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FIRST QUARTER 2010

NUMBER 1

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ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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# THE GENIE

**VOLUME 44**

**FIRST QUARTER 2010**

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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.

## **Statement of Publication**

*[Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.]*

**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

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**Visit our website** : <http://www.rootsweb.com/~laaltga/>

**The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association was saddened to learn of the death of its member – Robert A. "Bob" Hamilton Jr.**



SHREVEPORT, LA - Mr. Hamilton was born January 25, 1941 in Shreveport, Louisiana and lost a courageous battle with cancer March 12, 2010 at Schumpert Grace Home. Visitation was held at Osborn Funeral Home on Sunday, March 14 from 5-7 pm. Funeral services was at 2pm on Monday March 15 at Broadmoor Presbyterian Church. Officiating was Dianne Brown. Interments follow at Forest Park Cemetery.

Bob graduated from CE Byrd High School in 1959, and received his BA in history from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana in 1965. Following graduation, he began a 34 year management career with Western Electric/AT&T/Lucent Technologies. Bob was a faithful member of Broadmoor Presbyterian Church where he served as an elder. He was an avid reader who loved to share his books with others. Margie and Bob spent the years following their retirement traveling extensively throughout Europe where they made many long-lasting friendships.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Robert A. Hamilton, Sr. and Mary Baker Hamilton Heard. He is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Margie McCarty Hamilton, daughter Jennifer Minner and husband Allen, son Jason Hamilton, two grandsons he loved and adored, Clark "Alex" Minner and Hart Minner, and Brother Herbert E. Hamilton and wife Nan of Houston, TX.

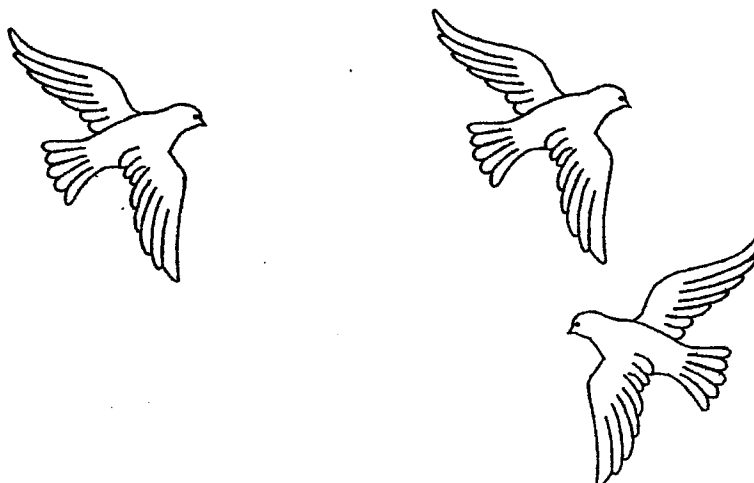
Pallbearers were Don Murray, Elmer Kunkle, Jerry Deen, John Albritton, Eric McCarty, and Herbert Hamilton.

***[Bob was a member the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association for the past ten plus years. The family has our heartfelt sympathy.]***

Source:

ShreveportTimes.com Obituary

Published in Shreveport Times from March 14 to March 15, 2010



## ***President's Message***

We began the year 2010 with some outstanding programs and an ambitious schedule. In January, our featured speaker was Jim Jones. He is one of our dedicated members, a genealogist, and a local historian. His topic was "A Look at 19<sup>th</sup> Century Arkansas through the Eyes of the Goodwin Family Ledgers". The focus of his talk was on three mid-1800's ledgers that had been in the Goodwin family that lived in Union County, Arkansas. He traced the ownership of the ledgers to William Harrison Goodwin, who was a medical doctor and also owned a dry goods store and pharmacy near El Dorado, Arkansas after the Civil War.

In February, our program was in commemoration of Black History Month. Our guest speaker was Ms. Beatrice Washington and the topic of her presentation was "My Family and Times Past". In an interview setting with Mr. Willie Griffin, Ms. Washington gave a very interesting story of her early life growing up and working in a share cropper family on Bossier Parish plantations, and later working as a seamstress at nearby Barksdale Air Force Base. In addition, Phillip Adderley, CG presented "Merging Historical and Genealogical Research: Rev. John Henry Scott and East Carroll Parish".

The next few months will be busy for the association. Judy Sneed, a retired genealogist will present "Some Myths about Caddo Lake" at our March meeting. This program will also include a tour of the Oil and Gas Museum in Oil City, Louisiana. Several excellent monthly programs are also being arranged, along with classes for beginners in May and a TRIGEN program in June. TRIGEN programs are a recent endeavor to jointly host selected genealogy events with Shreveport's two other genealogy groups: Friends of Genealogy and GENCOM.

