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THE GENIE

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ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Post Office Box 4463

Shreveport, Louisiana 71134-0463

The *Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.* is a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political, educational organization dedicated solely to the cause of genealogy. This organization is governed by these purposes:

To collect, preserve, and make available genealogical materials, documents, and records; to encourage an interest in genealogy and to sponsor educational programs for its development; to promote and publicize the City of Shreveport, Louisiana, as a major genealogical research center for genealogists and historians; to cooperate with and assist all other genealogical, historical, and patriotic societies in the furtherance of these purposes; to compile and publish a quarterly composed of records and data related to the science of genealogy.

The *Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.* meets on the second Saturday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Randle T. Moore Senior Citizen Center, 3101 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA.

Dues for membership from January 1 through December 31 of each year in the *Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.* are \$20.00 for an Individual Membership and \$25.00 for an additional family member, same household, and one quarterly per household.

All members receive four issues of The GENIE, which is published quarterly.

The *Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.* will publicize a book of genealogical interest in The GENIE when submitted by the publisher or an author. These books are then donated to the Shreve Memorial Library, Broadmoor Branch Genealogy Department, 1212 Captain Shreve Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana 71105, where they are made available to the public. The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc. periodically donates other genealogical material to this library.

The *Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.* welcomes queries, which are published free in The GENIE. A query must be no more than seventy (70) words, either typewritten or legibly handwritten.

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Statement of Publication

The Genie is published quarterly with issues in March, June, September and December. Each member receives four issues for each year of membership. All material published in *The Genie* is compiled and contributed by the members. Members and nonmembers of the Ark-La-Tex Genealogy Association may contribute material for publication in *The Genie* (bible records, cemetery listings, diaries, wills, etc.). Such contributions are appreciated and encouraged. Send material for publication to *The Genie* at the Association's mailing address. Material will be used at the discretion of the Editorial Review Board as space permits. We reserve the right to edit and/or condense material as needed. Submission deadlines are the last week before the first day of the month of quarterly publication.

The Association exchanges periodicals with other genealogical and historical organizations publishing data of general interest. These periodicals are then donated to the Broadmoor Branch Genealogy Section of the Shreve Memorial Library. We regret that we cannot exchange with limited family organizations. However, send samples of your publications for review. Since many publications possess information of value concerning families contain therein.

When Cemetery Records are submitted, include the name of the contributor, the copier, date copied and cemetery locations (such as road name or number, community, etc.) and also the Section, Township, and Range, if known. When Bible Records are submitted, give date and publisher of the Bible (if known), date copied, name of the contributor, name of present owner and the original owner.

Queries are free and encouraged. Please submit them typed or very plainly written. Space is limited. Please be brief and concise, using no more than 70 words per query. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject queries not suitable for publication.

The Genie cannot be responsible for errors or inaccuracies, but will hasten to publish corrections. Please read the material carefully and advise the Association in writing of corrections.

This publication is indexed in the Periodical Source Index published by the Allen County Public Library Foundation, Ft. Wayne, IN.

Copyright Laws

All who submit material from any source should be aware of copyright restrictions. When applicable, permission to use published material must be in writing and should be included when manuscript is submitted. Source and date of information used should be indicated.

The Present's Message

"No butts about it!" Its membership renewal time again. I hope you take a moment to reflect on just how much the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association offers to the Ark-La-Tex genealogical community, and beyond; and how much you personally get from being an Ark-La-Tex member.

I am cognizant that you already recognize all that the Association does, but here are a few things to call to mind those members that do not.

The "**Genie**" is a first-rate publication publishing primary records that can't be found elsewhere. It contains original research that wouldn't be available otherwise. The Editorial staff encourages members and the public to submit material for publication. (*The editor reserves the right to edit material prior to publication.*)

A considerable amount of work goes into bringing you timely and informative speakers at our monthly meetings. These recognized experts discuss the latest trends and sources for genealogical research you just wouldn't get any other way. If you are not attending our meeting regularly, you are missing out on truly exceptional opportunities to improve your research skills.

Our Beginning Class, coordinated by the Education Committee also helped the learning curve for persons starting genealogy, also for some of us that are not beginners. The topics presented were: Genealogy and the Internet by Ray Kidd; Searching Federal Census Pages by Phil Adderley; Critical Genealogical Forms and Charts by Glenda Bernard & Marilyn Christian; How to Interview your Ancestors by Anna Wise; and Introduction to Evidence Analysis Interpretation and Source Citations by Phil Adderley. *Thanks Educational Committee for a job well done.*

The Education Committee was also approved by the Board to introduce and start a fifteen minutes educational session (called the Horn-Book Session for ALTGA) at each monthly meeting including genealogical topics of importance, those that might facilitate further genealogical development of the membership. I was pleased to see that our first Horn-Book Session was a grand success.

As you can see, there is a lot going on in the Association. And it happens because of our members like you. Without you, we would not be the valuable resource we are. Please mail in your renewal form today. We can't continue all this without your support.

I personally want to thank each one of you, for your continued membership and ongoing support.

Willie R. Griffin, President

ALTGA's Horn-Book: The Homestead Land Laws

For the General Session of 13 Oct. 2007. Prepared by Philip Burnett Adderley.

The greatest distribution of land from the federal government to us occurred via the Homestead Act of 1862¹ and the many changes enacted to it thereafter until its repeal in 1976. The steps needed to claim such lands were several, requiring documentation that the government collected during the process, which sometimes lasted upwards of 10 years. The government accumulated the various documents in one "land entry file." Custody of the file eventually transitioned from the General Land Office (GLO) to the National Archives and Records Administration.

The land entry file is important not just for the wide variety of genealogical material it may contain. It is vital that researchers realize that the GLO created one *whether or not the homesteader successfully completed all the required steps*. Why does that matter? For every five attempts to complete a homestead claim, two succeeded and three failed. Almost 800,000 Homestead Claims succeeded and close to 1,200,000 Homestead Claims failed.² Thus, even though an ancestor may not or did not own land, s/he may still have *attempted* to acquire it after 1862 via the homesteading process. Each attempt—and there may have been more than one by the same ancestor—resulted in a separate land entry file. Claims that were cancelled often resulted in additional evidence in the land entry file to support or fight cancellation.

The prerequisites for applying for a Homestead Claim changed over time and place, but on 1 January 1863 the initial application affidavit and fees included these:

1. Head of household (male or female) OR single and at least 21 OR single, less than 21, and had served in the United States Army or Navy for at least 14 days "during the existence of an actual war, domestic or foreign," AND
2. Citizenship: Either a U. S. citizen OR had submitted in a court of record his/her Declaration of Intent to Become a Citizen of the United States, AND
3. Owned less than 160 acres of land, AND
4. Loyal to the United States Government (amended to allow most Confederates effective 1 January 1867), AND
5. Land to be entered was for actual settlement and cultivation by applicant, AND
6. Submission of \$10 Land Entry Fee, plus whatever charges were normally administered by the local federal Land Office's Register and Receiver, typically \$4 initially for the commission and then \$4 later for the Final Certificate.³ (The Final Certificate was issued by the land office when the applicant satisfied all requirements from its perspective. The patent, to come later from the GLO, was actual title to the land).

The applicant's maximum claim was 160 acres if the minimum price was \$1.25/acre for the general public, but 80 acres if it was \$2.50/acre. In the Congressional Act of 19 February 1909 the maximum claim was increased to 320 acres if the land to be entered was non-mineral and non-

¹ United States Congress, *U. S. Statutes at Large*, vol. 12 (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1863), 392-3, "An Act [of 20 May 1862] to secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domain"; digital images, Library of Congress, *A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: Statutes at Large, 1789-1785* (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/> : accessed 29 September 2007).

² E. Wade Hone, *Land and Property Research in the United States* (Salt Lake City: Ancestry Inc., 1997), 140.

³ United States Congress, *U. S. Statutes at Large*, "An Act [of 20 May 1862] to secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domain." The Land Entry Fee of \$10 in 1862 was later modified to be \$10 for 81-160 acres, and \$5 for 80 acres or less.

irrigable in specific states. If the applicant already owned land, the claim was limited to the difference between the maximum and what s/he already owned.

The final proof of claim occurred in a 2-year window following completion of the residency requirement. In addition to *proving* the prerequisites noted above, the applicant had to show that s/he completed citizenship; resided upon and improved the land; cultivated it; and had not “abandoned said land for more than 6 months at any time” or alienated it.⁴ The proof as a minimum included the claimant’s affidavit and at least two supporting witnesses’ testimonies.⁵

Congress mandated in 1862 that the claims be entered into the Tract Books and Plat Maps by officers of the GLO—in real terms this meant the officer known as “Register” of the local Land Office. The “Receiver” was a second officer who received the various fees and issued the receipts for payments. The tract book entries are organized by township/range number, and not by surname. As changes or updates occurred with time, the Tract Books and Plat Maps were (supposed to be) dynamically updated. If a claim was rejected, cancelled, or relinquished (abandoned), the Register so noted it in the Tract Book and the land reverted back to the federal government. If a new claim involving the same piece of land occurred later, he recorded it on another line within the same township/range of the same Tract Book. Thus, it is not unusual for a researcher to find the same parcel of land appearing as a Homestead Entry two or more times within a given Tract Book, with all, including possibly the last, being rejected, cancelled, or relinquished. The clues that a Homestead Entry possibly occurred are often the number of acres involved (80, 160, 320, or some smaller portion), the very small Land Entry fee (\$5 or \$10 but not labeled as such) and/or commission (up to \$4 for 160 acres, also not labeled as such), and sometimes in the margin an “HE,” “HC,” or “Home” annotation. If there were a separate letter issued or received by the Register or Receiver with respect to a claim, one might also find a reference to that document, since the Register and Receiver numbered and logged their correspondence. A Tract Book annotation such as “R&R #####” may be a clue that a separate document labeled with that number existed in their records, in addition to the Tract Book and Plat Map entries. Copies of these documents *should* have been included with the land entry file when the local Land Office sent it to the GLO. If the land entry file does not include a copy of it, the State Land Office may now possess it.

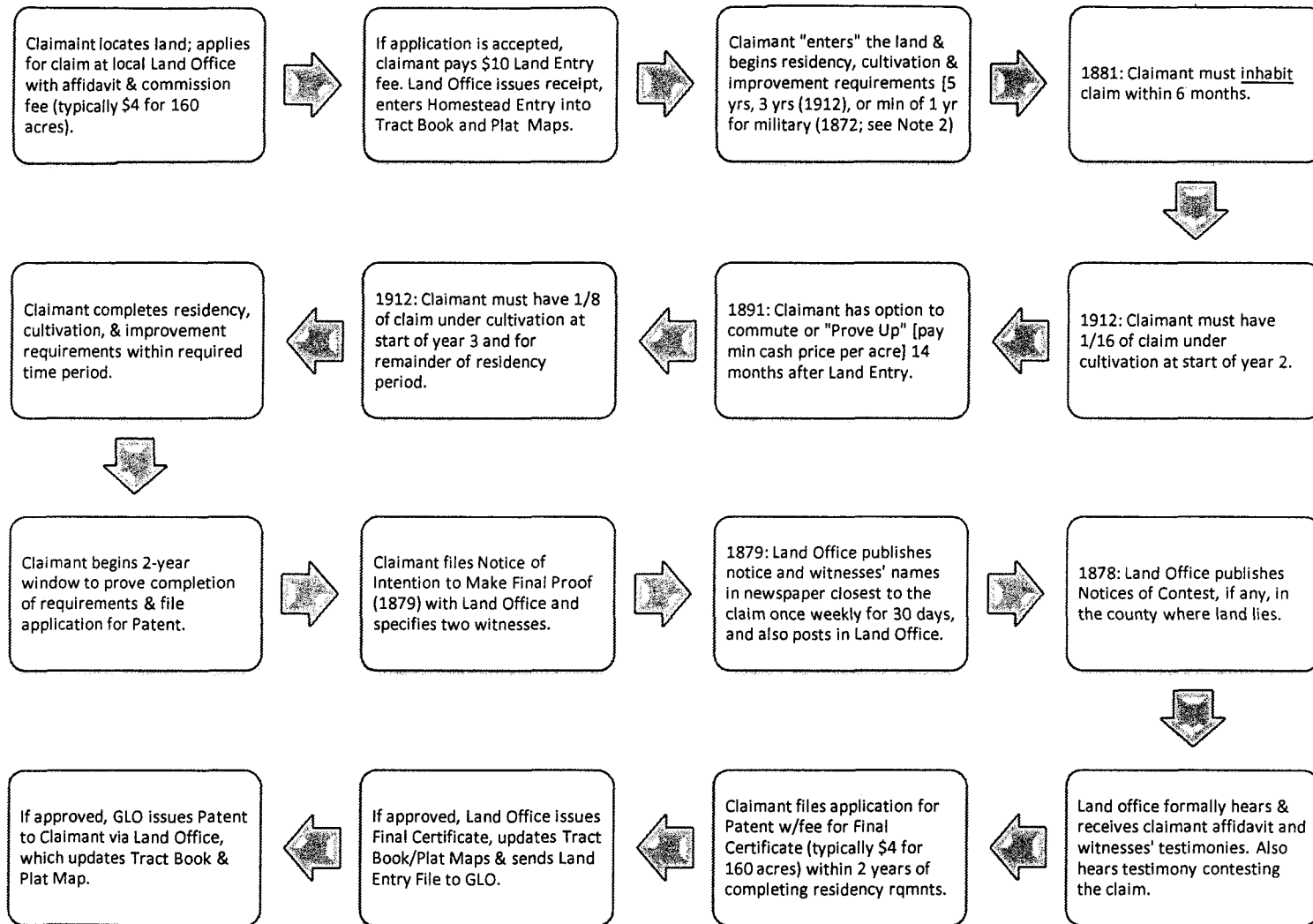
If the Homestead Land Entry was ultimately successful, the Register will usually indicate the Final Certificate number in the Tract Book. The land entry files, now at the National Archives and Records Administration, are organized into two distinct groups – successful claims and unsuccessful claims. A Final Certificate number was a clue that the entry was *probably* successful, and a Patent number, if present, indicated proof of success.⁶ It is important to indicate when ordering whether the claim was successful or not. To be safe, the writer recommends giving the National Archives and Records Administration a complete quote of the entire Tract Book line entry to facilitate the search.

The basic process on the next page includes the **major** steps of a Homestead Entry/Claim. Due to the sheer magnitude of legislation affecting these types of claims between 1862 and 1976, it is not possible to cover all the variations. In those instances where a major step did not appear until a particular year, the step includes the earliest year when the writer believes Congress enacted the change. If just one part of a step changed relative to the other parts, the year of Congressional enactment is provided in parentheses immediately following the part that changed.

⁴ United States Congress, *U. S. Statutes at Large*, “An Act [of 20 May 1862] to secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domain.” The Act of June 6, 1912, amended this to be no more than 5 months of continuous absence in each year after establishing residence.

⁵ “Notice of intention to make final proof,” *United States Code Annotated, Title 43, Public Lands* (West Publishing Company, 1986), §§ 1 to 930, p. 237.

⁶ From personal experience, a Land Office did not always enter the Patent # into the Tract Book.



Basic Homestead Process

Notes: (1) This process chart does not cover all variations and special cases enacted by Congress. (2) Beginning with the Congress' Act of June 8, 1872, military personnel, if honorably discharged, could use their enlistment time to offset the residency period in a 1:1 fashion for all but one year. If wounded or disabled as a result of their service, the residency period was reduced immediately to one year.

