fa., issued in the above entitled suit, by the District Court, in and for the Parish of St. Landry, and to me directed, will be exposed to Public Sale for Cash, at the Court House of this Parish, on Saturday the fifth day of February 1953, commencing at the hour of 11 o'clock A. M., and from day to day if necessary, all the right, title, interest and demand of Philip Carroll in and to the following property, seized to satisfy said writ, to wit:  
The part of a House and Lot of ground situated in the Town of Opelousas, on the Corner of Court street and Landry street, formerly occupied by Lewis and Abraham Andrus as a store.

**NOTICE.**  
THE undersigned having received his commission as a Public Auctioneer, for this Parish, offers his services to the public and to his friends.  
He takes the opportunity to offer to all administrators of successions who shall employ him as Auctioneer, to make for them, without extra charges all the necessary tableaux to render their accounts.  
**ROBERT BENGIEREL.**  
Opelousas, February 7th 1852—ly.  
Philip Carroll vs. St. Landry. No. 5233.  
BY virtue of a writ of alias f. fa., issued in the above entitled suit, by the District Court, in and for the Parish of St. Landry, and to me directed, will be exposed to Public Sale for Cash, at the Court House of this Parish, on Saturday the fifth day of February 1853, commencing at the hour of 11 o'clock A. M., and from day to day if necessary, all the right, title, interest and demand of Philip Carroll in and to the following property, seized to satisfy said writ, to wit:  
The part of a House and Lot of ground situated in the Town of Opelousas, on the Corner of Court street and Landry street, formerly occupied by Lewis and Abraham Andrus as a store.

**Notice to the Public.**  
THE undersigned, merchants in Washington, wishing to close their business in that town, and dissolve the partnership, announce to the public in general that they will sell off their large stock of Goods at cost, but only for cash.  
Persons indebted to them are requested to come and settle in the shortest delay.  
**GOLDMAN & KAUFMAN**  
Washington, 11th Dec 1852—ly

**HARRISON ROGERS, Sheriff.**  
Sheriff's Office St. Landry, January 1st. 1862.

**NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**  
FOUNDED MAY 1835  
Know all Men by these Presents -  
THAT We, The Dean and Faculty of THE NEW-ORLEANS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, in the State of Louisiana, United States of America have deliberately and unanimously resolved:  
**Matthew P. Vernon:**  
of Louisiana  
And have found him duly qualified and capable to practice the Science and Art of Medicine in all its branches.  
We, therefore confer on him the Degree of Doctor of Medicine and admit him to all the rights, privileges and honors appertaining thereto.  
In testimony whereof We have subscribed our names, and have caused the common seal of the School to be hereunto affixed, dated the Twenty sixth day of March, the Year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and Sixty.  
At St. Landry, La., this 26th day of March, 1862.  
HARRISON ROGERS, Sheriff.  
Matthew P. Vernon, M.D.

**DR. MATTHEW PARK VERNON**, great-grandfather of Publisher Matthew P. Vernon of the Eunice News -- the only other newspaper published today in St. Landry Parish -- and grandfather of Mrs. Bessie V. Fairley of the Opelousas High School faculty, and a native of old Imperial St. Landry Parish, was a member of the first graduating class of the New Orleans School of Medicine. Publisher Vernon of Eunice is the fifth in direct line to School of Medicine. Publisher Vernon of Eunice is the fifth in direct line to School of Medicine. Publisher Vernon, making him a Doctor of Medicine, is bear his name, Dr. Vernon's diploma, making him a Doctor of Medicine, is shown above. School was founded May 1856. Dr. Vernon was graduated March 29, 1860. The diploma is huge, measuring 16 x 22 inches. The Vernon family were pioneer settlers in the northern St. Landry and southern Avoyelles parish areas, and the family plantation near Bois is still operated by them.



EARLY NEWSPAPERS (Continued from Page 204)

JAN. 21 --- Elbert Gantt was named parish tax collector by the police jury, vice Franklin B. Reeves, deceased.

The auction of slaves was a lively business in Opelousas at this time. We counted on the front page of The Courier of Jan. 28, 1854, a total of eight sales advertised, for a total of 108 slaves.

"Where is that railroad?" wailed The Courier of that date. The warehouses at Washington were completely overwhelmed with produce and the water was so low no steamer boat could get within 40 miles of the town.

FEB. 11, 1854 --- Navigation at last opened up and the steamboat Sarah Gordon made it to Washington via Bayou Plaquemine. There were to be five boats in the Washington-New Orleans trade that summer, the others being the Red Rover, Alice W. Glaze, Sydonia, and "the faithful Opelousas." The captains, respectively, were O. Hinckley, Gustave Louallier, Capt. Johnson, Capt. Davis and Capt. Neal.

The Courier lauded a bill introduced into the legislature by Sen. B. A. Martel of St. Landry, calling for removal of all obstructions in the Atchafalaya river, including those at the mouth of Bayou Courtableau.

FEB. 18, 1854 --- The Courier backed a bill before the legislature establishing statewide yellow fever quarantine laws.