I would like to take this opportunity to give long overdue recognition to a very dedicated and loyal member of the association. Mr. Willie R. Griffin is a longtime member and has served on the Board of Directors in various positions for over eleven years, and as editor of *The Genie* for ten years. His job as editor has included all facets of publishing *The Genie*, including soliciting and collecting genealogy related articles, sizing, indexing, printing and preparing the publication for bulk mailing. Among his many other duties, he has served as auditor on our Finance Committee, as an instructor for our beginning genealogy classes, and has been responsible for procuring and arranging presentations for our Black History Month programs. He also served as President during the 2007 through 2008 term. During his tenure as a member of the Board or Directors, he has consistently been called on for advice to insure the association continues to function in a sound and consistent manner, and in accordance with the established by-laws. The association is very fortunate to have Mr. Griffin as the editor and as a member of the Board of Directors.

Jim Johnson  
President



# RECLAIMING MY KIN: A PERSONAL JOURNEY THROUGH TEXAS AND LOUISIANA

By Aaron Dorsey

When I was growing up I knew very little about my maternal grandmother's parents. And what little information I did know came from an old black and white picture in my mother's photo album and the stories my mother told me about a family vacation to Naples, Texas when she was ten years old. The photo was dated 1954 and was taken in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco when my great grandmother left Texas to visit her three children who migrated to the San Francisco Bay Area during World War II. The photograph showed my mother being held by my grand aunt, with my grandmother, great grandmother and others standing by her side.



Picture of author's ancestors (Courtesy of Virginia Dorsey)

Whenever I would ask about the people in the picture, my mother would tell me about her summer vacation to Naples, Texas and the fond memories she had of her grandmother, but she never mentioned her name. At the time it never occurred to me to ask my mother or grandmother about my ancestors. My quest to find more about my ancestors began when I was a sophomore in college, after reading Jubilee by Margaret Walker for a literature class. During the discussion of the book, the professor informed us that the novel was a collection of stories told to Ms. Walker by her grandmother. The professor went on to tell the class how easy it was to trace one's family history especially since Sutro California State Library, National Archives and Records Administration Pacific Region, and a family history center were located in the area. Some of the books I read that were helpful in beginning my search were Black Genealogy by Charles Blockson, Slave Genealogy by David H. Street,

and Black Roots by Tony Burroughs, as well as Finding a Place Called Home by Dee Parmer Woodtor.

Armed with the knowledge that I gained from those books, I felt that I was ready to start tracing my family history. I began my quest by asking my mother about her grandmother. She re-told me the stories about her visit to Naples, Texas, but was unable to answer all of my questions. I contacted my grandmother and she informed me that her parents were Mathew Stanley (1878-1932)<sup>1</sup> and Malissie Lee Sampson (1895-1971).<sup>2</sup> She knew very little about her father since he died when she was seven months

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew Stanley, death certificate 37450 (4 September 1932), Texas State Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.

<sup>2</sup> Malissie Lee Stanley, death certificate 95097 (3 December 1971), Texas State Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin, Texas.



old, only that he was born in Clarksville, Texas and was a preacher. I contacted my grandmother's siblings, who provided me with the names of their paternal grandparents, William Stanley and his wife Julie. They also told me that their father's name was Roach Stanley and that his brother was Jack Whitaker who lived in Millerton, Oklahoma. He also had a sister named Mary who married Edmond McGary.

I began my search by examining the available U.S. Census 1880 thru 1910. Searching the 1880 census, I located Julie Whitaker, age 35, and her children Mary, 15, Jack, 9 and Roach, 1, living with a Bill Stanley, age 65 in Clarksville, Red River County, Texas<sup>3</sup>. Julie's birthplace was Texas and Bill's was North Carolina. I then located Bill and Julia in the 1870 census in Clarksville, Red River County, Texas and found that Bill was living in a separate household from Julie, age 23. Grandma Julie was enumerated with Robert F. Whitaker and listed as a domestic servant<sup>4</sup>. After seeing this I assumed that Robert was the last slave owner of Julie. After locating him in the 1860 census, I examined the slave schedule for Red River County, Texas and that he owned the three 3 slaves listed below<sup>5</sup>.

Line	Names of Slave Owners	Number of Slaves	Age	Sex	Color
27	R. F. Whitaker	1	27	Male	Black
28		1	13	Female	Black
29		1	12	Female	Black

Could the 13 year old female be my great great grandmother Julie? Who were the other two slaves? Siblings? Parents? Where is the mother? It would be several years before I would find answers to those questions.

Initially, I was unable to find Robert Whitaker in the 1850 census. I searched Red River County, Texas records for a bill of sale for slaves, but unfortunately all of Robert's deed transactions involved real estate. I examined county tax records for clues on when he arrived in Red River County, Texas or when he purchased his enslaved property. I assumed that if I could locate him in the tax records that it would help to narrow my search. A fluctuation in the number of slaves held over several years would suggest a sale, purchase, birth or death. Robert Whitaker's name was found in the tax rolls from 1854 through 1864 owning three slaves – one male and two females<sup>6</sup>. His slave holding remained consistent with the 1860 census data.

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<sup>3</sup> 1880 U. S. Census, Red River County, Texas population schedule, Precinct 1, Enumeration District (ED) 99, Page 177B (stamped), dwelling 21, family 35, Julia Whitaker; NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1323.