The Ark-La-Tex Association

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Names Researching: Harvey, Hill, Ellis, Cory, Wright, LaBorde, Couvillion

Don't forget - Annual Dues for 2007 are due !!
Annual Dues for the calendar year 2007 are \$20
for a single membership, \$25 to include spouse/family.

CHALK LEVEL PLANTATION

By Dale Jennings

J. W. Dorr, Special Traveling Correspondent for the New Orleans *Crescent*, reported from Bossier Parish on the state of affairs there in the summer of 1860. He named a number of major cotton growers, "making from 200 bales to almost a steamboat load." Among those named were Paulina Pickett, her two sons, and her son-in-law, R. C. Cummings. Like the Picketts, Robert Cummings no doubt produced cotton on the high end of Mr. Dorr's estimate on his 3,286-acre Chalk Level Plantation. The Civil War, soon in coming, brought about the collapse of the state's cotton economy and near ruin of large scale planters like Cummings and the Picketts. They suffered financially from the Union naval blockade and early capture of the port city of New Orleans. Also, from the draining support of the war effort and ultimate fall of the Confederacy. Cummings, as cotton factor and commission merchant, was also hit hard by the extension of credit to the cotton growers.

Paulina Pickett stated in Bossier Parish Conveyance Book 6, Page 345, 9-5-1866, that in November 1865 R. C. Cummings had mortgaged his lifetime interest in the Chalk Level Plantation to her. And, that on July 3, 1866, she had mortgaged her interest in the plantation to Thomas B. Lee of New Orleans to secure the payment of ten promissory notes drawn by Cummings in favor of Lee. These ten \$10,000 notes totaling \$100,000 were to be paid off two payments per year beginning in 1868, with the final notes due on January 1, 1872. Paulina's apparent strategy in meeting this obligation was through the 1866 sale of the Willow Chute and Cash Point plantations, plus other tracts of land, to her sons, John and James, respectively. They individually signed \$100,000 in promissory notes with their mother, the last increments to be paid on January 1, 1872.

By the end of 1866, Paulina had disposed of most of her plantations. Her Orchard Plantation would be sold at Sheriff's sale as the result of a lawsuit in which she and Cummings were both defendants. Paulina had drawn \$17,000 in promissory notes against the R. C. Cummings Company in New Orleans at the beginning of the war. Mr. Cummings endorsed these negotiable notes to third parties in the normal course of business. Neither he nor Paulina redeemed them when due (coincidentally, on the day that New Orleans fell to the enemy). This default resulted in the 1868 lawsuit after reestablishment of the federal courts following the war. Now – in the mid-1860's – Paulina and her son-in-law struggled to maintain their hold on the Chalk Level Plantation.

Spring floods and labor problems in 1866 plagued the planters on Red River. Labor contracts had to be negotiated with their freedmen plantation workers and arbitrated by the Freedmen's Bureau. This was a time of unrest, sometimes resulting in violence against the freedmen. The newly freed African American people were struggling for their suffrage rights – a goal counter to the interests of the white planters. Still, getting

out the cotton crop was in the common interest, that being the means to sustain life for all.

The local Freedmen's Bureau office in Shreveport was overwhelmed by the arbitration of labor contracts, investigations of lawlessness and violence, mainly directed against the freedmen, and by issues concerning the freedmen's general welfare. Bureau records contain correspondence from a Bossier Parish planter concerning a breach of contract by two of his workers. This February 7, 1867, letter from Mr. R. C. Cummings, addressed from Chalk Level Plantation, stated that Wiley Pickett and Amos Johnson had signed one-year labor contracts with him on January 1, 1867. He was complaining that on the 3rd of February the two had gone into Shreveport where they were enrolled into the 41st Infantry Colored Troops. Agent Martin Flood settled the dispute by compelling the new recruits to forfeit their first three months wages to Cummings. Although he had a serious labor shortage, Mr. Cummings accepted the offer. (Microfilm BRFAL-LA, RG 105, M1027, Reel 15)

Robert and Paulina didn't do their own planting on Chalk Level Plantation in 1868. Cummings made a lease agreement, for himself and as agent for Mrs. Pickett, with James Bowen and F. M. Smith for the cultivation of the plantation that year. Cummings may have had to see to his New Orleans cotton buying business, now operated as "Cummings, Brown & Co." (The company ceased to advertise in the *Bossier Banner* after August 1, 1868). The terms of the contract tell something of planting operations on a Bossier Parish river plantation during that time. It was agreed that Cummings would furnish all the corn necessary to supply the plantation, half of the pork, 40 mules, and all the necessary farm utensils. Bowen and Smith were to hire all the labor, furnish half of the pork, and cultivate 200 acres of corn and gather it. The plantation was to be cultivated in cotton, with one-half of the cotton to belong to Cummings and other half to Bowen and Smith. (Bossier Parish Conveyance Book 7, Page 39)

The war had ended with world markets hungry for cotton. Fortunes could be made by growing cotton on the Red River's alluvial flood plain. Those willing to gamble on the weather, insects and unpredictability of the river could buy land on credit with the prospect of exceeding their note payments with good crop years. Robert Cummings had the boldness to pursue that end on a grand scale. All of his debts that existed on December 28, 1868, were discharged by his taking bankruptcy in 1869 under the new liberal federal bankruptcy laws. In 1869 he bought the 1,800-acre Bossier Parish Red Chute Plantation from James Pickett, Jr., for \$50,000, on credit. The next year he bought two plantations that he had previously owned and lost. Both were in Caddo Parish between Sand Beach Bayou and Red River, and were purchased from Mr. A. H. Leonard. The first, having 812 acres, was obtained for \$5,000, and the second having 2,565 acres for \$15,750. That same year Cummings purchased a great expanse of land in the southeast tip of Caddo Parish from Mathew Watson for \$21,000. He developed his Campo Bello river plantation from this 14,000-acre tract. All of these properties were obtained on obligation of promissory notes.

The late 1860's and early 1870's saw some poor to mediocre cotton crops due to heavy rains, grass worms (which ate the grass in the cotton rows, and then the cotton) and shortages of labor to pick the cotton (and one would guess, to control the grass). On January 1, 1871, John Pickett took bankruptcy and freed himself of debt. All of his property, to include his Willow Chute Plantation, went into the bankruptcy and was sold at sheriff's sale. (He and his family were later able to redeem the property through the bankruptcy court procedure.)

In 1872, Thomas Lee brought suit against Robert Cummings for nonpayment of a \$10,000 mortgage note on the Chalk Level Plantation. Although his bankruptcy was noted in the suit, Chalk Level was seized in October 1872 and sold at sheriff's sale in December. The appraisal of the plantation, to include its 35 mules, 40 cattle, 40 plows, 2 cotton gins and 1 grist mill, was \$63,292. It was purchased by the Union National Bank in New Orleans for 2/3 of its appraised value. (The plantation was correctly described as 3,286 acres, but some of its tract descriptions were incorrect.) Cummings would also lose most of his other properties including his Campo Bello Plantation.

Several Chalk Level property transactions were coordinated and executed on the same day – January 9, 1878. The Union National Bank and Citizens Bank, joint owners of the Chalk Level Plantation, sold the northernmost 2,280 acres to Robert Campbell Cummings and Doctor David M. Clay of Shreveport. Cummings and Clay partitioned their acreage, with Cummings taking the top tier of sections, to wit: Section 2 and the parts of Sections 1 and 3 belonging to the plantation. That 1,280-acre block became known as "Upper Chalk Level." Clay took a 1,000-acre middle tract, which became known as the "Clay Plantation," "Clay Place" or the "Middle Tract" of Chalk Level. The bank combine retained the 1,000-acre lower tract. (Sections run back and forth in tiers – six to a tier, in each 36-section "township")

The division line between the Clay property and that of the banks was drawn so that the parties would each have 1,000 acres. To that end, the line was surveyed at an arbitrary point through the second tier, Sections 10, 11 and 12, giving Clay the top part and the banks the bottom. The banking corporations also kept their segments of Sections 14 and 15 in the southernmost tier. It was noted in the division conveyance record that the survey line was drawn, "north of the dwelling." Doctor Clay got the small six-acre tract in Section 9 on the west edge of Section 10 (more likely twenty-six acres as shown in the original government survey, and currently shown as nineteen acres).

Robert Campbell Cummings sold a one-half interest in Upper Chalk Level to his nephew, Robert Carter Cummings ("Carter"). This also occurred on January the 9th. Carter, the son of Robert Campbell's brother, David, always used the name, "R. C. Cummings, Jr." and signed the sale conveyance in that manner. The resultant confusion prompted one H. P. Moore to register an affidavit with the Bossier Clerk of Court in April 1929, stating that R. C. Cummings, Jr., and Robert Carter Cummings were one and the same person.

Upper Chalk Level would not remain in Cummings possession for long. Robert Carter bought out his uncle's half interest in October 1878. In February of the following year, he sold the plantation to brothers, James Hill and Thomas Pope Fullilove, of southwest Caddo Parish. Doctor Clay sold his plantation to Frank M. Hicks and R. W. Howell that same year. The Fullilove brothers jointly purchased additional plantations and tracts of land. Two of these tracts had comprised the Sunflower Plantation on the south side of the original Chalk Level Plantation. James and his brother dissolved their partnership in 1889 with Tom taking the Upper Chalk Level, now just "Chalk Level." James got the old Sunflower place of about the same acreage, as well as two other plantations for which he compensated his brother.

William Crawford Fullilove (1879-1948), son of James Hill Fullilove, wrote about life on his father's Clay Plantation in his manuscript, "Life on a Red River Plantation." It is undated, but ends during the year 1948. He told how his father and Uncle Tom had decided to divide their property in 1889. His father wanted to expand and Tom did not. His father went on to buy still other plantations, including the Clay Place (Chalk Level Middle Tract) in 1890. That plantation, the Sunflower and the others totaled more than 5,000 acres. The centrally located Clay Plantation was made general headquarters for his farming operations. Mr. Fullilove said that his "Papa" would gin from five to six thousand bales of cotton a year and he had seen him sell several thousand head of cattle. The high ground along the river was used for planting, primarily in cotton. The lower "back land," flooded by the bayous coming out of the river in the spring, made for excellent pasture land once the water drained back into the river. However, with the closing of the bayous, the building of levees, and the end of "free range" grazing in the swampland beyond, the back land was devoted more to planting. A great amount of corn was grown for cash crop, plantation consumption and to feed the mules. His father kept something like three hundred mules. Most of the planting was done on the share cropping system, with the black tenants providing the labor and the plantation owner furnishing the mules, plows, seed and land. Under this "half-hand" system, the crop income was split evenly.

W. "Crawford" Fullilove devoted much of his composition to remembrances of his boyhood adventures on the plantation and the pleasant times spent with his many close acquaintances both white and black. He brought his long narrative up to present – the late 1940's. He told about past and present farming methods and how the tractor replaced the mule. In the old days the Clay Place needed sixty tenant families, but it now had fifteen families, two mules and ten tractors. Share cropping on the plantations became a thing of the past, replaced by a wage system. He said that most of the family plantations by then had been sold or divided, but that the Clay Plantation was still in the Fullilove family (belonging to his brother James). Crawford told how his brother "Hill" (James Hill Fullilove, Jr.) wanted to grow something unaffected by the bole weevils, so tried pecans. He said that his brother eventually had 475 acres in pecans and reached a peak harvest of 920,000 pounds in 1948. ("Life on a Red River Plantation," copy at the Bossier Parish Library Historical Center)

William Crawford Fullilove and his older brother, James Hill Fullilove, Jr., both died in 1948. The Clay Plantation remained intact until 1956. It was then divided between James' widow and their children, after which time it would become further fragmented.

Most of the upper tier of the old Chalk Level Plantation remained in the Fullilove family after the death of Thomas Pope Fullilove in 1897. One of his sons, William James Fullilove, would in time acquire Chalk Level from the other heirs. Much of the plantation would become part of "Barksdale Field," now Barksdale Air Force Base. In the mid-1920's, the U.S. Army began to implement a massive expansion and relocation of the Third Air Attack Wing from Fort Crockett at Galveston, Texas. The city government and civic leaders of Shreveport had the foresight to promote their city for the location of its airfield and bombing range. When their proposed site in Caddo Parish proved unsuitable, they proposed a site across the river in Bossier Parish. This site won approval and the City of Shreveport set about buying up the approximately 22,000 acres of land needed. This required a bill by the state legislature and the issuance of bonds. The property acquired was subsequently donated to the U.S. government for the token sum of \$1.00. Two of the numerous landowners giving up their land through sale in 1929 and 1930 were William James and his brother, James Pope (Jack) Fullilove. The Fulliloves voluntarily optioned their land for sale to the city. "W. J." Fullilove, who lived in Shreveport, relinquished 451 acres of his Chalk Level cotton plantation for what would become the lower half of the base operations area and B-52 Bomber flight line. All was in Sections 1, 2 and 3, except for an adjoining thin strip of land that he had acquired in the next tier above. This narrow band of Sections 34, 35 and 36 was still in Township 13, but laterally in Range 18. His brother Jack gave up 454 acres, and his residence, in Sections 34 and 35. His cotton fields would be turned into the north end of the flight line, the golf course, officers housing and the Barksdale Air Force Base headquarters area.

Chalk Level's lower tract was sold by the New Orleans banks to John A. Skannal in 1882. It was sold intact to successive buyers until bought by the Union Trust Company of New York in 1894, and subsequently fragmented by further sales. It will be remembered that the Chalk Level "dwelling" site remained part of the bank property in the 1878 partition (and later turned up in Hamel Memorial Park on the other side of the river). However, there is evidence that Cummings relocated his plantation headquarters and residence prior to his losing the plantation in 1872. An obscure map dated 1906 shows R. C. Cummings' Chalk Level Plantation, with its large cluster of buildings on a river bend in Section 9. Doctor Clay, rather than Cummings, received that tract in the purchase and partition of Chalk Level in 1878. The depiction of the plantation complex on the map would of course have been historical rather than contemporary to the date on the map (Map, "Lavender U. S. Soil Survey 1906," Archives and Special Collections, Noel Memorial Library, Louisiana State University Shreveport)

The puzzling circumstances surrounding the Chalk Level mound has yet to be resolved with a certainty. Historian Eric J. Brock gave this explanation in his February 15, 1997, Shreveport *Times* Journal page column article, "Scout Hill: Fortress or Plain Ol' Dirt Pile?" Eric said that the mound site was the approximate location of Chalk Level

Plantation's "big house" of the 1850's. And, that this slightly raised mound was built to keep the house and outbuildings above water on this cotton land prone to periodic flooding. (This sounds logical) He says that in 1935 and 1936 a channel was dredged across a peninsula formed by the Red River's meander – a sweeping arc, part of which is now Champion Lake. Both ends of the trench were dynamited allowing the river through, straightening its course and moving it eastward. This placed the Chalk Level mound at the river's edge – on the west bank. Brock said that the low mound at the edge of the ditch seemed a logical place to dump the dredged soil. And, that the soil had to be piled in a compact manner in order not to hinder the flow of the river through its new channel. Thus, he asserts, this mound of only three or four feet in elevation was raised to form "Scout Hill" as it now exists. (Modern topo maps show the mound to have an elevation of 181 feet above sea level, while the surrounding plain shows an elevation of 160 feet) Eric discredits the theory of a Civil War fortress.