FEB. 25, 1854 --- The Town of Washington, through a notice inserted by S. D. Allis, president of the board, and William H. Bassett, clerk, publicly thanked the entire countryside for the great assistance rendered during the terrible yellow fever epidemic of the previous year.

The population of Louisiana at that time was reported as 22,253, of which 10,140 were white, 1,242 were free colored, and 10,871 were slaves.

MARCH 4, 1854 --- The telegraph line was rapidly approaching Opelousas, although residents had not subscribed well to the stock, \$5,000 being needed from St. Landry. "In a few months," said The Courier, "we hope to hear from New Orleans in a few minutes."

MARCH 25, 1854 --- The Courier called upon Opelousas residents to give more support to their small fire company, and to reorganize it, and deplored the fact that the "working class" made up the company, with virtually no property owners belonging.

APRIL 8, 1854 --- Charles Thompson was re-elected Opelousas constable by a large majority. Other candidates: Eugene Bercler, Francois Sansat, Don Louis Lejeune and William Mason. Elected to the Opelousas town council were Andrew Meynier, A. M. Perrault, Michael Mussand, Simon Richard, Charles N. Ealer, C. Mornhinveg and C. Hollier.

Dr. V. ... of Plaquemine Brulee in St. Landry parish, eloped with a young lady of that parish, taking with him a slave, some horse and other property, "and leaving behind him a certain number of creditors." He was ... in Texas. Some of his creditors had ... overtaken him and "made him ... doctor. The Courier reported, is a married man with several children.

APRIL 22, 1854 --- The advertisements in The Opelousas Courier of these people were engaged in these pursuits at the time:

Robert Benguerel, a public auctioneer; K. & Hawkins were selling out their mercantile business; J. L. Couret was buying wool and hides, and wax and tallow as well; A. Garrigues was parish clerk; Desbrest & Taylor had opened a new store on Main st. between Grolee and north. ... J. B. David was sheriff and tax collector. ... Charles Thompson's light bay American mare had strayed. ... Evtz. Deballon was also a public auctioneer. ... And he was to auction off the Rail Road Hotel, located at at Main and Bellevue, through the block to Union (where J. B. Sandoz store is now) ... Eugene Wartelle was agent for Arthemise Prudhomme, wife of Stanislas Fremont, and was to hold a public sale of a number of lots in Opelousas. ... Hebrard & Lee had a large stock of patent medicines. ... Thompson & Lee had dissolved their firm. ... and Lee was operating the business with Hebrard. ... John MacDonald was a surveyor, offices on Main st. ... Thadeus Mayo and John Posey operated a pharmacy in Washington. ... Niles & Co. had won a judgement against Edwin B. Scott, and were selling the sugar mill on Scott's plantation. ... The state engineer was advertising for bids to improve the channels of the Atchafalaya river and Bayou Courtableau to its head, clearing a path 60 feet wide of all snags. ... A sheriff's sale was scheduled of Charles, a 25-year-old negro boy, and Victoire, a 26-year-old negro woman, property of Adolphe Richard, which had been seized. ... Same for a Mulatto woman, Merlianne, 28, and her 7-year-old child, property of Briant Hutchings. ... S. D. Allis also was an auctioneer, and was to sell a lot in Washington. ... Mark W. Marwell cautioned the public not to buy two notes made by him in favor of Alfred Bacon, for \$500 each. ... The St. Charles Hotel, opposite the college at Grand Coteau was operated by N. Grimmer. ... Joel H. Sandoz advertised himself as a notary public, office in the court house. ... Five month-old

Marie Clementine, daughter of Mr. Vallere Roy and Diving Hollier Roy, died. ... The plantation of the late Leandre Bourque was to be auctioned, along with a tract of woodland and two other separate tracts of land, 11 slaves, 10 gentle Creole horses and a large number of cattle and plantation tools. ... Quatrevaux announced that as he had a long lease on the Rail Road Hotel, being offered for sale by its owner, he would continue to operate the establishment. ... T. Lastrapes & Co. announced arrival of a large assortment of dry goods. They also had on hand ready made clothing, shoes, boots and hats for gentlemen, Listades, Lowell and Virginia Cotton, hardware, ploughs, "all kind of suitable goods for planters," saddlery, harness for buggy and carriage. ... Mrs. Renaud (born Traber) announced plans for her BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL for Young Ladies, to begin its term of 10 1/2 months in November. Rates for the term, boarding, \$100; tuition \$48; lower classes \$40; slates, pencils paper, pens, ink, \$6; washing \$20; music, by the month, \$6; courses offered to include memory exercises, writing, reading, grammar and the exercises of style, French, English, arithmetic and bookkeeping, geography and the use of the globes, sacred history, mythology, ancient history, history of the Middle Ages, history of the United States, elementary ideas of philosophy, "chemistry" and natural history, all kinds of needlework and embroidery, music, piano and singing. The uniform was a straw hat with white ribbon and, for winter, a grey merino dress trimmed with black velvet, and, summer, a rose coloured dress and a white one. ... Pupils must bring a mattress and bolster, a "moscheto bar," a cover and a table knife, one tumbler. ... Jesse Hutchings advertised: "Notice --- All those indebted to the undersigned are invited to come and settle with him immediately. If they wish to avoid costs. He has need of all the money that is owed him to answer to his own engagements." ... C. Medicis had just returned from New Orleans with a full stock of all kinds of goods. ... J. P. Tucker was distributor here for the new Leavitt's portable mill and corn, and cob crusher. ... John P. Hudson, president of the police jury, served notice that the elections in the various wards for jurors would be held the second Monday in May. ... Elbert Gantt, collector of parish and railroad taxes, warned that the deadline was June 5.