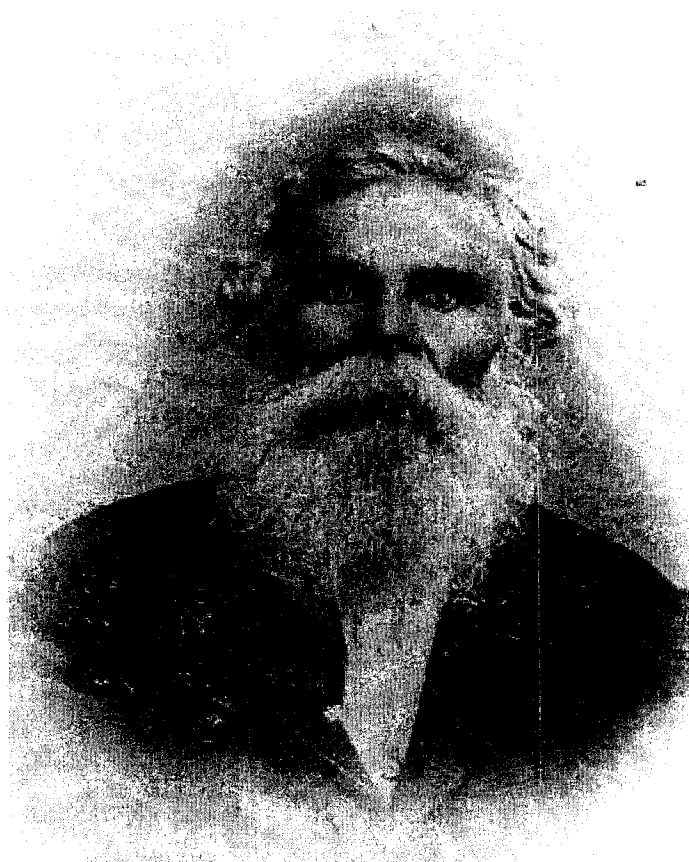
<sup>4</sup> 1870 U.S. Census, Red River County, Texas, population schedule, Clarksville, Page 89B (stamped), dwelling 1112, family 1112, Robert F. Whitaker; NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1602.

<sup>5</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Red River County, Texas, slave schedule, Page 29 (stamped), R. F. Whitaker; NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1311.

<sup>6</sup> Red River County, Texas, Office of the Tax Assessor-Collector, Tax Rolls 1838-1910, Reel 119401, Texas State Library

The only information I knew about Robert F. Whitaker was what I had discovered from the census and county tax records. In addition, none of the records I collected so far identified slaves by name. Although there were other Whitakers in Red River County, Texas, I was unable to connect them to him.

I also searched numerous websites and posted queries on various genealogy message boards such as afrigenes.com, ancestry.com, and rootwebs.com. As a result, I was able to correspond with descendants of Robert F. Whitaker, who provided me with a pedigree chart and family group sheet on the Whitakers. Unfortunately they had little information on his enslaved property. This information helped me to connect Robert F. Whitaker to the other Whitakers in Red River County, Texas. It also revealed that Robert's father was named Robert F. Whitaker, his mother was Anna and his brother was James Washington Whitaker. With the new information, I was able to locate the Whitaker family in the 1820 to 1880 census reports.



RRRobert F. Whitaker II (Picture courtesy of William Dennis Aley)

A search of the Red River County probate records found that in 1849 Anna Whiteaker wrote her last will and testament. In her will she wrote "I give and bequeaths to my son Robert F. Whiteaker a Negro girl Julia now about four years old."<sup>7</sup> The remainder of the property was divided between her sons, James and Robert. Anna died in the fall of 1853 and the inventory and appraisal of Anna's estate listed the following four slaves:<sup>8</sup>

1	Negro woman <b>Jane</b> 28 years old	Value	\$900.00
1	Negro girl <b>Juliet</b> 7 years old		\$450.00
1	Negro girl <b>Mary</b> 5 years old		\$350.00
1	Small Negro child <b>Lucinda</b>		\$175.00

<sup>7</sup> Clarksville, Texas, probate case file no. 425, Anna Whiteaker (1853), will of Anna Whiteaker, 1 Dec 1849; Probate Clerk's Office, Clarksville.

<sup>8</sup> Clarksville, Texas, probate case file no. 425, Anna Whiteaker (1854), inventory of the estate of Anna Whiteaker, 21 Jan 1854; Probate Clerk's Office, Clarksville.