The Hamel family bought the mound site as part of a large land purchase from Alex Knight in 1957. The parcel for the park was dedicated to the City of Shreveport after construction of the Clyde E. Fant Memorial Parkway along the river.



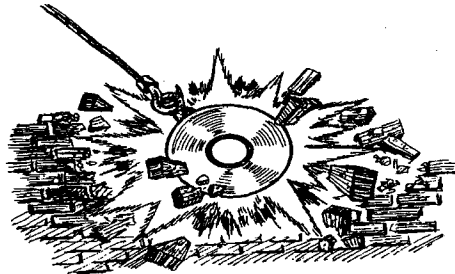
Oil portrait of Paulina Pickett and daughter, Sallie Pickett Cummings, dated 1854.
Neal Auction Company brochure, New Orleans LA, February 2000

Researching Funeral Home Records: A Genealogical Tool

One category of information in these records is the **death certificate data**. Contrary to popular notion, the funeral director, not the doctor, is the person responsible for initiating and filing the death certificate. So, in the funeral home file will be much of the basic genealogical information about an individual: full name, date and place of birth, date and place of death, marital status at death, name of spouse (if living), name of father, full maiden name of mother, place of residence at death, occupation, whether the person had military service, name and location of cemetery. In some cases, the parents' places of birth; at least the state will be included. Also listed will be the name, address and relationship of the "informant", the person who supplied the information to the funeral director.

There is much more to be found in the typical funeral file. The funeral director is also responsible for placing obituaries in the news media, so the file will probably have a list of the surviving immediate relatives: spouse, children, siblings, parents. Sometimes the names of grandchildren, in-laws, and other relatives are included. The city and state of residence of each of those listed is usually noted. In addition, there is usually some biographical information: former residences, educational institutions attended, employment, church affiliation, military service, memberships in clubs, lodges and other organizations, hobbies, civic endeavors, personal accomplishments, honors, etc. There may even be mention of the individual's ancestors and perhaps siblings who had died before this person. Even the person's date of marriage may be noted. There will probably be a list of the newspapers in which the person's obituary appeared. You can use this list to obtain copies of the actual obituaries.

Source: TNGenWeb.org Genealogy Website. This TNGenWeb Project website is hosted by USGenNet.



LITTLE DEE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY, MER ROUGE, LOUISIANA

©2007 Isabelle Woods, Bossier City, LA

The Little Dee Missionary Baptist Church is located at 9520 Little Dee Road, Mer Rouge, Louisiana. Founded in 1858, this Church was rebuilt in 1961. Reverend James Toney is its current Pastor.

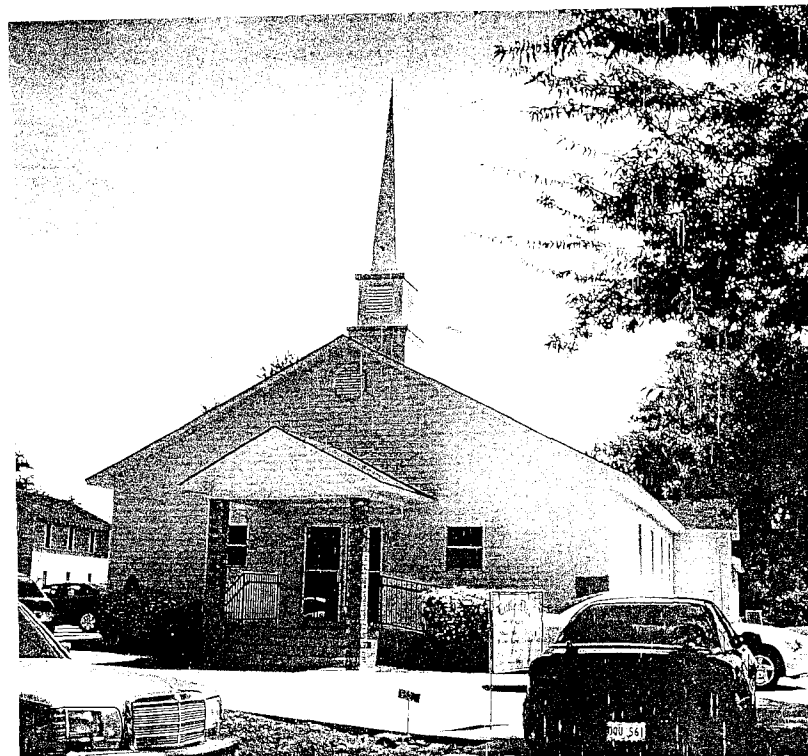
Mr. and Mrs. Mollie and Joe Keys of Mer Rouge, Louisiana, helped to make this compilation possible. Mrs. Keys shared copies of twenty-four funeral programs of deceased members of her Church with Mrs. Isabelle Woods. Mr. Joe Keys, once the caretaker of this cemetery, furnished over one hundred decedents who have no headstones.

This Church has two burial sites, which are being well maintained. Burials in both cemeteries may pre-date the oldest headstone mentioned below as currently standing in either cemetery.

The "old" cemetery is one-tenth of a mile from the present church along the Lloyd Barham Road. Burials in this cemetery begin with ID 39 and up, except for the five identified below. Most of the headstones in this older cemetery bear an "MTA" symbol indicating they were members of one of two Chambers of the Mosaic Templars of America (MTA) in Mer Rouge, i.e., "Prosperity Chamber 4103" (women), and "Davenport Temple 1374" (men). The MTA was an old benevolent society which originated in Little Rock, Arkansas, where a museum dedicated to this society is being established. Headstones bearing the MTA symbol were erected for its members by the Mosaic Templars of America. The oldest burial herein is that of Johnnie James who died on March 12, 1919.

The "new" cemetery is directly across and in front of the Church along Little Dee Road. The headstone of Jack Harris bears the earliest readable death date (July 3, 1956). Burials numbered ID 1 through ID 38, plus ID 148, ID 175, ID 184, ID 185, and ID 187 are all located in the "new" cemetery. Mrs. Isabelle Woods read both cemeteries on August 27, and October 13, 2007.

Symbols used: JK: (Mr. Joe Keys, a source), - - (data not given on headstone), ? (first name or surname unknown), DOB (Date of Birth), DTR/O (Daughter of), DUO (Double Headstone), FHM (Funeral Home Marker), F/O (Father Of), FP (Funeral Program, a source); MTA (Mosaic Templars of America), S/O (Son of), SP (Spouse); W/ (With), W/O (Wife of), YOD (Year of Death), (name) indicates female's maiden name, "name" within parentheses indicate nickname of decedent.



LITTLE DEE M B C CEMETERY, MER ROUGE, LA, BY ISABELLE WOODS

ID	DECEDENT	TITLE	BIRTH	DEATH	INSCRIPTION/COMMENTS
17	ACKLES, EULAS		10 FEB 1896	21 DEC 1976	
84	ACKLES, OLLIE				JK: WIFE OF WILL ACKLES
85	ACKLES, WILL				JK: HUSBAND OF OLLIE ACKLES
62	ALLEN, PINKIE		21 JAN 1906	13 JAN 1920	
186	ANDERSON, ?				JK: MOTHER OF EZEKIEL "ZEKE" ANDERSON
8	ANDERSON, EZEKIEL		08 AUG 1924	21 FEB 1996	
7	ANDERSON, ODESSA CLEVELAND		26 FEB 1928	03 JUN 1981	DTR OF "TICKER" CLEVELAND; SISTER OF HATTIE BELL CLEVELAND
86	ANDERSON, PERCY				JK
87	BENNETT, LEILIA				JK: MOTHER OF MINNIE IRMA BRONSON
88	BENNETT, WALTER				JK: FATHER OF MINNIE IRMA BRONSON
57	BOYD, MACK			01 JAN 1931	LOUISIANA PVT 508 ENGRS.
30	BRADLEY, EULA "SHANG"		31 AUG 1927	29 MAY 2001	MOTHER
29	BRADLEY, MACK	BRO	24 SEP 1912	25 FEB 19??	
89	BRANDON, GEORGIA				JK: AUNT OF JESSIE MAE BRANDON
90	BRONSON, MINNIE IRMA				JK: MOTHER, LEILA BENNETT
91	BROWN, ARLISS				JK: SISTER OF PINK LANE; MATERNAL GRANDMOTHER OF JOE KEYS
74	BROWN, HURIE		03 AUG 2007	04 MAR 1997	FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. ARLISS AND SAM BROWN
75	BROWN, HURIE "DUSTY"	JR.	26 DEC 1938	06 APR 2001	FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. BINNIE AND HURIE BROWN, SR.
92	BROWN, MARY				JK: SISTER OF SUE HARRIS
93	BROWN, SAM				JK: MATERNAL GRANDFATHER OF JOE KEYS
12	BROWN, SIRTEY	MRS.	01 JUN 1963?	25 OCT 1996	BEST GUESS OF DAY & MONTH OF DOB ON FHM.
53	BURRELL, CALLIE		11 NOV 1907	27 OCT 1982	
5	BUTLER, ANNIE B.		22 MAR 1922	06 JUN 2006	DUO BERNARD BUTLER. FP: PARENTS-BETTY WILLIAMS & ISON HICKS
4	BUTLER, BERNARD		30 APR 1915	24 MAR 2003	DUO W/ ANNIE. FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. HOY & FRANCIS BUTLER.
94	CAMPBELL, MIA				JK: MOTHER OF MRS. BINEY KEYS, WILLIAM, & NOAH CAMPBELL
95	CAMPBELL, NOAH				JK: SON OF MIA CAMPBELL
96	CAMPBELL, WILLIAM				JK: SON OF MIA CAMPBELL
24	CEPHAS, ALMA SUE		27 JUN 1952	26 JUN 1979	
26	CEPHAS, HELEN		04 MAR 1928	14 SEP 1997	FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. ALMA & LEVI CEPHAS; SP-LAZELL SHAW
187	CEPHAS, LEISA				JK: DAUGHTER OF HELEN CEPHAS. VAULT.
97	CLEVELAND, "TICKER"				JK: F/O HATTIE BELL CLEVELAND & MRS ODESSA ANDERSON
68	CLEVELAND, ALBERT			24 NOV 1926	MTA SYMBOL. HUSBAND OF ALBERTA CLEVELAND
56	CLEVELAND, ALBERT		11 APR 1919	24 FEB 2001	FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. LEONARD CLEVELAND

OBITUARY

“SISTER HELEN (CEPHAS) was born March 14, 1928, in Eudora, Ark., to the late Alma and Levi Cephas. She departed this life September 14, 1997, in Bastrop, Louisiana.

“She was married to the late Lazell Shaw. To this union, seven (7) children were born.

“She was baptized at Little Dee Baptist church, where she remained all her days.

“She leaves to cherish her loving memories: five (5) sons: Mr. Levi Cephas and Mr. James King of Mer Rouge, Louisiana; Mr. Jimmy (T. Ella) King of Bastrop; Mr. Lonnie (Fannie) Cephas of Mer Rouge, Louisiana; and Mr. Donald Cephas of Bastrop, Louisiana; three (3) daughters: Ms. Linda Baker (Milton) of Bastrop, LA; Ms. Angela (Darvin) Slater of Bastrop, Louisiana; and Lesia Cephas of Oakland, CA; thirty (30) grandchildren; eight (8) great grandchildren; one (1) aunt, Rosie Bazzell of Richmond, CA; a host of other relatives of Eudora, Ark., and friends.”

LD 26

Source: “Memorial Services for Sister Helen Shaw Cephas” (photo) dated September 20, 1997 in possession of Mrs. Isabelle Woods, 2016 Surrey Lane, Bossier City, Louisiana.



SISTER HELEN CEPHAS

LITTLE DEE M B CHURCH CEMETERY, MER ROUGE, LA

THE GENIE FOURTH QUARTER 2007

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ID	DECEDENT	TITLE	BIRTH	DEATH	INSCRIPTION/COMMENTS
69	CLEVELAND, ALBERTA			25 NOV 1926	MTA SYMBOL. WIFE OF ALBERT CLEVELAND
132	CLEVELAND, JIM				JK: MOM OF HATTIE BELL CLEVELAND & MRS. ODESSA ANDERSON
55	CLEVELAND, LEONARD		15 MAR 1891	24 MAR 1967	FATHER OF ALBERT CLEVELAND
6	CLEVELAND, LEROY		07 MAY 1957	02 OCT 1996	SON OF HATTIE BELL SHELLY
16	CLEVELAND, MOSES		10 NOV 1922	30 JUN 1989	PVT U S ARMY WORLD WAR II
19	COLLINS, MATTIE	SIS.	07 JUN 1903	22 JUN 1990	"SON"
166	COLLINS, R. T.				JK:
18	DAVENPORT, COLUMBUS		10 FEB 1922	11 FEB 2003	PVT U S ARMY WORLD WAR II. FP: EULA ACKER, MOTHER.
98	DAVENPORT, LUCY				JK: MOTHER OF EARL MAYO
99	DUFFY, JIM				JK
31	EDWARDS, CLAUZELLA HAYNES		02 JUN 1931	12 OCT 2002	NAME ON HS: "CLAUZELLA HAYNES TAYLOR EDWARDS"
100	EMERSON, EMMITT				JK: BROTHER OF JACK JAMES AND JOHNNY JAMES
101	EVANS, JESSIE				JK: WIFE OF LOUIE EVANS
102	EVANS, LOUIE				JK: HUSBAND OF JESSIE EVANS
168	EVANS, SUSAN				JK: MOTHER OF LOUIS EVANS
32	FRACTION, JOHNNIE		23 MAY 1922	17 NOV 1998	STM 1 U S NAVY WORLD WAR II. BELOVED HUSBAND AND FATHER.
103	GARLAND, R. T. "TEA POT"				JK
169	GIVENS, JOSIE "SKEETER"				JK: MAIDEN NAME IS "LANE." DTR OF ARCHANA LANE
104	GORDON, WILLIE				JK: GRANDSON OF JOSIE JACKSON
22	HARRIS, JACK		01 JAN 1842	03 JUL 1956	
105	HARRIS, LISA				JK: SISTER OF CAROLYN SUE HARRIS HENDERSON
106	HARRIS, SUE				JK: WIFE OF WILLIE HARRIS
107	HARRIS, WILLIE				JK: HUSBAND OF SUE HARRIS
27	HAYNES, DAVID		09 JUN 1892	21 NOV 1956	MISSISSIPPI PVT CO L 816 PIONEER INF WORLD WAR I. VAULT.
45	HAYNES, GEORGE		09 AUG 1903	09 NOV 1984	
46	HAYNES, SUSIE		02 DEC 1906	23 AUG 2002	VAULT. FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. ALEMEDIA AND DAVID JONES
108	HENDERSON, BUFORD				JK
67	HENDERSON, LUCY		08 JAN 1872	05 MAR 1922	MTA SYMBOL
109	HENDERSON, MRS. CAROLYN SUE				JK: SISTER OF LISA HARRIS
110	HICKS, ALICE				JK: MOTHER OF MILES HICKS AND JESSIE HICKS
111	HICKS, ISON				JK: SON OF ALICE HICKS
2	HICKS, JESSIE		26 MAR 1907	22 FEB 1997	FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. ALICE AND JOHN HICKS
112	HICKS, MILES				JK: SON OF ALICE HICKS