"GOOD NEWS" trumpeted the Courier of April 22, 1854: "On Thursday of last week 200,000 pounds of rails were landed at Washington, in this parish, by steamer Fuseller, belonging to the New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western Railroad Company. Good!"

Also: "IMPORTANT FROM EUROPE! WAR! WAR! --- War has been formally declared by both England and France, and actual hostilities commenced. ... Fifty thousand Russians had crossed the Danube at three points. ... At Oltenitz there was a most desperate conflict in which the Russians were repulsed with a loss of 3,000 men. ... Russia was making immense preparations for defence in the Baltic. The Czar was assisting in person. The rupture between Turkey and Greece is complete. ... In Italy, the Duke of Parma has been assassinated. ... There had been a great battle between the Turks and Russians, on the 15th, opposite Turkeak. Two thousand Russians were killed. ... APRIL 29, 1854 11 The Opelousas Railroad by this time been laid from New Orleans across the "Floating Prairie" (marsh) almost to Bayou Lafourche. ... Three steamboats now served the area, the Red River, Alice W. Glaze and Sydonia. ... The war in Europe was now in a stage of negotiations. ... MAY 13, 1854 --- New police jurors elected were: Joel H. Sandoz, Solomon B. Harman, F. C. Devillers, Mark W. Harwell, Charles Bourque, J. Hardy Huffpover, Antoine B. Carte, Simeon Fontenet, Elbert Gantt and James M. Thompson. ... MAY 27, 1854 --- An "Opelousas crale," Jean Spence, Daguerreotype artist, was due for a visit. ... High light, and The Courier recommended patronizing "one of our own." The state House and Senate directed, and Gov. P. O. Hebert signed the order, that the state engineer lay out a road from Opelousas to a point on the Mississippi river near Baton Rouge. ... JUNE 3, 1854 --- A warehouse and grocery at Barre's Landing (Port Barre) was established by L. A. Deskin and Alfred Louallier. Dr. Pilate, dentist, established himself permanently here. The steamboat packet Red River resumed plying regularly from Washington to New Orleans. The Courier editorialized that the Opelousas market-house was supplying insufficient meat of the worst quality at the high rates of 10 "and sometimes 12" cents a pound, and lashed the town council for not improving the situation. In Europe, England and France were fighting Russia. Stanislas Garrigues opened a new general store in Opelousas. ... JUNE 10, 1854 --- The Widow Valery Roy of "near Opelousas" advertised a runaway slave, and B. F. Prewett of Mallet's Woods, St. Landry, a stray horse. Reward for the slave was \$10. Jesse Hayes of the Eagle Hotel in Opelousas had just employed a "good French Cook." Eugene Wartelle became state receiver of public monies, vice Henry L. Garland. "Esor." Arsonists in