The probate records did not specify disposition of the slave property, except for Julia. However, I compared the ages and gender of the slaves owned by James W. Whitaker that were listed in the 1860 slave schedule with those listed in the inventory and appraisement.<sup>9</sup>

Line	Names of Slave Owners	Number of Slaves	Age	Sex	Color
36	J. W. Whitaker	1	23	Female	Black
37		1	5	Female	Mulatto
38		1	4	Female	Black
39		1	1	Female	Mulatto

The ages for Julia and Mary match the ages and gender of the two female slaves listed for R. F. Whitaker. Whereas, the age for Lucinda matched that of the five year slave listed for J.W. Whitaker. However, the Negro woman named Jane would have been approximately 32 years old according to her age listed in the inventory. Could Jane's age be a mistake of some four years? Or is this another slave? In the 1850 slave schedule, James W. Whitaker is listed as owner of these six slaves<sup>10</sup>:

Line	Names of Slave Owners	Number of Slaves	Age	Sex	Color
37	J. W. Whiticar	1	23	Female	Black
38		1	26	Female	Black
39		1	10	Female	Black
40		1	4	Female	Black
41		1	2	Female	Black
42		1	2	Female	Black

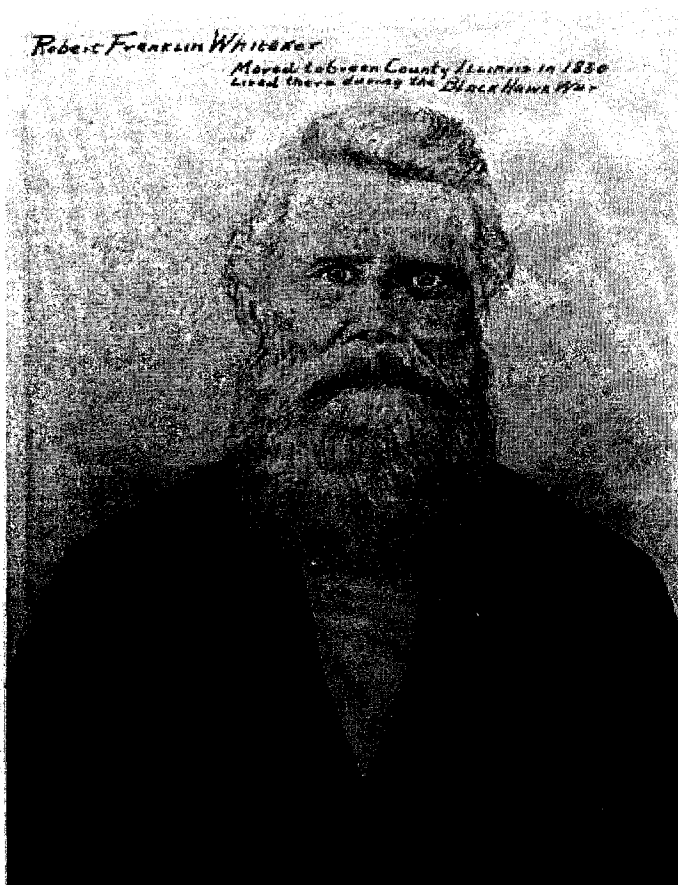
He had four slaves listed in the 1860 slave schedule and six slaves in the 1850 slave schedule. What happened to the other two slaves?

Also, I found that Robert's father, Robert Franklin Whitaker I, wrote his last will and testament in 1847, leaving his entire estate to his wife, Anna.<sup>11</sup> An inventory of estate of Robert Franklin Whitaker I was

<sup>9</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Red River County, Texas, slave schedule, Page 32 (penned), J. J. Whitaker; NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1311.

<sup>10</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Red River County, Texas, slave schedule, Page 287B (penned), J. W. Whiticar; NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 918.

<sup>11</sup> Clarksville, Texas, probate case file no., Robert F. Whiteaker (1848), will of Robert F. Whiteaker, 26 July 1847; Probate Clerk's Office, Clarksville.



Robert F. Whitaker I (Courtesy of William Dennis Aley)

submitted to the probate court in 1848. The inventory of his estate included two slave women and four slave girls, but did not provide their names.<sup>12</sup>

Anna Whitaker's estate papers helped me to not only confirm that my great great grandmother was owned by Robert F. Whitaker I, but I was also able to locate her mother, Jane, my great great great grandmother, and her siblings Mary and Lucinda.

I was uncertain who was the male slave listed in the 1860 slave schedule as well as where, when and how did the Whitakers acquire my enslaved ancestors.

I re-examined the 1860 census in an attempt to chart a migration route for Robert Whitaker II, since I was unable to locate him in the 1850 Census. I found that Robert's oldest daughter was born in Louisiana approximately 1847. I then searched the Louisiana census Index for 1850 and found Robert Franklin Whitaker enumerated in De Soto Parish, Louisiana. He was also listed on the 1850 Slave schedule as owning one slave as follows:<sup>13</sup>

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Color</u>
Robt Whitaker	1	17	Male	Black

A search of DeSoto Parish conveyance records revealed that Robert F. Whitaker II purchased a slave named William, aged seventeen from the estate of Edward Means of De Soto Parish, Louisiana for \$825.00.<sup>14</sup> I was finally able to identify all of the slaves owned by Robert Franklin Whitaker II. Could this William be my great great grandfather? If so where did the surname Stanley come from? Who were William's parents? Who was Edward Means? And how did he acquire William?