LITTLE DEE M B CHURCH CEMETERY, MER ROUGE, LA

THE GENIE FOURTH QUARTER 2007

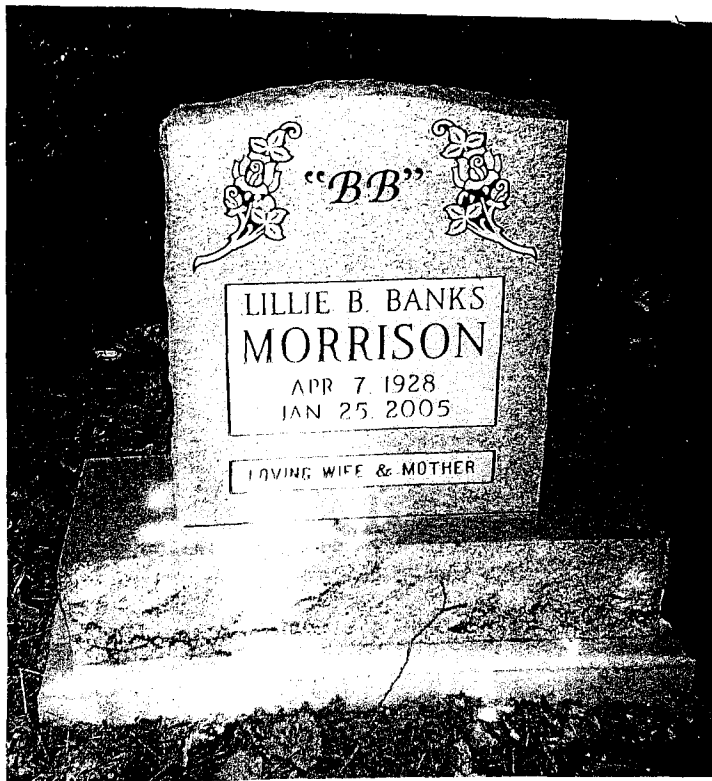
167

ID	DECEDENT	TITLE	BIRTH	DEATH	INSCRIPTION/COMMENTS
113	HILLMAN, OSSIE LEE				JK
114	HOLLINS, A. C.				JK: MARRIED MOSE CLEVELAND'S SISTER
40	HUNDLEY, DAVID T.		17 OCT 1905	08 SEP 1992	
115	HUNDLEY, JIMMY				JK: SON OF MAGGIE MAXWELL
76	INGRAM, CHARLIE		11 SEP 1903	12 JUL 1988	FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. KATIE (ROSS) AND GEORGE INGRAM
33	INGRAM, LIZZIE		1905	1966	VAULT. FP OF SPOUSE CHARLIE INGRAM: MAIDEN NAME "WOODS."
34	ISMAIL, KADIJAH		26 DEC 1933	18 JAN 1989	SOURCE JK: BORN SHIRLEY THORNTON
116	JACKSON, JOSIE				JK: PARENTS: MR. & MRS. BINEY AND JOE KEYS
66	JACKSON, OLIVER		04 NOV 1871	03 JAN 1922	MTA SYMBOL
117	JAMES, JACK				JK: BROTHER OF JOHNNY JAMES AND EMMITT EMERSON
49	JAMES, JOHNNIE		08 AUG 1880	12 MAR 1919	MTA SYMBOL
181	JAMES, JOHNNIE	(JR.?)			JK: SECOND OF TWO DECEDENTS NAMED "JOHNNIE JAMES."
118	JENKINS, NELL				JK
47	JOHNSON, EMMA			16 MAR 1926	PROSPERITY CHAMBER-4103, MER ROUGE, LA. MTA SYMBOL.
119	JONES, ALEX				JK: HUSBAND OF ALMEATER JONES
25	JONES, ALMA		22 JUN 1910	03 MAR 1992	
78	JONES, ALMEATER				JK: WIFE OF DAVID JONES
182	JONES, CALLIE "VESTA"				JK: AUNT OF LOUIE EVANS
44	JONES, DAVID		15 JUL 1878	17 JAN 1924	DAVENPORT CHAMBER-1374, MER ROUGE, LA. MTA SYMBOL.
43	JONES, JACKSON		22 OCT 1902	12 JUL 1987	VAULT. FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. ALICE AND DAVID JONES
121	KEYS, ANZIE				JK: BROTHER OF LONZIE KEYS
70	KEYS, BERTHA L.		20 JUL 1902	26 JUL 1986	FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. SALVIA (WROTEN) & ARLISE BROWN
120	KEYS, BINEY CAMPBELL			28 AUG 1923	JK: WIFE OF JOE KEYS; DTR OF MIA CAMPBELL. MTA SYMBOL.
77	KEYS, CEDRIC OLIVER		12 DEC 1959	30 JAN 1996	FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. MOLLIE AND JOE KEYS
48	KEYS, J. L.		08 AUG 1874	07 AUG 1921	DAVENPORT TEMPLE 1374, MER ROUGE, LA. MTA SYMBOL.
122	KEYS, LONZIE				JK: BROTHER OF ANZIE KEYS
39	KEYS, WADE T.		13 JUL 1957	12 OCT 1993	FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. MOLLIE (JOHNSON) AND JOE KEYS
125	LANE, "BULLY"				JK: FATHER OF JAMES LANE
123	LANE, ARCHANA	MRS.			JK: HAS A SON, JOSEPH & DTR, MRS. JOSIE "SKEETER" GIVENS
124	LANE, BAT				JK: DAUGHTER OF PINK LANE
126	LANE, JAMES				JK: SON OF "BULLY" LANE
127	LANE, PEARLIE	MRS.			JK: WIFE OF PINK LANE
128	LANE, PINK				JK: HUSBAND OF PEARLIE LANE; BROTHER OF ARLISS BROWN

LITTLE DEE M B CHURCH CEMETERY, MER ROUGE, LA

ID	DECEDENT	TITLE	BIRTH	DEATH	INSCRIPTION/COMMENTS
129	LEMONS, ARCHARD				JK: BROTHER OF WILL LEMONS
130	LEMONS, LOU				JK: WIFE OF WILL LEMONS
131	LEMONS, WELL				JK: HUSBAND OF LOU LEMONS
35	MARTIN, JAMES C. "UNCLE BROOKS"		14 NOV 1930	28 FEB 2007	AGE 76. FHM
11	MARTIN, ZOLA L.		16 NOV 1957	02 FEB 2005	
71	MATTHEWS, LEOLA		26 DEC 1906	03 NOV 1972	FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. SAM DAY; SPOUSE-EARL MATTHEWS
136	MAXWELL, L. C.		12 JUN 1920	27 JAN 1952	LOUISIANA TEC 5 U S ARMY WORLD WAR II. JK:S/O MINNIE BRONSON
135	MAXWELL, MAGGIE				JK: SP #1- ? HUNDLEY; #2 - ART MAXWELL (DIED IN ARKANSAS)
50	MAYO, EARL W.		21 NOV 1895	10 MAY 1978	PVT U S ARMY
137	MAYO, JACK				JK:
141	MAYO, WILLIE			05 APR 1951	ARKANSAS PVT 162 DEPOT BRIGADE WORLD WAR I
170	MCCLENDON, GUS	LITTLE			JK: SON OF GUS MCCLENDON
133	MCCLENDON, GUS		1887	1952	JK: HUSBAND OF SENA P. MCCLENDON
79	MCCLENDON, IDA		19 NOV 1922	06 SEP 2005	FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. SENA (POWELL) AND GUS MCCLENDON
172	MCCLENDON, PROMISE				JK: BROTHER OF GUS MCCLENDON
171	MCCLENDON, PROMISE				JK: SON OF GUS MCCLENDON
80	MCCLENDON, SENA P.		12 MAY 1877	29 AUG 1988	FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. EDITH (POWELL) AND JEFF VANDERBUILT
64	MCCLINTON, JENNIE			01 NOV 1924	MTA SYMBOL
9	MILES, CHERRY		31 JAN 1907	03 FEB 1978	
138	MILES, HENRY				JK: FATHER OF SUSIE MILES
173	MILES, LELIA				JK: FIRST WIFE OF HENRY MILES
139	MILES, SUSIE				JK: DAUGHTER OF HENRY MILES
174	MILLER, ? "BAR-B-QUE BOB"				JK: HUSBAND OF DUCKIE ROBINSON
140	MOORE, EARNEST				JK: SPOUSE #1 ? CLEVELAND, #2 FRANK MOORE
41	MOORE, ETHEL	MRS.	17 AUG 1902	25 JAN 2003	FHM. FP: PARENTS-ALBERTINE URSHAY AND COT DUNMORE.
72	MOORE, JAMES		21 SEP 1935	06 AUG 1997	FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. ETHEL AND RUFUS MOORE, SR.
38	MOORE, JUNIOR LEE		07 MAR 1937	25 MAR 2001	BELOVED HUSBAND AND FATHER
143	MOORE, MALISSA				JK: DAUGHTER OF MR. & MRS. MALISSA AND JACK HARRIS
142	MOORE, PEARLIE				JK: MAY BE BURIED UNDER HER MARRIED NAME (NOT KNOWN)
180	MOORE, RUFUS	SR.			JK: HUSBAND OF ETHEL MOORE; FATHER OF JAMES MOORE
176	MORRISON, EARL				JK: SON OF LORETTA MORRISON
13	MORRISON, LEO IKE		30 DEC 1928	06 NOV 1988	FP: PARENTS-REV. & MRS. WILBERT MORRISON, JR.
15	MORRISON, LILLIE B. BANKS		07 APR 1928	25 JAN 2005	JK: WIFE OF NATHAN MORRISON

Headstone of
MRS. LILLIE MAE MORRISON,
WIFE OF LEO IKE MORRISON



"BB"
LILLIE B. BANKS
MORRISON
APR. 7, 1928
JAN. 25, 2005
LOVING WIFE & MOTHER

LD 15

OBITUARY

"BROTHER LEO IKE MORRISON departed this life on November 6, 1988, at the Morehouse General Hospital. He was born to the late Rev. and Mrs. Wilbert Morrison, Sr., on December 30, 1928.

"He joined the Little Dee Baptist church at an early age and remained a member until death.

"He leaves to mourn his wife, Mrs. Lillie Mae Morrison; seven sons: Leo Morrison, Jr., of San Diego, CA; Jerry and Leon Morrison of Bastrop; James Hawkins of Modesto, CA; Larry Hawkins of San Diego, CA; Robert Lee Morrison of Portland, OR; Edward Brown of Las Vegas, Nev.; four daughters: Margie Gordon of Clarksville, AK; Surella Morrison and Betty Hutchinson of San Diego, CA; Gloria Jordan of Modesto, CA; two sisters: Ethel Martin of Bastrop and Betrice Rucker of Mer Rouge. He also leaves to mourn sixteen grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends."

LD 13

Source: "Obsequies for the Late Bro. Leo Ike Morrison" dated November 12, 1988 in possession of Mrs. Isabelle Woods, 2016 Surrey Lane, Bossier City, LA.

LITTLE DEE M B CHURCH CEMETERY, MER ROUGE, LA

ID	DECEDENT	TITLE	BIRTH	DEATH	INSCRIPTION/COMMENTS
144	MORRISON, LORETTA				JK: DAUGHTER OF MRS. ALBERTINE URSHAY
14	MORRISON, NATHAN		26 FEB 1926	23 JUN 1988	DADDY. FOOTSTONE: "JACK"
145	MORRISON, ROSIE				JK: SISTER OF WILL BROWN
36	NELSON, CLESSIE	MS.	-- --- 1923	27 JUL 1999	FHM
65	NICKSON, MATTIE L.			03 SEP 1923	MTA SYMBOL
51	PALAT, LIZZIE			02 JAN 1929	PROSPERITY CHAMBER 4103, MER ROUGE, LA
28	PENTON, JOHN W.	BRO.	15 APR 1903	02 FEB 1987	
146	PERCY, VEADA				JK: WIFE OF ANDERSON PERCY
3	PILOT, DAVID		21 DEC 1894	01 JAN 1982	PVT U S ARMY WORLD WAR I
147	PILOT, ELLEN				JK: SISTER OF SON PILOT
148	PILOT, ISON				JK: SON OF ALICE HICKS
59	PILOT, LEE		18 MAR 1882	08 JUL 1962	
175	PILOT, MATTIE		1896	14 JUL 19??	HEADSTONE IS STANDING AT THE ROOT OF WILD BUSH
183	PILOT, NETT				JK: WIFE OF LEE PILOT
149	PILOT, SON				JK: BROTHER OF LEE PILOT
52	RANDLE, MARY			11 JUN 1925	PROSPERITY CHAMBER 4103, MER ROUGE, LA
63	RANGLES, ALCENIA		10 DEC 1915	16 NOV 1923	
150	REED, LEVI				JK: SON OF LORETTA MORRISON
177	ROBINSON, DUCKIE				JK: WIFE OF FRANK ROBINSON
1	ROBINSON, EDDIE	SR.	28 SEP 1928	15 JAN 2006	A LOVING FATHER
178	ROBINSON, FRANK				JK: HUSBAND OF DUCKIE ROBINSON
151	ROBINSON, MATTIE				JK: MOTHER OF ALICINE WINSTON
81	RUCKER, BEATRICE "MISS BEA"		22 JAN 1932	02 APR 1995	FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. MORRISON
82	SAMPSON, CLARA HARRIS			23 JAN 1975	FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. MALISSA AND JACK HARRIS
60	SANDERS, MARTHA		25 JAN 1931	25 MAY 1987	FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. JOXIE AND WILL THIRDKILL
61	SANDERS, MARY		28 JUL 1957	02 FEB 1987	
21	SHAW, ATLEE E.		15 JUL 1910	25 APR 1995	MOM. DUO W/ LEE SHAW
23	SHAW, LAZEL		04 MAR 1970	UNDER SOIL	HUSBAND OF HELEN CEPHAS
20	SHAW, LEE		06 MAR 1910	28 OCT 1992	DAD. DUO W/ ATLEE A. SHAW
152	SHELLY, BECKY				JK: MOTHER OF CLARENCE SHELLY
153	SHELLY, CLARENCE				JK: HUSBAND OF HATTIE BELL SHELLY
154	SHELLY, HATTIE BELL				JK: WIFE OF CLARENCE SHELLY
58	SMITH, NICK			01 MAR 1935	LOUISIANA PVT U S ARMY

LITTLE DEE M B CHURCH CEMETERY, MER ROUGE, LA

THE GENIE FOURTH QUARTER 2007

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ID	DECEDENT	TITLE	BIRTH	DEATH	INSCRIPTION/COMMENTS
73	SMITH, WESTON		27 OCT 1890	30 JAN 1969	FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. SUSAN AND PINK SMITH
37	SULLIVAN, L. V.		27 APR 1910	10 JUL 1968	HEADSTONE IS IN PIECES.
155	THOMPSON, ETHEL				JK: WIFE OF GUY THOMPSON
54	THOMPSON, GUY		09 FEB 1891	27 MAR 1962	MY BELOVED DEAR HUSBAND
156	THOMPSON, JANE				JK: MOTHER OF GUY THOMPSON
157	THOMPSON, MONROE				JK: SON OF JANE THOMPSON
158	THORNTON, JESSE				JK
159	URSHAY, ALBERTINE				JK: MOTHER OF MRS. LORETTA MORRISON & MRS. ETHEL MOORE
179	WASHINGTON, NICK				JK: SISTER OF EARL MORRISON; DTR OF LORETTA MORRISON
160	WATKINS, MARY "TOO SWEET"				JK: "PILOT" IS HER MAIDEN NAME.
185	WATSON, BOBBY				JK: GRANDSON OF ALCINE WINSTON
42	WATSON, VERDIE LEE		08 DEC 1946	04 JUN 1991	MOTHER. FP: PARENTS-BEATRICE MORRISON & JERRY WILLIAMS
161	WELBERT, SAM				JK: HUSBAND OF WILLIE WELBERT
163	WELBERT, SAMMIE JAMES				JK: SON OF SAM WELBERT; GRANDSON OF JACK HARRIS
162	WELBERT, WILLIE (HARRIS)				JK: WIFE OF SAM WELBERT; DTR OF MALISSA & JACK HARRIS
164	WILLIAMS, ALMA (LANE)				JK: SISTER OF PINK LANE AND ARLISS BROWN
165	WILLIAMS, HENRY				JK: SON OF ALMA WILLIAMS
83	WILLIAMS, MATTIE		24 JAN 1930	06 OCT 1994	FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. ANNIE MAE (TUCKER) AND SIMMIE JOHNSTON
167	WILLIAMS, ROY				JK: SON OF HENRY WILLIAMS
134	WILSON, MAGNOLIA				JK: SP BERNARD BUTLER; DTR/O MRS. JULIE (LANE) WILSON JONES
10	WINSTON, ALCINE	MRS.	12 AUG 1917	28 MAY 1987	FHM. BEST GUESS MADE OF YOD.
184	WINSTON, JOHNNIE				JK: HUSBAND OF ALCINE WINSTON



VERDIE LEE WATSON

OBITUARY—VERDIE LEE WATSON was born December 8, 1946, in Mer Rouge, LA, to Beatrice Morrison and Jerry Williams. In June 1967, she moved to Gary Indiana, where she was a faithful member of New Mt. Olive Baptist Church until her death on June 4, 1991. For fourteen years, she was employed by the Gary Community School Corporation. She was an Assistant Building Representative and a member of the Executive Board.