Washington, in their sixth attempt, destroyed by fire the May & Posey drug store in Washington, the building being owned by Edmund Richard. Apparently the culprits were Richard's enemies. The Opelousas council set a ceiling of 7 cents on meat sold at the market. ... JUNE 17, 1854 --- Some 200 St. Landry citizens went to New Orleans and travelled in the "splendid and commodious cars of the Opelousas Railroad Co." from Algiers to Bayou des Allemands, 32 miles, averaging 32 m.p.h. Bell-Chaney Springs resort, operated by Messrs. Daigle & Beauchamp, reopened. ... JUNE 24, 1854 --- The only steamer then serving the area, from New Orleans to Washington, the Alice W. Glaze, suffered an accident coming down Bayou Plaquemine, at Devil's Elbow, took on water, and damaged much of the cargo, including most of The Courier's printing press. The packet Opelousas was to replace her. A petition demanded that the police jury improve the Opelousas-Washington road, and a special jury session was called. ... JULY 1, 1854 --- A contract was to be let by the state engineer July 22 for improvement of Bayou Courtableau and the Atchafalaya river, by a levee on the south bank of the bayou and channel clearing in the river. Genin & Polret had a big sale at their store. ... JULY 8, 1854 --- Fire destroyed the stables at Bell-Chaney Springs resort, including two wagonloads of provisions, totaling \$2,000 but the owners were to carry on. The editor of The Courier, having heard, along with the citizenry, that the teaching of the English language was being neglected at the Franklin Institution in Opelousas, went out to a public demonstration of the students' skill. He was gratified to find that although it was hot, and although about four-fifths of the English classes were composed of "juvenile Creoles" of 10 to 14 years of age whose native tongue was French, they did well and reflected credit on Principal Valade and Mr. Hoare, the English teacher. Prizes were won by in order English, Alphonse Kennison, Alce Dupre, Thomas Mornhinveg and William Carpenter; dictation, Alphonse Kennison, Alce Dupre, Henry Miller and Thomas Mornhinveg; geography, Alphonse Kennison, Eugene Quatrevaux and G. Melancon; spelling and defining, George Carpenter and Edward Pilate; recitation, Edward Pilate and Coulon Devillier; spelling, 3rd class, Eugene Quatrevaux, C. Mornhinveg, C. Richard, J. Geiger and A. Prudhomme; recitation, Christian Mornhinveg, Seth Andrus, E. Benguerel and A. Nezat, fourth class, spelling, Jules David and E. Franchobis, reading, Henry Renaud and M. Franques; fifth class, spelling, Joseph Richard and Edou Mouille. ... French prizes were listed only on the French (front) page of the Courier. There was trouble about: The town council of Opelousas established a 9 a.m. curfew beyond which no slaves could be heard ab. A motion by Mr. Mornhinveg that seven squads of patrols of citizens be created to patrol the streets was defeated. George Luther notified that he was to reopen his day and boarding school in Washington on Aug. 1. ... JULY 15, 1854 --- A huge public sale of the plantation of Adolphe Nerault, deceased widow of Joseph B. Castille, was to be held July 20, including "33 likely slaves," a sugar house, and much property. Runaway negroes, hiding in woods around Opelousas, were making serious depredations and had killed negroes on several plantations, including that of P. J. Pavy on Bayou Darbonne S. Wikoff. Cholera had struck two plantations near Thibodeau. Elbert Gantt was elected president of the police jury. Nicholas Amy, 50 died. ... JULY 22, 1854 --- The Russians were beaten at the Battle of Silistria, and were in retreat. The police jury fixed their per diem pay at \$3.50. It also rescinded its bounty for "wolf and tiger scalps." ... JULY 29, 1854 --- The Courier urged Opelousas residents to contribute to the Washington Monument, now at a height of 160 feet. The "liberal citizens of Lower Bayou Boeuf" raised "the very handsome sum of FIFTEEN DOLLARS" for the monument at a July 4th picnic. A huge public sale of the plantation estate of the late Jacques Leppole Rocquet, in Prairie Laurent of this parish, was announced by Sheriff Jean Bre, David, including 3,090 arpents of land with sugar crop, 62 slaves, and the full plantation equipment. ... AUG. 5, 1854 --- The telegraph line was rapidly approaching Opelousas, and The Courier urged residents to come forth and buy enough stock, handled here by B. A. Martel, Esq., to insure opening a local office. Opelousas streets were described as "almost impassable," and the council was begged to remedy the situation. One Noel announced that he had bought a "Herse" and would "undertake burials." The packet Alice W. Glaze was leaving Washington for New Orleans every Sunday morning. ... AUG. 12, 1854 --- Professional cards in The Courier of this date included: Franklin Institution (formerly Mr. Ch. Thieneman's) T. Valade, principal, and Mr. Hoarse, English professor, Lucius J. Dupre, district judge, and A. Garrigues, clerk, Aug. Dejean, H. Desessarts and Ulysse Gaberel, Stephen W. Quirk, public auctioneer, S. D. Allis, druggist at Washington, the following attorneys, Albert Dejean, B. A. Martel & P. D. Hardy, Henry L. Garland & Louis Lastrapes, John F. Morrough and William Mouton; Theodore S. Robin; C. H. Mouton, notary public.