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<sup>12</sup> Clarksville, Texas, probate case file no., Robert F. Whiteaker (1848), inventory of Robert F. Whiteaker, 30 Oct 1848; Probate Clerk's Office, Clarksville.

<sup>13</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, De Soto Parish, Louisiana, slave schedule, Page , Robt. Whitaker; NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 243.

<sup>14</sup> Mansfield, Louisiana, "De Soto's Conveyances Records, 1843-1869," Book A: 440, Edward Means Succession entry, 17 Feb 1848; FHL microfilm 266,035 item 1.

Continuing my search of the DeSoto Parish conveyance records, I found that Edward Means and his brother William B. Means purchased 1280 acres of land from Henry Marshall in 1846.<sup>15</sup> In 1848, there was a series of nine separate transactions involving 19 slaves from the succession of the estate of Edward Means with his brother, William, listed as executor.<sup>16</sup>

Were these individual slaves related to my great great grandfather, William Stanley? I found a two page probate record for Edward Means that was filed in 1854, but it did not include an inventory.<sup>17</sup> Additionally, I learned that the Means were originally from Fairfield District, South Carolina and that Edward Means died soon after arriving in DeSoto Parish. The 45 page probate record for Edward Means that was filed in Fairfield District made no mention of his real and personal property in Louisiana.<sup>18</sup>

As a last effort, I examined the entire microfilmed probate records for DeSoto Parish and after three hours of examining over 250 pages, I located Edward Means's 29 page succession file, which was not included in the index.<sup>19</sup> In this file, I discovered additional slave transactions that were not recorded in the conveyance records. By comparing the conveyance records with the succession records I was able to develop a complete list of the slaves in Edward Means' estate.

#### COMPLETE LIST OF SLAVES IN EDWARD MEANS' ESTATE

Slave Name	Sex	Age	Purchased Price	Purchased By
Phil	Male	35	\$1,565.00	Elijah Sumrall
Isaac	Male	3	Included with Phil	Elijah Sumrall
Jinny	Female	45	Included with Adam	Thomas Gilman
Jane	Female	3	Included with Adam	Thomas Gilman
Infant	n/a	n/a	Included with Adam	Thomas Gilman

<sup>15</sup> Mansfield, Louisiana, "De Soto's Conveyances Records, 1843-1869," Book A: 179, H. Marshall entry, 27 Jan 1847; FHL microfilm 266,035 item 1.

<sup>16</sup> Mansfield, Louisiana, "De Soto's Conveyances Records, 1843-1869," Book A: 440-453; Book D: 120, Edward Means Succession entry, 17 Feb 1848 and 9 Dec 1848; FHL microfilm 266,035 item 1 and microfilm 266,037.

<sup>17</sup> Mansfield, Louisiana, succession case file no., Edward Means (1854), Clerk's order of Succession of Edward Means, 4 Feb 1854; District Court, Mansfield.

<sup>18</sup> Winnsboro, South Carolina, "Fairfield County Probate Court Estate," Apt. 86 File 242 frames 009-046, Edward Means Estate papers, 12 August 1847-26 Dec 1865; South Carolina Department of Archives and History roll FA36.

<sup>19</sup> Mansfield, Louisiana, "Succession Records 1843-1909," Book D: 357-386, Succession of Edward Means entries 12 Jun 1847-19 Jan 1848; FHL microfilm 266,068.

<b>Click</b>	<b>Yale</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Included with Adam</b>	<b>Thomas Gilman</b>
<b>Jane</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Included with Adam</b>	<b>Thomas Gilman</b>
<b>Daisy</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Included with Adam</b>	<b>Thomas Gilman</b>
<b>Infant</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>Included with Adam</b>	<b>Thomas Gilman</b>
<b>Billy</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Included with Billy</b>	<b>T. M. Gilman</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Included with May</b>	<b>Charles A. Edwards</b>
<b>Edmond</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Included with May</b>	<b>Charles A. Edwards</b>
<b>Bob</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>\$755.00</b>	<b>J. M. Sandige</b>
<b>Spencer</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>\$570.00</b>	<b>Peyton Stanley</b>
<b>Ann</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>\$650.00</b>	<b>T. Gilmer</b>
<b>Patsy</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>\$700.00</b>	<b>J. M. Sandige</b>
<b>Caroline</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>\$581.00</b>	<b>John Greenwood</b>
<b>John</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Included with John</b>	<b>James D. Henderson</b>
<b>Ephraim</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Included with Ephraim</b>	<b>James D. Henderson</b>
<b>Sarah</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>\$165.00</b>	<b>John Greenwood</b>

Unfortunately, the discovery of Edward Mean's probate record did not provide me with information regarding William's background. However, my genealogy quest has enabled me to learn a tremendous amount about my heritage, and has inspired me to learn more about my ancestors.

The writer wishes to invite anyone researching or having additional information on the families referenced in this article, please contact him at: [a\\_dorsey@yahoo.com](mailto:a_dorsey@yahoo.com) or P.O. Box 1693, Washington, DC 20013.