Left to cherish her memory: her loving husband, Eugene Watson; mother, Beatrice (George) Rucker of Mer Rouge, LA; father, Jerry (Lillie) Williams of Detroit, MI; one son; three daughters, five brothers: George Rucker, Jr., Arthur (Emma) Rucker, Jerry Williams, Jr., of Mer Rouge, LA; Jimme (Lillian) Rucker, Henry Rucker of Gary, IN; four sisters: Pauline Greeley and Margrette Rucker of Mer Rouge, LA; Mary (Eddie) Randolph, Queenie Rucker of Gary, IN; father-in law, Hobart Watson of Gary, IN; other relatives and friends.

ID 42

Historic Shreveport



13

Old Shreve Memorial Library 400 Edwards. 1923.

Shreveport lagged in securing a library.

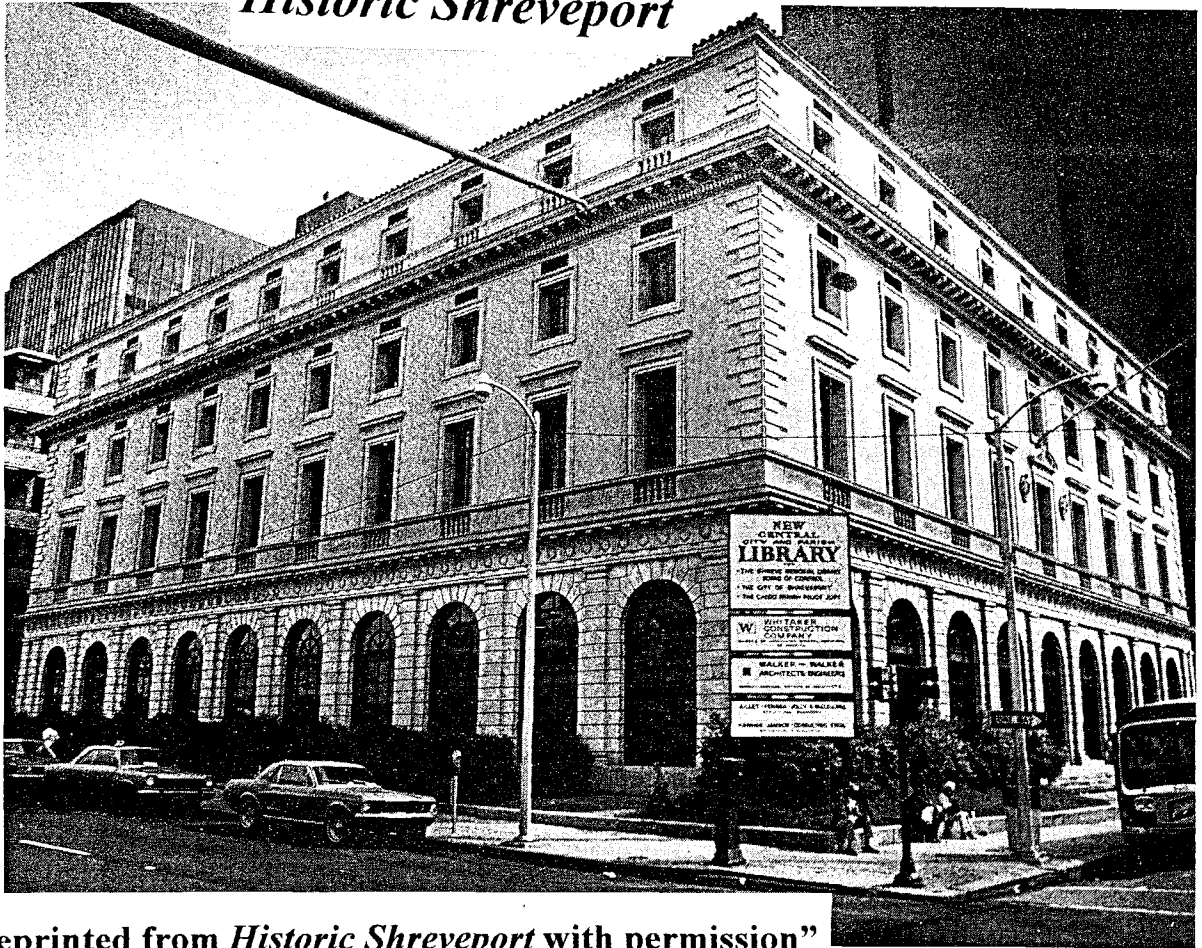
In 1903, interested citizens attempted to establish a Carnegie Library, but their project was rejected at the polls. It was not until after World War I that a successful drive was mounted to secure a public library. Mayor John McWilliams Ford devised the plan, and an appointed committee promoted passage of a bond issue that contained a \$265,000 library appropriation.

Architect for the library building was J. P. Annan, who modeled his Renaissance Revival structure after a luxurious Italian villa. Among the first books collected were 7,188 volumes from the small "People's Library," which a group of local women operated in the courthouse.

After a half century of service, the building has been retired as a library. New public uses are contemplated.

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Historic Shreveport

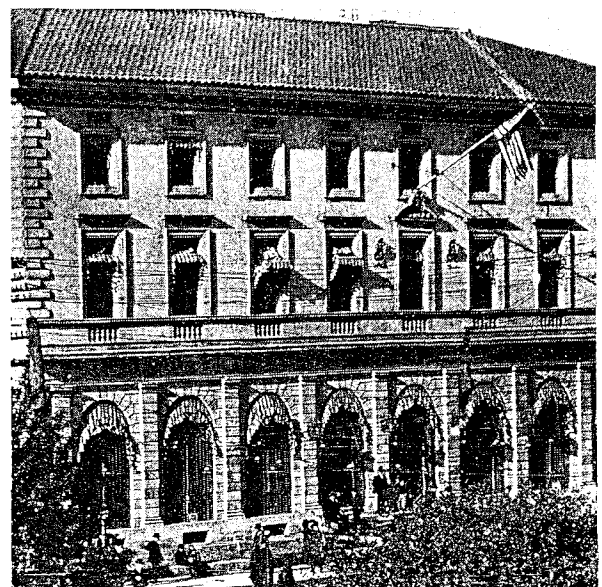


“®reprinted from *Historic Shreveport* with permission”

Old Federal Building Texas and Marshall. 1912.

In 1974, Historic Preservation of Shreveport described this building, then recently vacated, as “an outstanding example of early 20th century federal government architecture.” Its style is Renaissance Revival. There is a granite base and a rusticated limestone first floor, which is divided into bays by Doric pilasters. A balustrade with turned baluster inserts is above the Doric cornice. Another cornice surmounts the window frames.

James K. Taylor was the supervising architect for the U.S. Treasury Department when the building was completed in 1912. In 1931, additions were made to the



building. Recent remodeling has turned the structure into the new home of the Shreve Memorial Library.

The building is listed in the *National Register of Historic Places*.

14

EXCHANGE PERIODICAL REVIEW

Compiled by Constance Whatley

Many of the periodicals we receive, in exchange for "The Genie" provides up-to-date ideas on how to solve your research challenges. Always search the periodical published in your geographical interest area, but don't overlook other periodicals that may include articles of general interest to the researcher or about families that have migrated. These periodicals are located at the Broadmoor Branch Library, Shreveport, Genealogy Section.

Cherish, Volume 15, Number 2, Summer 2007, pages 43-64, published by the St. Clair Historical Society, Odenville, Alabama lists the 1880 census of St. Clair County. Pages 60-64 contain the 1830 slave census for St. Clair County.

The Longhunter, Volume XXX, Issue 2, Spring, 2007, published by the Southern Kentucky Genealogical Society, Bowling Green, on pages 67-74 is an article entitled Logan County, Kentucky Emancipations, 1792-1865 by Judy Lyne of Olmstead, Kentucky. Ms. Lyne has included a listing of the Order and Deed Book, Logan County, Kentucky Emancipations which lists both slave and owner.

The Vernon Genealogist, Volume XIV, No. 1, 2007, published by the Vernon Historical and Genealogical Society, Leesville, La., pages 6-37, contain an article on the History of Burr's Ferry, beginning in 1809 and ending as a research project by a student at Louisiana Tech in 1968-1969. This is the first of many articles by this organization highlighting regions in Vernon Parish.

St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly, Volume 40, No. 2, Summer, 2007, pages 47-62 has an article that may be of interest to person(s) of German ancestry. It is the second part of a two part article giving the names of the St. Louis Badischer Unterstuetzungs Verein, a benevolent society founded in 1885.

Heart of Texas Records, Volume 50, No. 2, Summer, 2007, published by the Central Texas Genealogical Society, 1717 Austin Avenue, Waco, Texas 76701, page 25 lists German/European Genealogy Research links from Andrea Baker.

Le Raconteur, Volume XXVII, No. 3, September 2007 published by Le Comite des Archives de la Louisiane, pages 147-152 is an article compiled by Judy Riffel entitled "Miscellaneous Coroner's Report 1884-1886". The folder contained reports for Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Bienville, Bossier, Calcasieu and Desoto.

The Louisiana Genealogical Register, Volume LIV, No. 3, September 07, published by the Louisiana Genealogical and History Society, pages 241-270 contain a listing of the 1805 New Orleans City Directory which gives names and addresses.

Bulletin of Old Tyron County, North Carolina, Volume XXXV, August 2007, No. 3, published by the Genealogical Society of Old Tyron County, pages 120-131, gives part 3 of the 1917 Rutherford County Tax List, High Shoals Township. The first part appeared in the 2003 August bulletin, the second part is in the May 2007 issue.

Family Findings, Volume XXXIX, No. 3, 2007, published by the Mid-West Tennessee Genealogical Society, on page 146 is an article of interest to each of us. The article is entitled: Beware of Identify Fraud through genealogical research.

**The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association's
Board of Directors**

Hope

You were able to

Add several new names

To your genealogy in the

Past year and

Wish

You much success in

Breaking through your brick

Walls in the coming year.

No butts about it!



It's Time to Renew
Your 2007 Membership !

(Use the application provided in this Genie)

Social Security begins November 24, 1936

By Herman L. Weiland

I found this 1936 "first edition" document explaining the new Social Security account system in my fathers possessions and thought it would be of interest to you, especially the examples of current earnings and benefits that will be earned.

SECURITY IN YOUR OLD AGE

SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD
Washington, D. C.

I. S. C. 9

To Employees of Industrial and Business Establishments

**FACTORIES • SHOPS • MINES • MILLS • STORES
OFFICES AND OTHER PLACES OF BUSINESS**

Beginning November 24, 1936, the United States Government will set up a Social Security account for you, if you are eligible. To understand your obligations, rights, and benefits you should read the following general explanation.

THERE is now a law in this country which will give about 26 million working people something to live on when they are old and have stopped working. This law, which gives other benefits, too, was passed last year by Congress and is called the Social Security Act.

Under this law the United States Government will send checks every month to retired workers, both men and women, after they have passed their 65th birthday and have met a few simple requirements of the law.

WHAT THIS MEANS TO YOU

THIS means that if you work in some factory, shop, mine, mill, store, office, or almost any other kind of business or industry, you will be earning benefits that will come to you later on. From the time you are 65 years old, or more, and stop working, you will get a Government check every month of your life, if you have

worked some time (one day or more) in each of any 5 years after 1936, and have earned during that time a total of \$2,000 or more.

The checks will come to you as a right. You will get them regardless of the amount of property or income you may have. They are what the law calls "Old-Age Benefits" under the Social Security Act. If you prefer to keep on working after you are 65, the monthly checks from the Government will begin coming to you whenever you decide to retire.

The Amount of Your Checks

How much you will get when you are 65 years old will depend entirely on how much you earn in wages from your industrial or business employment between January 1, 1937, and your 65th birthday. A man or woman who gets good wages and has a steady job most of his or her life can get as much as \$85 a month for life after age 65. The least you can get in monthly benefits, if you come under the law at all, is \$10 a month.

IF YOU ARE NOW YOUNG

Suppose you are making \$25 a week and are young enough now to go on working for 40 years. If you make an average of \$25 a week for 52 weeks in each year, your check when you are 65 years old will be \$53 a month for the rest of your life. If you make \$50 a week, you will get \$74.50 a month for the rest of your life after age 65.

IF YOU ARE NOW MIDDLE-AGED

But suppose you are about 55 years old now and have 10 years to work before you are 65. Suppose you make only \$15 a week on the average. When you stop work at age 65 you will get a check for \$19 each month for the rest of your life. If you make \$25 a week for 10 years, you will get a little over \$23 a month from the Government as long as you live after your 65th birthday.

IF YOU SHOULD DIE BEFORE AGE 65

If you should die before you begin to get your monthly checks, your family will get a payment in cash, amounting to 3½ cents on every dollar of wages you have earned after 1936. If, for example, you should die at age 64, and if you had earned \$25 a week for 10 years before that time, your family would receive \$455. On the other hand, if you have not worked enough to get the regular monthly checks by the time you are 65, you will get a lump sum,

or if you should die your family or estate would get a lump sum. The amount of this, too, will be 3½ cents on every dollar of wages you earn after 1936.