William Mouton, J. H. Sandoz; public ed. James Reed, George Rainer & A. C. House and sign painter and paper hanger Hector Launey; bricklayer & jobber, V. Chachere; painters and glaziers, N. Valdore Hollier. ... The police jury, after receiving a petition, appropriated \$1,000 to make possible the Opelousas - Washington road, named as commissioners to take bids, Simon B. Harman, Dr. M. Campbell and S. Andrus. The jury also forbade any slave to permit any of his slaves to bear any mark or brand other than the owner's name to hold true of any animals owned. ... AUG. 19 1854 --- With a great happiness a sense of "I told you so" The Courier announced that the New Orleans, Red River Texas Telegraph Line had not only re-Opelousas - as they had recently informed their readers it would - but that the "wire" was in operation in the telegraph office. A crowd assembled and at "a signal" Mr. Clute, the line's promoter, announced that he had communications offices already established in "Washington, Shreveport, Alexandria, Natchitoches, Shreveport, &c." The first piece of news of the wire, addressed to The Courier, some of the returns of an election for associate supreme court justice from the District. The Courier reported sadly for want of financial support in Washington the line was in danger of closing its doors. ... AUG. 26, 1854 --- Lightning struck and killed one of "the best and finest subjects," a negro on the plantation of Dr. George Hill, with a group of them were "busily engaged in mending cord wood." ... Frightening rumors were reported work on the Opelousas railroad had ceased. The Thibodeau Minerva reported office that all works had ceased except that between Lafourche and Algiers. Residents of Thibodeau, by a two-hour walk could go by rail New Orleans in six hours "at a trifling expense." The Courier editors were puzzled about the work stoppage but were heartened by other rumors from sources they considered reliable that two men are on the verge of accepting construction contracts from Bayou de la Bay (Morgan City, today) to Washington. Reason for the stoppage was given: stock subscribers and, principally, taxpayers "are very slow in making their payments." ... Sept. 2, 1854 --- The telegraph line, originally extending from Opelousas north Harrisonburg, via Shreveport, now was connected to Natchez on the east and was extended to Atakapas (St. Martinville). The Courier happily reported, Today Simon Richard, who had staged a wonderful fireworks show in Opelousas July 4, with a ball release, was doing a similar show in Grand Coteau. An erudite letter to the editor, anonymous, lashed the "complete isolation" of Opelousas country, and suggested a good route to the Mississippi river near Baton Rouge, with the belief that it could be accomplished. The route, now feasible because Atchafalaya overflows had been largely cured by a Mississippi cutoff: From Opelousas; east across Bayou Waxie, along the bank of Dry Bayou to Bayou Petite Prairie; thence along Niggerfoot Bayou to Bayou at paw and along it to Bayou Rouge, along its mouth at the Atchafalaya, thence to Morganza on the Mississippi. About 45 miles or "a fair day's ride." Another citizen, signing, "S. T.," railed at the custom of giving a "charivari" when a widower or widow gets a new mate. ... SEPT. 23, 1854 --- P. T. Barnum was to bring his famous menagerie, was statutory and General Tom Thumb to Washington for a one-day grand showing. The parade will be led by eight elephants drawing the monster Hindoo car. Heavy daily rains have made the roads "awfully bad," swept away bridges, and are ruining the crops. "Richard, a negro-man well known in our town, the property of Mr. Landry Hollier," was found dead in the field of Louis Prudhomme, an apparent suicide. Building and repair of roads and bridges, taxes and their collection, and paupers continued to be the chief business of the police jury. ... SEPT. 30, 1854 --- After several deaths in Washington it was generally felt that yellow fever exists there, although The Courier refused to state so positively, as it would provoke a "newspaper discussion" of no fruit. An anonymous letter writer took to task the council of the Town of Washington for establishing a quarantine against people coming from Opelousas, acting on a rumor that there was yellow fever here. He charged they acted from "an abundance of precaution" as it was well known that in the past every single case of yellow fever in this area was traced to Washington as the origin. A "distinguished portrait painter" from New Orleans, Octave Adorci, was in Opelousas, and The Courier editors, having seen his works, highly recommended him. A telegraphic dispatch from Washington, at present time, reported that doctors there said yellow fever did exist in the town and it was useless longer to hide the fact. The police jury approved the laying out of a road from Ville Platte to Bayou Nezpique and ordered \$500 be paid Jonathan Harris, the surveyor. McHenry Husband advertised that he has a set of fine hounds "for runaway negroes" in his



EARLY NEWSPAPERS  
(Continued from Page 222)

possession available at any time.

OCT. 7, 1854 -- Opelousas authorities established a quarantine against persons coming from Washington, New Orleans or other places infected with yellow fever. Dr. Thomas J. Cooke of Washington wrote a long, detailed letter contesting a previous letter in The Courier that he had denied existence of yellow fever there in 1853 and that this year he had called some cases of illness yellow fever when they were not. In the latter case he said that some illnesses--and he named patients--were strongly similar to the disease but that in many cases it is hard to tell yellow fever from "billious" fever. He also added letters signed by seven other people backing him up. Wm. Offutt, Cyrus Thompson, S. D. Allis, John Lyons, Wm. S. Read, M. Anderson and R. B. Hardesty.

OCT. 14, 1854 --Washington citizens voted two to one to outlaw retailing of spirituous liquors by the drink, and the St. Landry police jury was expected to put the question to the parish in January, by wards. Boatright & Gayze began sugar-making the previous Monday, and other planters are about ready to start. Dr. B. J. Salles wrote a long letter, accompanied by two others, taking issue with Dr. Cooke's letter on yellow fever (somebody evidently is lying).

OCT. 21, 1854--Two stinging abusive letters from Washington residents Cryus Thompson and S. D. Allis were published relative to the argument between the doctors. Allis' letter hopped on The Courier, as well. The Courier editors commented that they were publishing them because Dr. Salles made a severe attack on the pair's reputations, but that in the future no such letters will ever again be published. Further, they needed no lessons in public journalism from Allis. The steamship Arctic bound from Liverpool to New York ran into a boat and sank, losing all but 31 of the 431 passengers and crewmen. Among the last seen on deck of the ship was J. Cook of Opelousas, and The Courier hoped he was in one of the five boats launched, only one being found, and will be picked up. "Only 39 persons were present last Sunday at the Catholic Church at Opelousas. Reason: Most of our population have AMOOSSED, on account of yellow fever." There was great joy at Thibodeaux: The Opelousas railway has been completed from Algiers to Bayou Lafourche.