# *Very Different History of Louisiana Immigrants Jacob Bodenheimer and His Wife Eliza Weil: Applying the Genealogical Proof Standard*

Commentary by Philip Burnett Adderley, CG<sup>SM</sup>

Readers of historical works, historical periodicals, and Internet web pages published to date will see conclusions that Bossier Parish settler Jacob Bodenheimer was a wealthy planter whose wife and children were left destitute following his death near the end of the Civil War by the actions of his nephew Lazarus Bodenheimer. Based upon the sources that their authors cited, and the two differing oral family traditions that survive, their conclusions seem plausible. A very different history has emerged, however, based upon newly discovered original sources and the application of the Genealogical Proof Standard to the whole. In support of this, please see the accompanying article published in this issue of *The Genie*: "One Descendant of Jacob Bodenheimer, a Jewish Immigrant in Northwest Louisiana." Due to the article's complexity, the present commentary was prepared to "introduce and summarize" in a few pages some of the key findings that appear in more depth there.

**In conflict with family traditions, there is no evidentiary trail based on reliable information that places Jacob in the United States prior to his personally given arrival date of 1841.** There is, however, considerable evidence of his activities as a peddler throughout various locations in Louisiana soon after this date. The term "peddler" *today* might connote a person of very modest means, perhaps to some an economic status barely above that of a beggar, but in reality Jacob handled a very expensive inventory of goods which he "peddled" in the regions east of Lake Bodcau in Bossier Parish in the mid- to late-1840s. On or after June 1849 he married Eliza Weil, herself an immigrant, probably in New Orleans, and he brought her to northwest Louisiana within the next twelve months.

**Jacob was never a planter in the plantation-sense of the word.** His primary business in the late 1840s and throughout the 1850s was a country store that he ran in Bellevue, then the seat of Bossier Parish. To supplement his income he converted his home on 38-39 acres immediately north of Bellevue to a "hotel," reportedly to attract incoming lawyers during court terms. With the exception of another 40 acre parcel that he held briefly for 26 months in 1850-2, Bodenheimer owned no more than 39 acres of land, and by 1860, only twenty-five of those had been "improved." He also owned no more than two female slaves and one crippled male slave at any single point in time.

**Eliza assumed sole and separate ownership of all the couple's holdings in November 1860, and she was the fiscal foundation of the family's affairs for at least the next two decades.** Jacob's country store business was supported partially from an inheritance from his mother's German estate, but especially by his wife Eliza's \$5000 paraphernal estate, inherited from her father Adolph Weil. Despite the southern economy's boom in the 1850s, their country store business' fortunes gradually waned; and since Eliza's paraphernal estate was in jeopardy, the court separated their community property as a result of her suit, awarding her sole, separate ownership of what was previously the couple's jointly owned property. At that moment in November 1860, and thereafter until his death in 1864, documents confirm that Jacob himself owned no cash, no land, and no physical assets of any significant value. All the purchasing power and control of the family assets rested with Eliza. It is likely that Eliza expanded her role and became the sole owner of "E. Bodenheimer," a credit business supporting her son Henry in south Bossier Parish in the late 1870s.

**Lazarus' role in the family history is more accurately that of a benefactor and not a villain.** It was Lazarus, in fact, who bought what was left of Eliza's holdings in February 1861, including their home and the debt-laden country store business, for a very generous cash payment. Despite acquiring the store's unpaid creditors, evidence clearly shows that Lazarus legally owned the Bossier Parish lands and dwellings that he acquired from Eliza well into the 1870s. Evidence strongly suggests that Lazarus allowed Eliza and her family to continue residing there. Furthermore, when Eliza brought her family to Shreveport after the war, for at least seven more years they resided on land and in buildings that Lazarus then owned jointly with his partner Simon Levy, Jr. Early in this interval, Simon Levy, Jr. married her daughter Harriett, further

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strengthening Elizabeth's ties with the two business partners. That support was further manifest when Lazarus and Simon vigorously brought suit for non-payment of the seven years' rent owed them by Eliza's second husband, but not until Eliza sued for divorce from her 2<sup>nd</sup> husband in 1872 for his alleged infidelities. The suit revealed that Eliza and her family had lived rent-free and continued doing so even after Eliza married her second husband in 1867. The suit was clearly aimed at Eliza's second husband, however, not Eliza herself, and there is every reason to presume her family and she would have continued living there rent-free had not her husband apparently incensed Lazarus and Simon by his actions. The full and fascinating history of Lazarus Bodenheimer awaits future new eyes and minds.