TAXES

THE same law that provides these old-age benefits for you and other workers, sets up certain new taxes to be paid to the United States Government. These taxes are collected by the Bureau of Internal Revenue of the U. S. Treasury Department, and inquiries concerning them should be addressed to that bureau. The law also creates an "Old-Age Reserve Account" in the United States Treasury, and Congress is authorized to put into this reserve account each year enough money to provide for the monthly payments you and other workers are to receive when you are 65.

YOUR PART OF THE TAX

The taxes called for in this law will be paid both by your employer and by you. For the next 3 years you will pay maybe 15 cents a week, maybe 25 cents a week, maybe 30 cents or more, according to what you earn. That is to say, during the next 3 years, beginning January 1, 1937, you will pay 1 cent for every dollar you earn, and at the same time your employer will pay 1 cent for every dollar you earn, up to \$3,000 a year. Twenty-six million other workers and their employers will be paying at the same time.

After the first 3 years—that is to say, beginning in 1940—you will pay, and your employer will pay, 1½ cents for each dollar you earn, up to \$3,000 a year. This will be the tax for 3 years, and then, beginning in 1943, you will pay 2 cents, and so will your employer, for every dollar you earn for the next 3 years. After that, you and your employer will each pay half a cent more for 3 years, and finally, beginning in 1949, twelve years from now, you and your employer will each pay 3 cents on each dollar you earn, up to \$3,000 a year. That is the most you will ever pay.

YOUR EMPLOYER'S PART OF THE TAX

The Government will collect both of these taxes from your employer. Your part of the tax will be taken out of your pay. The Government will collect from your employer an equal amount out of his own funds.

This will go on just the same if you go to work for another employer, so long as you work in a factory, shop, mine, mill, office, store, or other such place of business. (Wages earned in employment as farm workers, domestic workers in private homes, Government workers, and on a few other kinds of jobs are not subject to this tax.)

OLD-AGE RESERVE ACCOUNT

Meanwhile, the Old-Age Reserve fund in the United States Treasury is drawing interest, and the Government guarantees it will never earn less than 3 percent. This means that 3 cents will be added to every dollar in the fund each year.

Maybe your employer has an old-age pension plan for his employees. If so, the Government's old-age benefit plan will not have to interfere with that. The employer can fit his plan into the Government plan.

What you get from the Government plan will always be more than you have paid in taxes and usually more than you can get for yourself by putting away the same amount of money each week in some other way.

Note.—“Wages” and “employment” wherever used in the foregoing mean wages and employment as defined in the Social Security Act.

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

If you want more information, write to the *Social Security Board, Washington, D. C.*, or get in touch with one of the following offices:

REGION I—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut:

Social Security Board
120 Boylston Street
Boston, Mass.

REGION II—New York:

Social Security Board
45 Broadway
New York, N. Y.

REGION III—New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware:

Social Security Board
Widener Building
Juniper and Chestnut Streets
Philadelphia, Pa.

REGION IV—Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, and District of Columbia:

Social Security Board
National Theatre Building
Washington, D. C.

REGION V—Kentucky, Ohio, and Michigan:

Social Security Board
Bulkley Building
1501 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio

REGION VI—Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin:

Social Security Board
211 West Wacker Drive
Chicago, Ill.

REGION VII—Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina:

Social Security Board
1829 First Avenue North
Birmingham, Ala.

REGION VIII—Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska:

Social Security Board
New Post Office Building
Minneapolis, Minn.

REGION IX—Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma:

Social Security Board
Dierks Building
1006 Grand Avenue
Kansas City, Mo.

REGION X—Louisiana, Texas, and New Mexico:

Social Security Board
Smith-Young Tower Building
San Antonio, Tex.

REGION XI—Montana, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and Wyoming:

Social Security Board
Patterson Building
1706 Welton Street
Denver, Colo.

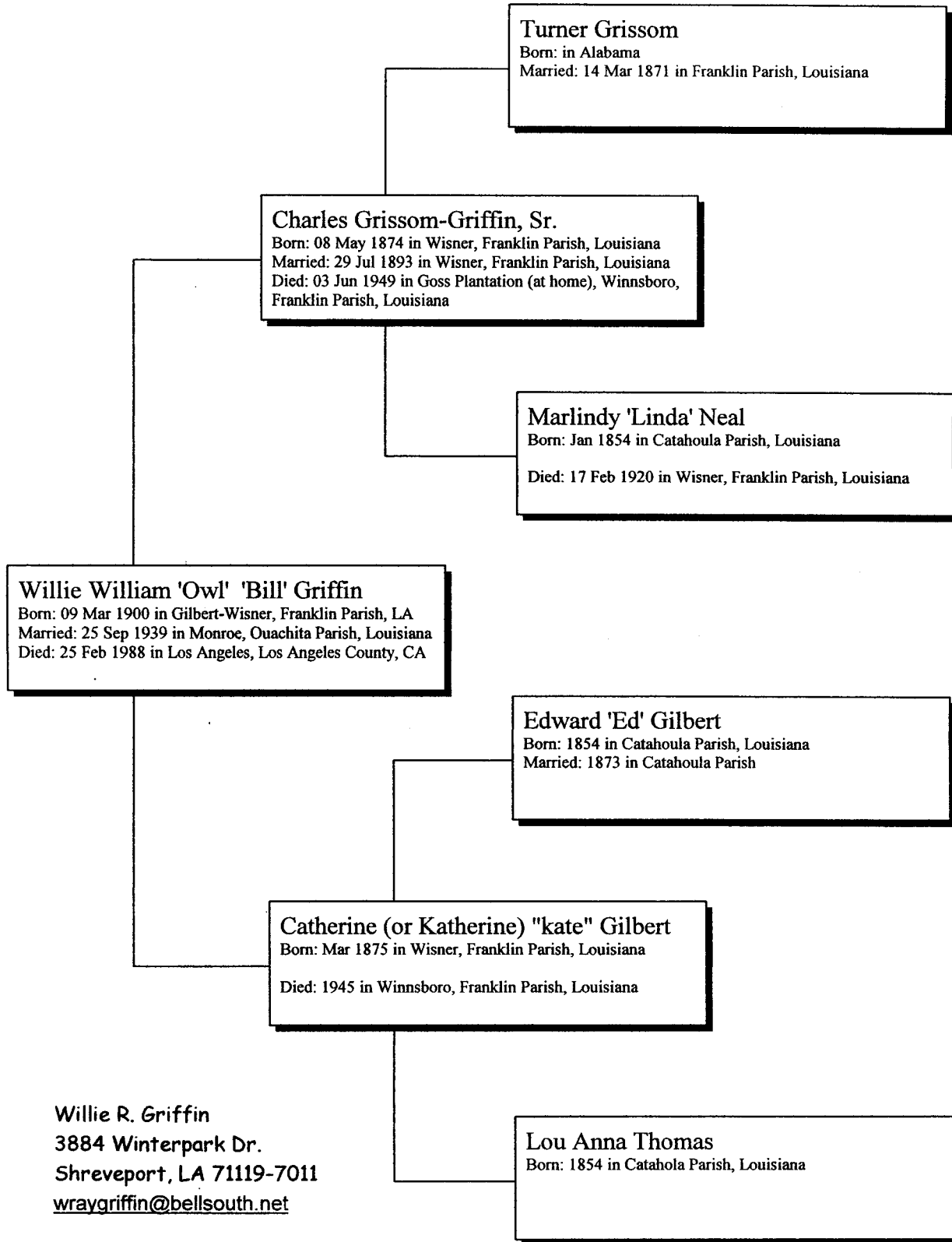
REGION XII—California, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada:

Social Security Board
Humboldt Bank Building
785 Market Street
San Francisco, Calif.

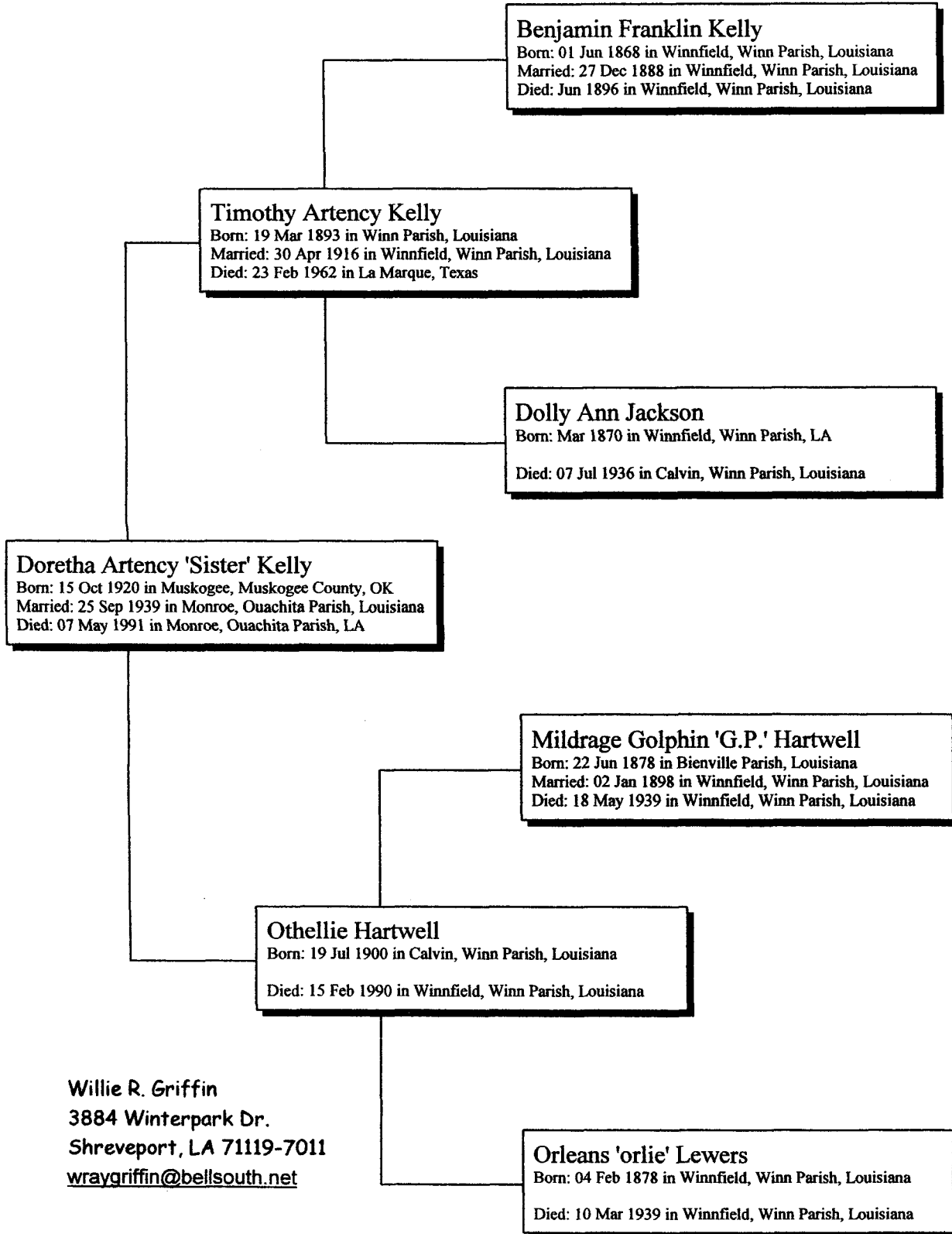
INFORMATIONAL SERVICE CIRCULAR No. 9

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Ancestors of Willie William 'Owl' 'Bill' Griffin



Ancestors of Doretha Artency 'Sister' Kelly



THE POST OFFICES OF OUR PARISH [BOSSIER PARISH, 1908]

["The Bossier Banner" Bossier Parish, LA, Thursday, December 24, 1908, Number 44, p.4, col. 4. Microfilm: 2006.022.015, Bossier Parish Library Historical Center]

There are in Bossier Parish at present [December 24, 1908] thirty-four post offices, seventeen of which are located on the several railroads operating through the parish and seventeen are inland offices; on star routes. Those post offices located on the railroad are as follows: Alden Bridge; Antrim; Arkana; Atkins; Benton; Bodcau; Bolinger; Bossier; Curtis; Elm Grove; Haughton; Hughes' Spur.; McDade; Ninock; Plain Dealing; Poole; Taylortown.

The seventeen inland offices, their distributing points and the days on which they receive mail are shown below:

Allentown (via Haughton) twelve times a week
Barnett (via Plain Dealing) daily, except Sunday
Bellevue (via Haughton) daily, except Sunday
Bluffs (via Haughton) daily, except Sunday
Buckhouse (via Plain Dealing and Carterville) Tuesday and Friday
Burgess (via Bolinger) Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Carterville (via Plain Dealing) daily, except Sunday
Collinsburg (via Plain Dealing) daily, except Sunday
Emma (via Sarepta) daily, except Sunday
Ivan (via Hughes' Spur) daily, except Sunday
Koran (via Haughton) daily, except Sunday
Linton (via Benton) Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Midway (via Benton) Friday, Monday and Wednesday
Red Land (via Plain Dealing) daily, except Sunday
Rocky Mount (via Hughes' Spur) daily, except Sunday
Sligo (via Haughton) daily, except Sunday
Tyler (via Plain Dealing) Tuesday and Friday

Vanceville and Mot were recently discontinued as post offices as those communities now enjoy rural free delivery.

There are three rural free delivery routes in the parish at present; two out of Benton and one out of Plain Dealing; with good prospects for others to be established soon.



Fort DeRussy

Submitted by Willie R. Griffin

[An account of **Fort DeRussy** from: "The Bossier Banner"; Benton, Bossier Parish, LA, Thursday, March 18, 1909, Number 4, Page 2, Column 1 & 2. Microfilm: 2006.022.015, Bossier Parish Library History Center, Bossier City, LA]

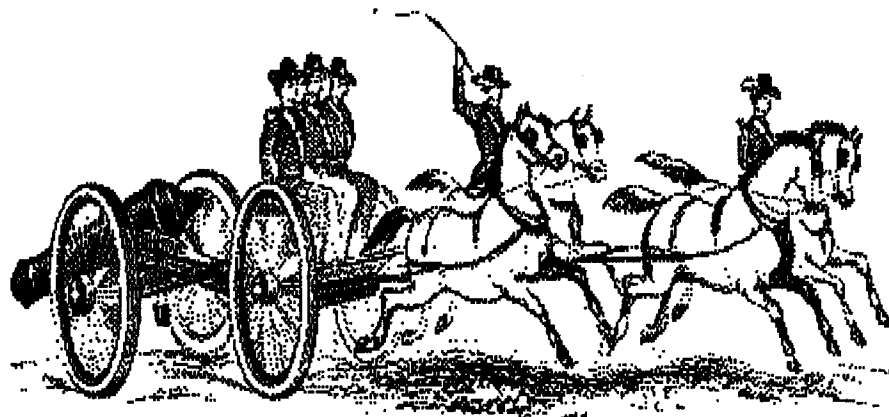
Fort De Russy, a Confederate fort on the right bank of Red River, equal-distant from the mouth of the river and Alexandria, was captured by Federal troops, in Banks' advance on Shreveport, March 14, 1864; forty-five years ago last Sunday [March 14, 1909]. The fort was occupied by a garrison of 350 men, and was attacked by two brigades of Federal troops, about 5,000 muskets. Federal General A. J. Smith boastingly asserted in his official report that "At about 6:30 p.m. the order to charge was given, and the First and Second Brigades advanced under a scattering fire from the enemy, whose infantry were kept down by my skirmishers and scales the parapet within twenty minutes from the time the order to charge was given. The enemy then surrendered. Our loss was three killed and thirty-five wounded." The Federal brigades against 350 Confederate! "It was, indeed a famous victory!" No wonder Gen. A. J. Smith felt immensely proud of his marvelous achievement! But "somebody blunder" on the Confederate side, in leaving this fort containing ten pieces of artillery and a large quantity of ordnance and ordnance stores, defended by only 350 men in the path of an invading army to twenty-five or thirty thousand Federals with relief.