OCT. 28, 1854--An "awful murder" was committed on Bayou Courtableau near Bayou Carbone. According to an affidavit made before Justice of the Peace Guy H. Bell Esq., the body of a man named Maxville Fenon, alias Mac Laplante, was found floating in the bayou with the throat cut. Suspected of the crime are one Joseph Escoubes and one Mrs. Antoine and daughter Eleonore. The three were apprehended and jailed for trial. Yellow fever was epidemic in Franklin and Bayou Sara. The contract for the Opelousas railroad from Berwick's Bay to Washington was definitely signed. Abroad, the battle of Sebastopol had been fought, according to telegraphed word, the Russians losing 18,000 killed and 22,000 taken prisoner, the French and English 10,000 killed. The city was razed but the Russians refused to surrender their shattered army.

NOV. 4, 1854--Robert Benguerel of Opelousas was named by the president Registrar of the Land Office at Opelousas, replacing James C. Fitzgerald, deceased. Almost everybody had fled Opelousas and the chools were closed due to the "yellow rack". Justice Bell heard testimony in the Fenon murder and bound the three defendants over to the district court. The Courier reported with wonderment that a young Frenchman was experimenting with transmitting the voice by wire, and predicted that this will eventually replace the telegraph. Lafayette was trying to get a telegraph line to their town.

NOV. 11, 1854 --The Courier gave public commendation to the police jury for the "splendid road" now going from Opelousas to Washington: More than 40 feet wide with ditches three feet wide and as deep. Two more yellow fever deaths in Opelousas; frost was eagerly awaited. Lt. Gov. W. W. Farmer died in New Orleans of yellow fever.

NOV. 18, 1854--Frost visited Opelousas Monday and Tuesday. Said The Courier: "Good! We now invite all the Opelousas BLESSERTERS to come back to their homes, as there is no more danger now for them. Come one, come all, and in a hurry! But district court was adjourned from Monday to the first Monday in December.

The Opelousas railroad, now complete from Algiers to Bayou Lafourche, four miles from Thibodeaux, was doing as much as \$163 a day in passenger and freight business! The Opelousas town council called an election to determine whether liquor by the drink would be sold in town. Abner B. McClelland and Miss Emma L. Andrus were married.

NOV. 25, 1854--The public school of this ward has been reopened, under direction of Mr. Spencer, and children of the ward will be admitted on application to one of the directors. Although citizens in Washington voted 22 to 23 to outlaw the selling of liquor there by the drink, the Washington correspondent, Clinton, reported that "friends of these popu-

lar resorts (bars) have prevailed on our very accommodating town council to pronounce the election illegal and have the race run over, strange proceeding, indeed. . . . Dubuisson & Stag opened a store in Washington. Abroad, the Russians won a huge battle at Balakava, the British and French suffering huge casualties.

DEC. 2, 1854--Wm. A. Moriarty was a new public crier in Opelousas. With this issue The Courier was two years old. The sugar being made this season around Opelousas was of excellent quality. Tomorrow, Sunday, a mile race of unried creole ponies was scheduled at F. Pitre's Track. The steamer New Era was shipwrecked off the New Jersey coast with a terrible death toll of 275 persons.

DEC. 9, 1854--Opelousas voted wet in the election. That is, the citizenry voted 55 for and only 34 against continuing to license sale by the drink of liquor in the town. And the police jury called a parishwide election on the issue for Dec. 26, to determine whether each of the wards wished to outlaw sale of liquor by the drink (or in quantities less than a gallon). Lastie Dupre advertised that if persons owing him money did not come forward and settle up by April, 1855, he was going to sue.

DEC. 16, 1854--Harrison Young, "a young man of fine appearance," was found guilty in district court of horse stealing and will be sent to the state prison at Baton Rouge. Abroad, the Allies continued the siege at Sebastopol and were getting ready for an assault.

DEC. 23, 1854 -- "GOOD NEWS, TREMENDOUS NEWS," headlined The Courier. A telegraphic dispatch from St. Martinville at press time reported that "Messrs. Cade, Baker and Mouton have left for New Orleans to sign the contract for our railroad." Opelousas was now connected by telegraph with Vermilionville (Lafayette) and St. Martinville, and will be soon with New Iberia and Franklin, and with New Orleans before long. Joseph Escoubes was convicted of the murder of Max. Laplante and given a life term, auctioneer Evte. DeBallon advertised the forthcoming sale of the huge plantations of P. J. Pavy on Bayou Courtableau, five miles from Washington, known as Valansart's Plantation, and of the formerly Chandet's Plantation, also on Courtableau. The Pavy place measured 1,329 acres of land, has a sugar house, purgery, &c., a steam mill and bagasse burner, an excellent home, negro cabins, stables, corn cribs, &c., and enough seed cane for next year's crop.

The other plantation measured 580 acres, with about the same equipment. The sale would include 65 slaves, mules, horses, oxen, milk cows and horned cattle, fodder, and much other property including household furnishings.