**The acquisition and interpretation of newly discovered evidence for this family's history illustrate some of the unique problems that can plague genealogical researchers.**

- It is easy to interpret that the absence of a document in an index is "negative evidence" or proof that the document never existed or perhaps that it had been destroyed. In Jacob's case the absence of his succession in the probate index books, coupled with the history of the region, which included hiding cotton from Union troops, may lead one to interpret that his succession record was deliberately omitted, or if not, that the record had been intentionally purged to prevent the troops from learning of its existence. Such a conclusion would attractively support a theory that Jacob owned a lot of cotton when he died. As it developed, however, the succession paperwork did survive, being found by hand-to-hand review of case file jackets, but it was not listed in the corresponding indices. In this instance, the succession paperwork reflected the deterioration of Jacob's financial condition brought on by Eliza in her successful separation-of-property suit, begun in September 1860, and he owned no unsold or unharvested cotton at his death.
- An understanding of the nuances in the Civil Code of 1825 (and subsequent Acts of the Louisiana Legislature) is essential to the interpretation of court cases filed between then the subsequent revision of the the Louisiana Revised Civil Code of 1870.
  - Separation of property; separation from bed and board; and divorce vary in their extent and consequences. For example, only divorce actually dissolves a marriage, but all three may result in dissolving the community of acquets and gains between the spouse. [The full ramifications are beyond the scope of this article].
  - Because the 1825 code requires a husband's (or judge's) permission for his wife to sell her separately owned land, such sales can be interpreted incorrectly that the property had been held jointly instead of by the wife alone. The sale of all the family's assets from Eliza to Lazarus Bodenheimer in February 1861 included Jacob's authorization and signature, suggesting that the holdings were community property, when in fact all that Jacob was doing was permitting his wife to make the transaction involving her solely and separately owned property. In order to properly interpret this case file, an understanding of the separation of property suit brought by Eliza against her husband in September 1859 is also necessary.
- The evidence provided in a civil or criminal case file can be misinterpreted when the surviving loose papers in the file overly represent one party. The situation for the researcher is similar to a jury hearing only the plaintiff's or only the defendant's side of the suit. In old case files, loose papers can walk, degrade into an usable condition, or be transferred to, say, an appellate court, perhaps not returning. In such situations, the researcher must be overly cautious not to take one side or the other when reviewing "unbalanced" court case file contents. Not only should the judgements and decrees be carefully reviewed in detail, but a search should be made of all appellate actions that stem from the original trial court case. In addition, where possible the testimony and claims of all parties should be separately researched. The 1882 Bodenheimer trial court case file [discussed in more depth in the accompanying article] is an example of a loose case file that is unbalanced in favor of the plaintiff. The case file contains cross-examinations on behalf of the defendant, but no loose papers or petitions survive separately on behalf of the defendant. An unsuspecting researcher can easily be trapped and swayed by the abundance and vehemence of plaintiff's claims. As it developed, the judge's multi-page judgement and decree favoring the defendant contains important clues casting serious doubt upon the reliability of plaintiff's claims. A newly discovered Louisiana State Supreme Court appellate case tied to this trial court case sheds additional light and describes new findings confirming the inadequacy of the plaintiff's case.

**The Genealogical Proof Standard is the best tool a genealogical researcher can bring to the table.** An exhaustive search for reliable sources of information that a prudent genealogist might use is the first stage. Full and accurate citations, assembly and correlation of all relevant information and the assessment of its quality as evidence, and the resolution of all contradictory evidence are subsequent elements of the standard. Pulling it all together coherently in the form of clear and concisely written conclusions is the final stage.

## *One Descendant of Jacob Bodenheimer, a Jewish Immigrant in Northwest Louisiana*

Philip Burnett Adderley, CG<sup>SM</sup>

While the federal government removed the Great Raft in the Red River in northwest Louisiana over several decades in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, a remarkable Jewish immigrant peddler took advantage of the more accessible frontier and established a foothold in the budding commerce of the region. His wife and children survived the Civil War, operating small businesses in Bossier and Caddo Parish for the next thirty years. His sons eventually established businesses of their own in Shreveport, and raised their families there. The grandsons, for the most part, developed their own specialties—by the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, they added the occupations attorney and physician to the family's history. They and their kin owe their success to the hardships and perseverance of their patriarch Jacob Bodenheimer, his resilient and resourceful wife Eliza Weil, and their first cousin Lazarus Bodenheimer.

1. **Jacob Bodenheimer** was the son of Simon Bodenheimer and Magdalena Baum.<sup>1</sup> Discussed separately, his uncertain dates and places of birth were 1805-1814, perhaps in the Hochstadt community, district of Landau in der Pfalz, province of Pfalz, Kingdom of Bavaria; or perhaps in Madrid, Spain. He died in Bossier Parish, Louisiana,<sup>2</sup> probably in June 1864.<sup>3</sup> He was buried in the Jewish cemetery known as Hebrew Rest I, now part of Oakland Cemetery, in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.<sup>4</sup> Jacob married **Eliza Weil**, daughter of Adolph Weil,<sup>5</sup> on or after 12 June 1849, probably in New Orleans, Louisiana.<sup>6</sup> Eliza's uncertain dates and places of birth, discussed separately, were 1823-1830, perhaps in the province of Pfalz, Kingdom of Bavaria; or

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<sup>1</sup> Bossier Parish, Louisiana, "Miscellaneous Book A," p. 32, Jacob Bodenheimer to Isaias Bodenheimer, receipt, 7 January 1859; Clerk of Court's Office, Benton. The record gave direct evidence of the mother-son relationship, and indirect evidence that Simon was Jacob's father by virtue of a stated marriage between Simon Bodenheimer and Magdalena. Jacob also stated that Isaias Bodenheimer was his brother.