In his official report Major General J. G. Walker, a Confederate Division commander, said; "In accounting for the disaster at Fort DeRussy it is unnecessary to look for other causes than the overwhelming superiority of the enemy's force; but even with this disadvantage Fort DeRussy might have been held for some days, perhaps, without relief from the outside, but for the vicious system of engineering adopted and the wretched judgment displayed in the selection of the position."

One of the fine guns lost at Fort DeRussy was captured from a Federal blockade at Galveston, the Harriet Lane, by Major General John B. Magruder.

[**Fort DeRussy, an earthen fort built to defend the Red River from naval intrusions during the Civil War, is located in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana, about three miles north of the town of Marksville. It was named after Colonel Lewis G. DeRussy of Natchitoches, the oldest West Point graduate to serve in the Confederate Army and a veteran of the War of 1812 and the**

Mexican War. DeRussy, a prominent engineer in civilian life, was engineering officer in charge of the construction of the first fortifications at that site. Construction of the fort began in November of 1862. Additional information: <http://www.fortderussy.org/index.htm>]



WOODMEN OF THE WORLD MEETING

At a meeting of the local camp [in Plain Dealing] of the Woodmen of the World, held last Saturday night [December 19, 1908], the following named officers were elected:

Emmett Wyche, Council Commander
Jack Safferstone, Advisory Lieutenant
Guilford Wright, Banker
W. C. Banks, Clerk
W. S. Bradberry, Escort
J. T. Dudney, Sentry
W. B. Boggs, Manager

"The Bossier Banner"; Benton, Bossier Parish, LA, Thursday, December 24, 1908, Number 44, Page 4, Column 4."

Genealogy Web Sites

*Presented by Ray Kidd in the 2007 Beginners Class
Taken From*

Simply the Best *by David A. Fryxell*

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/101sites/2003/>

[Key: HF = Hall of Fame and \$ = Paid Content]

Access Genealogy **HF**

www.accessgenealogy.com

It's not just a useful online starting place, with genealogy - related news plus lots of links, but also a source for data. Researchers with Native American roots especially will want to explore the collection here, which includes the 1880 Cherokee census & the Final Rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes. Other resources cover military records, cemeteries, biographies, census records, immigration, African-American ancestry, vital records & more.

Cyndi's List **HF**

www.cyndislist.com

Cyndi Howell's exhaustive catalog of links--more than 180,000, painstakingly sorted into 150-plus categories - continues to set the standard. It's no wonder her site has had more than 32 million visits since 1996. A search box now makes this mammoth site easier & faster to use.

Genealogy Resources on the Internet **HF**

www.rootsweb.com/~jfuller/internet.html

The Web isn't the only way to research your family tree online; don't forget mailing lists, newsgroups, telnet & Gopher, technologies that predated today's ubiquitous WWW. This in-depth list, compiled & still continuously updated by Chris Gaunt & John Fuller, covers all those other ways to plug into your roots, as well as Web sites.

Genealogy Today **HF**

www.genealogytoday.com

A useful stop wherever you are in your genealogical journey: Resources & how-to information are categorized for those just getting started, those who've been researching for several years & are mostly interested in recent generations, those who've already traced their families back multiple generations, & advanced genealogists (including professionals, librarians & educators.)

GeneaNet **HF \$**

www.geneanet.org

Begun as a volunteer effort back in 1996, GeneaNet has a French accent & a more global perspective than most US portals. You can search databases with more than 70 million

entries or scour the whole Web with the associated GeneaSeek search engine <www.geneaseek.org>. Special sections include databases of family photos & postcards from around the world. "Privileged" members (beginning at about \$40 a year) get extra perks, but this site is available even for occasional visitors.

MEGA SITES

Ancestry.com **HF \$**

www.ancestry.com

This giant commercial site can meet almost every online genealogical need, from census images (\$99.95 a year) to old newspaper pages (\$79.95 a year) to family tree software (free). You'll pay for the best stuff here--\$189.95 a year for the works--but Ancestry.com probably comes the closest to delivering on the dream of doing real research from your desktop. The basic US Records Collection (79.95 a year) includes more than 3,000 sources of digital data; British Isles researchers will also want the UK & Ireland Records Collection (\$99.95 a year). Even if you've maxed out your credit cards, Ancestry.com still offers enough freebies to be worth a bookmark, such as its message boards & pedigree files (both merged with RootsWeb's).

FamilySearch **HF**

www.familysearch.org

Among the richest free genealogy sites, this online offshoot of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints would be a must-visit if only for the Family History Library catalog, guide to worldwide Family History Centers, vast library of research guides & free Personal Ancestral File software. But it's also home to the International Genealogical Index of vital records, Ancestral File & Pedigree Resource File databases of user-submitted family trees, the US Social Security Death Index of 64 million records, & special vital records indexes for Scandinavia & Mexico. And now it's added census records: the 1880 US census, 1881 Canadian census & 1881 British census.

Genealogy.com **HF \$**

www.genealogy.com

Begun as a home for Family Tree Maker software users, this site has blossomed into a valuable site for all researchers. You'll find a wealth of how-to-information, celebrity family trees & user Web pages, plus GenForum <www.genforum.genealogy.com>, still arguably the biggest & best message board system for connecting with others delving into our surname or ancestral stomping grounds. For a fee, Genealogy.com also turns into your gateway to World Family Tree pedigree files (\$49.99 a year), the Genealogy Library of digitized books (\$49.99 a year, includes 1850 census images), the Family & Local Histories collection (\$79.99 a year), International & Passenger Records (\$79.99 a year) & the US Census Collection (\$99.99 a year).

RootsWeb **HF**

www.rootsweb.com

This ever-growing volunteer effort has survived an acquisition & partial merger with the for-profit Ancestry.com & remains a favorite for free online genealogy. Use the multiple search engines to probe RootsWeb's sprawling collections of user-submitted records (notably death records, obituaries, military records & cemeteries). Don't miss the guides to getting started in genealogy & to mailing lists on everything from surnames to the most obscure ethnic & geographic subtopics. Message boards & pedigree files match the data on Ancestry.com's versions, but many users prefer the RootsWeb interface.

USGenWeb **HF**

www.usgenweb.com

The idea sounds crazy, but the volunteers at USGenWeb have pulled it off: Build a county-by-county network of links, user-transcribed data & queries for the US. Within the 50 state pages you'll find pages for individual counties; you can search the archives by state or all at once. Special projects include census transcriptions & tombstones.

NETWORKING

Book We Own

www.rootsweb.com/~bwo

Somebody somewhere has that genealogy book with the fact you need to get past your brick wall, if only you had some way to find her & ask her to look it up for you! There is--the Books We Own site, where (to the horror of genealogy book publishers) generous researchers all over put their libraries at your fingertips. A wonderful service--but don't abuse it; if you need more than a lone lookup or two, buy the book.

CousinConnect

www.cousinconnect.com

Boasting more than 24,000 queries from around the world, this is among the best stand-alone sites for hooking up with other genealogists & distant cousins researching your family.

GenCircles **HF**

www.gencircles.com

Cliff Shaw created GenCircles to do existing pedigree databases & message boards one better. Not only does his Global Tree contain more than 45 million user-submitted ancestors; you can use Shaw's matching technology to connect your kin with those in the database. Besides GenCircles' own forums, the Genealogy Message Searcher also hunts for results in the Ancestry-RootsWeb boards.

Gendex **HF**

www.gendex.com

It isn't fancy looking, but Gene Stark's stalwart server indexes thousands of Web databases covering 40 million user-submitted genealogies on nearly 40 million ancestors. Find one that might be yours & you can check it out without having to visit the separate database.

Genealogy Helplist

www.helplist.org

Another site that show how genealogists can indeed depend on the kindness of strangers, the Genealogy Helplist connects you with far-flung researchers willing to look up your ancestors in their local libraries, archives & courthouses.

Heirlooms Lost **HF**

www.heirloomslost.com

Find your waylaid family heirlooms with this site that helps connect orphaned stuff with the families that once owned it. The database contains more than 1,600 items & covers 4,400 plus surnames.

MyTrees.com **S**

www.mytrees.com

The free Ancestry Archive Index searches 200 million names. A subscription to the Kindred Konnections service (\$100 a year) gives you complete access to the archive, plus various records resources. Too steep a price tag? Upload your own family file or spend a few minutes helping with an indexing project & you can earn free access time.

Past Connect

www.pastconnect.com

Another site that unites people with the lost pieces of there past, Past Connect contains rescued items. Visitors to the site can discover treasures sold at auctions, estate sales, flea markets, yard sales & the like, such as letters, diplomas, marriage certificates, photographs, birth certificates, receipts, postcards & funeral cards.

LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

Allen County Public Library

www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy

Search the catalog of the world's second-largest genealogy library (after only the Family History Library in Salt Lake City), in Fort Wayne, Ind., or consult the guides to getting started. (Note, that although this is the home of PERSI, the *Periodical Source Index* to genealogy journals, you can't search it here; PERSI is, however, part of Ancestry's US Records Collection.)

LibDex

www.libdex.com

Looking for a library? You'll find it in this easy-to-use index to 18,000 libraries worldwide, library home pages, Web-based library catalogs, Friends of the Library pages & library e-commerce affiliates.

Library of Congress **HF**

www.loc.gov

The "nation's library" can indeed be that for genealogists who know how to mine it. Besides the Library of Congress' online catalog to pretty much everything ever printed, this site is home to the American Memory project <www.memory.loc.gov>. Here, you can find images ranging from a map of your ancestor's hometown to a photo of the railroad he worked on, & the *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections*, NUCMC (say "nuck-muck") for short <www.lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html>, the first stop for finding family mentions in old documents. (Only post-1986 catalogs are covered in the online NUCMC.)

Making of America

www.hti.umich.edu/m/moagrp/

Making of America America (MOA) is a digital library of primary sources in America social history from the antebellum period through reconstruction. The collection is particularly strong in the subject areas of education, psychology, American history, sociology, religion, & science & technology. The collection currently contains approximately 8,500 books & 50,000 journal articles with 19th century imprints.

National Archives & Records Administration (NARA) **HF**

www.archives.gov

The new site of the "nation's attic" still contains helpful guides to genealogy & to obtaining immigration, military & other records from NARA. But now it also hosts the Archival Research Catalog (ARC), which so far covers about 20 percent of the archives' holdings nationwide. ARC includes 124,000 digitized photos, maps & documents.

RECORDS RESOURCES

Bible Records Online

www.biblerecords.com

Frustrated family history researchers, this site may be the answer to your prayers: Tracy St. Claire not only rescues family Bibles--she puts them online. At last count, this site was home to 865 Bibles representing 2772 different surnames. You can search the collection or browse by Bible or by surname.

Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records **HF**

www.glorerecords.blm.gov

Answers to your ancestral puzzles may lurk in land records--this is the site to start unlocking them. You can search more than 2 million federal land-title records for Eastern public-land states (generally, Eastern states excluding the original 13 colonies) issued between 1820 & 1908. Land titles issued between 1908 & the mid-1960's, including those in Western States, are now being added. If you get a hit, you may be able to view a digitized image of your ancestor's land patent.

Census Online

www.census-online.com

This most complete & easiest-to-use guide to online census pages contains more than 36,000 links. Before you buy a census subscription, check here for free transcriptions.

eHistory

www.ehistory.com

Easily overlooked because it's not strictly a genealogy site, eHistory serves up more than 130,000 pages of historical content, 5,300 timeline events, 800 battle outlines, 350 biographies & thousands of images & maps. A favorite resource here for Civil War buffs is, incredibly, the searchable 128 volumes of *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union & Confederate Armies*. The "OR," as this mammoth work is affectionately known, is the authoritative reference to army operations during the Civil War.

Find A Grave

www.findagrave.com

Among the best & biggest cemetery sites, Find A Grave lets you search 4.1 million grave records or look for specific cemeteries. You can also create virtual memorials & even add "virtual flowers" & a note to an ancestor's grave.

Interment.net HF

www.interment.net

Our other favorite cemetery site puts online more than 3.2 million records from nearly 7,000 cemeteries worldwide. Browse transcriptions by region & check out special collections of veteran's cemeteries.

Newspaper Abstracts HF

www.newspaperabstracts.com

Think of this as the USGenWeb for newspaper abstracts & extracts. Organized by state & county & depending on the flying fingers of volunteers, this site focuses on US newspapers prior to 1923. You'll also find some articles from other countries prior to 1900. The pages here now number more than 10,500.

Obituary Central

www.obitcentral.com

Death is a lively topic here, with thousands of links to online obituaries; cemetery inscriptions; birth, marriage & death notices; & divorce records arranged by state & county, plus a collection of search engines that cover only obituaries.

The Olden Times

www.theoldentimes.com

Unlike Newspaper Abstracts (see above), this is a one-man show--but it's an impressive site nonetheless. You'll find obituaries, birth & marriage announcements, ads & cartoons, all scanned from the Webmaster's collection of 18th-, 19th- & early 20th-century newspapers from the US, British Isles & Australia.

Where to Write for Vital Records **HF**

www.dcd.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/w2welcom.htm

This must-bookmark site gives instructions on obtaining copies of your ancestors' vital records: addresses, phone numbers, Web sites, costs. If the records aren't stored at the state level, it tells where to find them ("Contact Clerk of Circuit Court in county where divorce was granted," for example).

REGIONAL & STATE SOURCES

Genealogical Death Indexing System

www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/gendisx/search2.htm

If you have Michigan ancestors who died in the later years of the 19th century, this on-going volunteer project might have the answers you're after about their demise. To date, deaths from 1867 to 1897 have been indexed on this easy-to-use, searchable site.

Illinois State Archives

www.ilsos.net/departments/archives/databases.html

Envy genealogists with Illinois ancestors: This soup-to-nuts site is packed with essential databases, including a statewide death index (1916 - 1950) & marriage index (1763 - to 1900), public-domain land sales, servitude & emancipation records, & almost a dozen compilations of Illinois veterans dating to the War of 1812. You can also search for local government records held by the Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) system around the state, then write for copies of what you find.

Library of Virginia

www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/gene

This is one of the best collections of online data from any state, happily covering a place so important to early America: 2.2 million original documents, photos & maps in more than 80 databases. Unhappily, state budget cuts have curtailed the library's pioneering Digital Library program, but you can still enjoy what was posted before the ax fell-- everything from wills to scanned pages of family bibles.

Maryland State Archives

www.mdarchives.state.md.us

You'll have to click a bit to find the goodies here, but it's worth the efforts. You can search marriage records abstracted from materials at the archives, for instance, or explore the Maryland Church Records, Deaths & Burials Index, covering 1669 - 1967, tucked away at <www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/stagser/s1400/s1402/html/ssi1402.html>.