DEC. 30, 1854--The Courier wished their readers a Happy New Year, "and at the same time we would like to see them in our office with their pockets full of rocks to pay their subscriptions and advertisements." The Courier also reported: "Christmas was joyously celebrated in Opelousas. In a single house, so we were told, \$118 worth of champagne was destroyed and about 50,000 crackers fired. Any more wine or crackers left for Monday next?" Returns on the parishwide liquor election were not yet in, but it tied 16-16 at Grand Coteau, continuing to license retail sales carried in Plaquemine but was voted down in Mallet Woods. Abroad, Austria had at last joined England and France in the war with Russia. Marriages of the week included those of Maximilian Kennison and Miss Emilie Genin, and Theodore Chachere and Miss Clementine Benguerel.

JAN. 6, 1855--Liquor license election returns still not available. The telegraph office at Vermilionville (Lafayette) was closed due to lack of patronage. Abroad, Omar Pacha, with 40,000 Turkish troops, was embarking for the Crimea. The ninth ward elected Simeon Fontenot to the police jury.

JAN. 13, 1855--Members of the Opelousas town council at this time were Simon Richard, president, and C. N. Baler, C. Hollier Jr., A. Meynier, C. Morhinvez, M. Bullisard and A. M. Parrault. Abroad, in the Crimean War, the siege at Sevastopol continued, with great sickness among the troops and with terrible weather hampering action. The St. Landry parish police jury's anticipated budget for the year was \$37,145.26, and taxes will be levied accordingly.

JAN. 20, 1855--The oldest son of Joseph E. Andrus Esq. of Plaquemine Bruce, 17 years of age, was pitched from his horse when it stumbled while driving a parcel of hogs. The animal rolled over the youth and he died within two hours. Election returns showed the following places voted for keeping the retail sale of liquor: Washington (40-10), Grand Coteau (16-16 tied), Faquetique (21-0), Chataignier (18-0), Ville Platte (17-0), Pine Woods (12-3), Old Grand Prairie (13-0), Plaisance (26-0). The following voted against: Mallet (0-3), Bayou Chicot (21-33), Mountville (4-16) and Mamouth (1-8). In New Orleans, the celebrated horse LeComte continued to burn up the race track.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO IN Opelousas the dentist was Dr. Pilate. "Call on him if you want a perfect job done on your teeth," editorialized The Opelousas Courier.

LOOKING BACK

A daily flashback to St. Landry Parish news of 100, 50 and 25 years ago will be henceforth a regular feature of the Daily World.

The task of going through the ancient newspapers was too time-consuming and voluminous for this work.

The Daily World has files on microfilm of the complete available newspapers of Opelousas from Vol. 1, No. 1 of the Opelousas Courier, Dec. 11, 1852, to date. The files and microfilm viewer are available at the office and readers wishing to check any material, do any research, or otherwise use them are welcome to do so at any time during business hours.

---THE EDITORS.

*Police Jury  
Parish of St. Landry* } *Special meeting the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1827.*

*Resolved, That the report of the Commissioners appointed from the Parishes of St. Mary - St. Martin - Lafayette and St. Landry, to examine the Bayou plaquemine in the Parish of Iberville, and to devise some mode to prevent the entrance of drift-wood thereon and to improve the navigation thereof. Dated at Iberville the 29<sup>th</sup> September 1827: Be, and the same is adopted in extenso.*

*Resolved That George King Esquire, President of this jury, be and he is hereby authorized and empowered, to subscribe, for, and in the behalf of this jury, for such number of shares in the Plaquemine Navigation Company, in proportion to the State Tax paid by this Parish as will amount to the total capital stock of said company, and in the same proportion among the Parishes of Iberville, St. Martin and Lafayette.*

*Resolved That Mevius Andre Ancelet and Joseph Andrus, be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to negotiate a loan, to an amount sufficient to pay the shares that this Parish may be entitled to have in the Plaquemine Navigation Company, the funds of the parish being hereby pledged for the reimbursement of such loan, and the amount thus obtained to be paid over to the Directors of the said Company.*

*Resolved That Mevius George King, Andre Ancelet, and Stephen D. Wickoff, be and they are hereby named and appointed the Peoples of this Jury, to vote for Directors of the Plaquemine Navigation Company, at the meeting of the stockholders of said company to be held at Iberville the 9<sup>th</sup> October instant.*

*Resolved, That this jury as stockholders in the said Navigation Company, do consent and agree, and hereby empower the Directors of said company, to waive and dispense with the provisions of the act of 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1827, as mentioned in the report of the Commissioners from the four parishes under date of the 29<sup>th</sup> September 1827.*

*Resolved That Mevius George King, Andre Ancelet, and Stephen D. Wickoff, be and they are hereby appointed, in behalf of this jury, to meet such persons as may be appointed by the Parishes of Iberville - St. Martin and Lafayette, for the purpose of drafting the amendments to the Act of 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1827 as are mentioned in the report aforesaid of 29<sup>th</sup> September 1827.*

*A true copy for Guy H. Bell clerk of the Police Jury St. Landry*

PARTICIPATION in the projected Plaquemine Navigation Company by the St. Landry Parish Police Jury was voted by this resolution adopted Oct. 6, 1827, some 128 years ago. The company was being formed with representation from St. Mary, St. Martin, Lafayette and St. Landry parishes to devise means to keep driftwood from the entrance of the bayou at the Mississippi river, and to improve the bayou channel. Guy H. Bell, clerk of the jury, had a fine handwriting; this is reduced only 25 per cent in size.



Whereas by an act of the Legislature providing for tracing and opening a road between Baton Rouge and Opelousas, William Nitroff Judge of the former and George King Judge of the latter parish have <sup>been</sup> appointed joint Commissioners to superintend the same: And William B. Jackson having made the lowest and most advantageous proposal—

It is agreed between the said William B. Jackson of the Territory of Orleans and parish of Saint Landry of the one part and William Nitroff and George King Commissioners, as aforesaid of the other— That the said William B. Jackson obliges himself to trace a road from the House of Charles Barre on the Bayou Courtableau to Baton Rouge by the shortest and bestest route, to open the same ten feet wide, to remove the small logs, to return an exact plan of the same and mark side trees or when there should be no tree standing at the proper place to plant & mark a post at the end of every mile— When the work is done shall report the work finished, each party shall appoint a respectable inhabitant to visit and inspect the same at the expense of said Jackson (as in and to that effect) that it is completed according to the spirit and meaning of this contract the said Nitroff and King claim themselves jointly to draw on the Treasury of Orleans Territory in favour of the said William B. Jackson for the sum of One Thousand Dollars being the price agreed upon for the plan for the work as above described. In testimony whereof the said parties have hereunto set their hands and seals at Opelousas this 5 day of Decr 1851

In presence of  
 Benjamin Johnson  
 Jos. de la Harpe

William B. Jackson  
 Geo King

AN ANCIENT road contracting to 1811 that may be one of the first — and undoubtedly is — of its kind was found in a file in the office of the St. Landry clerk of court by Herbert Castille, abstractor here.

The contract was awarded on William B. Jackson of the Territory of Orleans, to trace and open a public road between Baton Rouge and Opelousas. Jackson's section to be laid out was from "the house of Charley Barre" to the Bayou Courtableau to Baton Rouge by the shortest and highest route.

It specified certain bayou crossings, and ordered that a tree marked at each mile, and when no tree was available, to put a mile post.

Jackson's fee, to be paid after an inspection of the route at his expense, was to be \$1,000.

The contract was awarded to the Parish of St. Landry and the Territory of Orleans. George King was the commissioner from St. Landry and William Wickett judge of Baton Rouge, represented the territory. King and Jackson signed the document, and it was witnessed by Benjamin Johns and Jos. Hayes.

The building of roads and bridges was the principal problem of governmental bodies of the entire 1800s, judging by the minutes, and legislative accounts from newspapers.

At any one meeting of the police jury the building of as many as 20-odd bridges would be ordered, during the mid-1800s. And the laying out of roads from one place to another was continually being ordered too.

But this is the oldest road building record we have.

We also had a list of St. Landry road overseers, but lost somehow, after all the copy has been set in type to go under it so you will find this copy elsewhere in this edition but with out the illustration. Each overseer had a specific section of given road to look after.

Chief means of long distance travel, however, was by steam boat. It lasted until the sweating track layers came along and put the boats out of business with steam engine that rolled on rails.

Without the railroad Opelousas would never have grown to its substantial position, and there is no doubt but that Washington had boat travel continued in importance, would have been the dominating city of the territory.

In fact, in the 1850s when the Opelousas railroad was being laid from Algiers north and west the Opelousas papers were publishing numbers of notices of Washington merchants going out of business. They must have seen the handwriting on the wall.

The rail builders did Washington another disservice, too. The original route of the line was to go north through Natchitoches, St. Martinville, Lafayette and Opelousas to Washington, and cut west to Texas from there. But some other railroads had undertaken a line west from Lafayette, or rather, from the west to Lafayette, and when the Opelousas road got there the builders decided to use this partially laid then abandoned road for their western leg.

Lafayette was then a hamlet. It had until only shortly before been known as Vermilionville. Becoming a rail hub it grew. And it is still growing at an astonishing rate. That might have been Washington, had the original plan been pursued. Who knows?

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**Memoirs Editors,**

In the event of the adoption of the Constitution now submitted to the approval of the people of this State, we beg to suggest the name of the Hon. C. Voorhies, of St. Martina, as a candidate for Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.  
 Several members of the Bar  
 September 11th. 1842.

A SUGAR HOUSE burned to the ground at Ville Platte, then in St. Landry on Dec. 8, 1853. The owner, Cyprien Larose Fontenot, lost the mill, 120 hogsheads of sugar and "all the molasses," according to contemporary news accounts.

**T. H. GARDINER,**  
 ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW.  
 BEING permanently located in Grand Coteau (St. Landry,) will exercise his profession in the Courts of 14th and 15th Judicial Districts.  
 Grand Coteau, December 25th 1852—1y.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO the St. Charles Hotel, opposite the college at Grand Coteau, was a haven for travellers of the region. N. Grimmer was proprietor.



OLD VOLUNTEER HOSE COMPANY No. 1 of Crowley. One of the members was Chachere, and the picture is owned today by Joseph D. Chachere, who has many other family pictures. He is not sure which of the men above was a kinsman of his. Not the popularity of moustaches, and the hose cart, nozzles and axe.