Minnesota Historical Society

www.mnhs.org

This handsome site for the history of the Land of 10,000 Lakes includes two databases of particular interest to genealogists: At <www.people.mnhs.org/dci/search.cfm>, you can search an index of the state's death certificates covering 1908 - 1996, & at

<www.collections.mnhs.org/visualresources>, you can search more than 178,000 images from the state's past, from old buildings to --who knows?--your ancestors.

Missouri State Archives

www.sos.state.mo.us/archives/resources/resources.asp

No doubt that this site for the "Show Me" State is packed with genealogical goodies.

Don't miss the guide to records held at the county level. Then do some online research in the Missouri Birth & Death Records Database

<www.sos.state.mo.us/archives/resources/birthdeath>, with 185,000 pre-1909 records from 87 counties, & the WW I Military Service Cards Database

<www.sos.state.mo.us/archives/ww1>, which has abstracts of 145,000 service cards for the US Army & Marines, plus digitized images of 18,5000 US Navy service cards.

NewEnglandAncestors **HF \$**

www.newenglandancestors.org

Sign up for a \$60 individual New England Historic Genealogical Society membership to get complete access to how-to articles, research columns, queries, discussion groups & databases, including *The Register*, with nearly a million documented references for New England Families. Members can also browse an online book catalog of more than 200,000 volumes on New England, New York & other regions.

Ohio Historical Society

www.ohiohistory.org/ar_tools.html

If you have Buckeyes on your family tree, click straight to the society's

Archives/Research Tools section, which includes an Ohio death certificate index (1913 - 1937), searchable rosters from the War of 1812 & a collection of Civil War documents--more than 12,000 letters sent to the governor & adjutant general from 1861 to 1866.

You'll also find a gallery of Ohio photos.

Oregon State Archives

www.arcweb.sos.state.or.us/baners/genealogy.htm

Follow your kin to the end of the Oregon Trail with this collection of online resources.

The Oregon Historical Records Index covers census, vital, probate & naturalization records including searchable Portland birth & death indexes. Guides to county & territorial records will help you take the next step on your ancestral journey. The Oregon Historical County Records Guide features maps, scenic images & county histories.

Pennsylvania State Archives

www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us

The Keystone State has embarked on an extensive digitization project, with a focus on veteran's records; 200,000 documents are already online, with another 300,000 in the works. Currently accessible records include the Revolutionary War Military Abstract Card File, WW I Service Medal Application Cards, Spanish-American War Veterans Card File of US Volunteers & Mexican Border Campaign Veterans Card File. Soon to come is a Civil War Veterans Card File.

Western States Historical Marriage Record Index **HF**
www.abish.byui.edu/specialcollections/fhc/gbsearch.htm

This ambiguous project has already posted some 275,000 marriage records, with more being added almost daily. Coverage includes virtually all pre-1900 marriages for Arizona, Idaho & Nevada. Many Idaho & Utah counties have been extracted into the 1930s. You'll also find records from Wyoming, eastern Washington, eastern Oregon, western Colorado & selected counties in California.

CANADA

Canadian Genealogy & History
www.islandnet.com/~jveinot/cghl/cghl.html

Though not huge--about 2,000 linked listings--this helpful, well-organized site serves as a sort of mini-Cyndi's List for Canadian ancestor research, & makes a fine starting place for your genealogical journey north.

Canadian Genealogy Centre
www.genealogy.gc.ca

This new site serves as a genealogy umbrella for the National Library of Canada <www.nlc-bnc.ca> & the National Archives of Canada <www.archives.ca>. It offers integrated, user-friendly access to services & research tools at both institutions, how-to-guides & discussion areas, plus a name index linked to scanned images of the 1901 Canadian census.

Ganada GenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~canwgw

Based on the USGenWeb Project, this site aims to create a similar online library for Canadian research. Besides links, you'll discover a Canadian history timeline, facts about famous Canadians, trivia & tips for getting started.

Early Canadiana Online **\$**
www.canadiana.org

This digital library puts nearly 1.2 million pages of Canada's printed heritage at your fingertips, from the time of the first European settlers up to the early 20th century. Produced by the nonprofit Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions, the site began in 1997 as a pilot project to digitize 550,000 pages from the institute's microfiche collection; these & selected other pages, including 20,000 pages detailing the history of Hudson's Bay Company, remain available for free. Members (\$50 Canadian per year) can access the complete collection, which continues to grow with the planned addition of 1.25 million pages of colonial, federal & provincial government documents.

ETHNIC SITES

Acadian-Cajun Genealogy & History

www.acadian-cajun.com

This well-designed site will make you wish you had Acadian-Cajun ancestors--or that someone would do likewise for your ethnic group. Its 750-plus pages include queries, history & step-by-step how-to research tips.

AfriGeneas HF

www.afrigeneas.com

A terrific starting place for African-American research, AfriGeneas also stands out for its online data. The clickable collection includes a surname database, slave manifests from the Port of New Orleans (1818 - 1860), deed abstracts from Granville County, NC (1746 - 1864), Georgia slave bills of sale, city directories of blacks in Baltimore (1810 - 1866), the Richmond, VA. city directory of "Free Colored" people from 1852 & much more. You'll also find a mailing list, message boards, a chat room & other networking tools.

Avotaynu

www.avotaynu.com

This leading publisher for Jewish genealogy has posted the Consolidated Jewish Surname Index, a gateway to information about more than 370,000 Jewish surnames that appear in more than 31 different databases totaling 2 million-plus entries.

Cineseroots.com HF S

www.chineseroots.com

Besides the FamilySearch Chinese Language Catalog, this slick site serves up a wide collection of articles on getting started with Chinese research, surnames & resources. Members (fee not set) will soon be able to access premium content.

Christine's Genealogy Website

www.ccharity.com

Here's another good jumping-off point for African-American ancestor research. Packed with links & articles, this site is a comprehensive resource for family historians. Databases here include Records of the Board of Commissioners for the Emancipation of Slaves in the District of Columbia, as well as A Partial Listing of Negroes Lynched in the US Since 1859.

The Freedmen's Bureau Online

www.freedmensbureau.com

Established in 1865, the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands, known as the Freedmen's Bureau, supervised relief & educational efforts for emancipated slaves. This site lets African-American researchers sample the records left by the bureau, such as those relating to "Murders & Outrages" & marriage records from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia & Washington DC.

Hispanic Genealogy

www.home.att.net/~Alsosa

Begin your Hispanic roots quest here with such helpful guides as "The Truth About Hispanic Surnames, Their Origins & How to Research Yours." If you can make the link from the Americas all the way back to Spain, there's also a guide to Spanish heraldry.

Index of Native American Resources on the Internet

www.hanksville.org/Naresources

Not limited to genealogy, this wide-ranging site will educate you about your Native American heritage, including language, art & art galleries, archaeology, museums, music, history & tribal government.

JewishGen **HF**

www.jewishgen.org

Start seeking your Jewish ancestry at this genealogy gathering place--where you can share research & join the JewishGen Discussion Group--& online archive, including the mammoth Family Tree of the Jewish People, with data on 2 million individuals. Other files here include the Family finder of 300,000 surnames & towns, ShtetLinks for 200-plus communities, the ShtetlSeeker town finder & the Jewish Records Indexing-Poland database. Bookmark JewishGen even if you don't have Jewish ancestors: This site is even easier to use now that it hosts Stephen Morse's handy one-step search tool of the Ellis Island passenger-lists database
<www.jewishgen.org/databases/eidb>.

MILITARY RESOURCES

Civil War Rosters by State

www.geocities.com/Area51/Lair/3680/cw/cw.html

Learn more about your ancestor's Civil War service with the links to rosters in this mammoth homegrown site.

Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System **HF**

www.itd.nps.gov/cwss

The Names Index Project is working to put online the names & basic facts from 5.4 million General Index Cards in the Compiled Military Service Records at the National Archives. If you have a Civil War soldier ancestor, & his name is among the 5 million from 30 states & territories that have already been entered, this is the fastest way to check.

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) **HF**

Besides being the home of the long-standing national organization & the place to start applying for membership, this site offers a free lookup service in the DAR's Patriot Index of Revolutionary War soldiers & others who served the cause of liberty. Fill out a simple online request, & you'll get a speedy e-mail answer.

United States Army Military History Institute

www.carlisle-www.army.mil/usamhi

Notable for its photo archive, this institute puts pictures of the military past, including a Civil War Photo Database, at your fingertips.

IMMIGRATION & PASSENGER LISTS

American Plantations & Colonies

www.primenet.com/~langford

Early arrivals to America are listed here, with more than 800 passenger lists & 25,000 Colonial immigrants dating to the first settlers at Jamestown.

Data Banks on Italian Emigrants

www.213.212.128.168/radici/ie/defaultie_e.htm

These databases cover 200,000 Italians who made their way to New York in the decade before Ellis Island opened, from 1880 to 1891, as well as more than a million emigrants from Italy to South America. You have to register (it's free) before you can use the site.

Ellis Island HF

www.ellisland.org

If your ancestor was among the 17 million immigrants who passed through Ellis Island & the Port of New York between 1892 & 1924, you can find his or her passenger listing here. Once you've identified the right record in this vast database, you can view the digitized actual manifests & an image of the ship your ancestor traveled on, then join the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation (\$45 a year) so you can create your own online family scrapbook. Even if you don't have an Ellis Island immigrant in your family tree, check this site to see if you have an ancestor among the 5 million other passengers & crew included in the database.

Hamburg Link to Your Roots S

www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/start.htm

Not for German researchers only, this site covers emigrants via Hamburg, an important port of departure for many European nationalities. Digitized manifests cover only 1890 & 1891 so far, but eventually the site plans to cover 5 million passengers from 1850 to 1934. Basic searches are free, but detailed results cost \$20 for one to three names or \$30 for four to ten.

Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild HF

www.istg.rootsweb.com

Another impressive volunteer effort, this site serves up transcriptions of passenger lists from more than 4,000 ships. If your ancestors didn't come through Ellis Island, start here--& don't miss the search engine buried near the bottom.

TheShipsList

www.theshipslist.com

Besides links to passenger lists, TheShipsList offers a virtual education in 19th-century shipping, from photos of ports & vessels to period narratives. How much was an Trans-Atlantic ticket when you immigrant ancestor sailed? You can find the answer here.

UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND

1901 Census Online

www.census.pro.gov.uk

There's no charge to search through this transcription of the 1901 British census from the UK Public Record Office, enumerating 32 million Brits, but you'll have to pay about 75 cents to see full details & about \$1.15 to view the actual census page. The minimum charge is about \$7.75 per session, which is limited to two hours of continuous use.

Ancestor SuperSearch

www.ancestorsupersearch.com

Get fast & flexible searching of 1.46 million English birth & census events from 1755 to 1891. The Cousin Contact feature will automatically e-mail you when another researcher conducts a similar search.

Free BMD HF

www.freebmd.rootsweb.com

The Civil Registration system has been recording births, marriages & deaths in England & Wales since 1837; Free BMD (Births, Marriages, Deaths) lets you search the Civil Registration index from its inception to 1902, nearly 50 million unique records. Search by type of record, surname, county, district or date ranges. Visit the site to find out how to contribute to the project.

Genuki HF

www.genuki.org.uk

This "virtual reference library" for British Isles researchers concentrates on primary historical materiel, such as census & church records, as well as links & tips, all organized by country, county & town.

Origins.net \$

This comprehensive network of sites covers England (including Boyd's Marriage Index for 1538 to 1840, about \$9 for 48 hours), Ireland (including a free search of 2.1 million names in other Web sites) & Scotland (a free parish-level search of the International Genealogical Index). A new Origin Search promises "smart searching" for genealogists of all interests for \$5 a day or \$15 for two weeks.

Otherdays.com \$

www.otherdays.com

Take a virtual walk in the footsteps of your Irish ancestors with Otherdays' free libraries of photos, maps & 18th- & 19th-century prints. A subscription (\$8 for 72 hours, \$44 a

year) lets you access a wealth of Irish databases, including Griffith's Valuation from 1847 to 1864, complete with images of the original documents.

ScotlandsPeople \$

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

Pay about \$9 for 30 page credits, valid for one day, & you can dive into this Loch Ness-monster -sized official database of church, vital & census records. Nearly 37 million names are indexed in births from 1553 to 1901, marriages from 1553 to 1926, deaths from 1855 to 1951 & censuses for 1881, 1891 & 1901.

Scottish Archive Network

www.scan.org.uk

Thank Scottish gamblers for this site, which used Heritage Lottery Funds to digitize the catalogs of 50 Scottish archives. Visitors can access more than 350,000 Scottish wills & testaments from 1500 to 1875, now a companion site at <www.scottishdocuments.com>. View some examples of wills, & check out the handwriting guide. Register to receive e-mail updates about the site.

CONTINENTAL EUROPE

Arkion's Swedish Census Database \$

www.arkion.se

This subscription site (\$95 a year or \$4.50 for 3 hours) puts Swedish census records of more than 6.6 million people at your fingertips. Available--with search instructions in English--are the 1880, 1890 & 1900 head counts, with the 1870 underway.

Federation of East European Family History Societies HF

www.feefhs.org

Check out the Ethnic, Religious & National Index of Home Pages & the Resource Guide Listing of organizations associated with the federation for an exhaustive listing of links covering 14 countries & dozens of ethnic groups, ranging from Albania to Volhynia.

German Roots

www.home.at.net/~wee-monster

In addition to being a terrific starting point for pursuing your German ancestors, this handy site includes lists of links to US military records & death records of interest to all genealogists.

Heraldry on the Internet

www.digiserve.com/heraldry

Also of interest to British Isles researchers, this site offers the best crash course on coat of arms on the Internet.

Norway's Digital Archive

www.digitalarkivet.uib.no

A testimony to those industrious & organized Norskies, this collection of databases includes Norwegian census transcriptions (1160, 1801, 1865, 1875, 1900), emigrant lists (largely from 1867 to 1930), probate indexes (1677 to 1856), tax lists, military rolls & church registers. Of particular interest to American researchers are indexes to Norwegian immigrants in the 1850, 1860, 1870 & 1880 US censuses.

PolishRoots.com

www.polishroots.com

Register the Polish surnames you're researching with the SurnameSearch & find your ancestral towns in the translated entries from the Słownik Geograficzny, a 19th-century Polish gazetteer.

WorldGenWeb **HF**

www.worldgenweb.org

This global version of USGenWeb covers more than just Europe. Drill down to individual sites for most nationalities of interest to researchers on this side of the Atlantic.

MAPS & GAZETTEERS

American Factfinder

www.factfinder.census.gov

Even if your census interests run to well before the 2000 head count, this site from the Census Bureau is worth bookmarking for its free, customizable maps. Once you've found your ancestral town using the Geographic Names Information System (see below*), put it on the map here.

Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection

www.lib.utexas.edu/maps

Yesterday's maps live on in this wide-ranging online collection. Historical maps cover such topics as military conflicts, territorial growth, westward migration & early Indian tribes. You might even find an old map of your family's hometown, such as the 1919 Automobile Blue Book map of Palatka, Fla.

Texas Historic Sites Atlas

www.atlas.thc.state.tx.us

Limited to the Lone Star State, but a knockout nonetheless, the atlas features more than 200,000 historic sites, including historical markers, National Register of Historic Places properties, museums & even old sawmills. Interactive maps let you plan your own heritage tour of Texas.

Source: The 101 Best Family History Web Sites: 2003 Edition; Family Tree Magazine, (electronic family history). Article: "Simply the Best" by David A. Fryxee. <<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/101site/2003/>>

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