<sup>2</sup> Caddo Parish, Louisiana, District Court Files, no. 1056, Henry Bodenheimer, et.al., v. Executors of Lazarus Bodenheimer, et.al., 1882; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Jacob's place of death was noted as Bellevue, Bossier Parish in a variety of documents.

<sup>3</sup> Bossier Parish, Louisiana, District Court Files, no case file number, Jacob Bodenheimer succession, 1864; Clerk of Court's Office, Benton. No specific date of death appears in any of the surviving documents. The earliest date of activity appeared in Sheriff Philo Alden's report of a court-ordered slave sale, signed 10 October 1864, in which he stated that he had advertised a slave sale under Jacob's succession to be held 8 "April" 1864; however, the sheriff probably intended to write 8 August 1864, since the court order directing the sale was dated 6 August 1864. On that deduction, the earliest credible date in the case file is Eliza Weil's petition to be named administratrix of the succession of Jacob Bodenheimer, filed 30 June 1864. The case file is not referenced by indexes. Although a District Court file, it was not numbered and not stored with other District Court case files—the writer located it within probate case file packets, filed roughly alphabetically by surname.

<sup>4</sup> Hebrew Rest Cemetery I (part of Oakland Cemetery, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana), Jacob Bodenheimer marker, block 1, lot 4; read and photographed 11 February 2009 by Philip Adderley (Shreveport, Louisiana). The marble stone contained the square and compass of the Masonic emblem, Jacob's name in English, and a Hebrew inscription.

<sup>5</sup> Bossier Parish, Louisiana, Conveyances Miscellaneous Book 3:330-331, James Filer to Eliza Weil, deed of sale, 15 August 1854; Clerk of Court's Office, Benton. Jacob "Bodenham" gave his authorization for wife Eliza Weil to conduct this transaction. Adolph Weil was named as her father, direct evidence of the father-daughter relationship.

<sup>6</sup> Orleans Parish, Louisiana, Fourth Justice of the Peace Marriage Licenses, vol. VEE: 648, Jacob Bodenheimer [sic]-Eliza Weil, license number 1295, 12 June 1849; "Orleans Parish (La.) Justices of the Peace, Marriage records, 1846-1880," New Orleans Public Library. E. M. Bodenheimer, interview by J. Fair Hardin, interview location unspecified, 15 January 1933, one page; carbon copy of Hardin's memorandum (not a transcript) of this interview held in Dewey A. Somdal Papers, Collection 022, Box 33, Folder 1195, LSU Shreveport Archives, Noel Memorial Library, Shreveport, Louisiana; Emmanuel stated that his father Jacob traveled from Moscow in Bossier Parish to New Orleans "on a visit and there met and married a young German girl who had come over from a nearby village in Germany."

perhaps Madrid, Spain. She died in Shreveport on 21 January 1906<sup>7</sup> and was buried the next day in Hebrew Rest I Cemetery, Shreveport.<sup>8</sup>

### Jacob's Birth and Birthplace.

Only contradictory secondary information has been located with respect to the dates of birth and birthplaces for Jacob, and none of the candidates below could be satisfactorily ruled out to the exclusion of the others.

Federal censuses suggested lower and upper bounds on the date range. The 1850 and 1860 federal censuses for Bossier Parish, Louisiana, listed Jacob's age and nativity as 36 and Germany,<sup>9</sup> and 54 and Madrid<sup>10</sup> respectively. The latter imputed a birth of 1805-1806; the former 1813-1814. No older person was listed in either household; therefore, no household informant (including Jacob) had firsthand knowledge of his birth. The eighteen versus ten year expected age gap between the two censuses suggested that the heads of household might be different people; however, examination of Caddo, Bossier, and Claiborne Parish courthouse and federal census records for the period 1840-1865 revealed no other another candidate head of household with roughly similar age and name characteristics, and with a spouse of given name Eliza or maiden surname of Weil.

Emanuel Bodenheimer noted that his father Jacob emigrated from Speyer, Germany at age 14 years and that he arrived in New Orleans in 1822,<sup>11</sup> inferring birth in about 1808. Emanuel gave his 1933 interview at a stated age 72. If true, he was about 34 years old when his father died. Thus, he had to receive the information about his father's immigration from a third party, perhaps his mother Eliza, whose knowledge of those details was likely second-hand, as her earliest appearance of record is the 1849 New Orleans marriage license of the couple. No direct or indirect evidence containing primary information has been uncovered supporting an 1822 arrival, but Jacob stated that he arrived in the United States in 1841, in his declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States.<sup>12</sup> This directly contradicted Emanuel's account of Jacob's year of arrival, but it did nothing to illuminate Jacob's immigration age or birth. A 2<sup>nd</sup> written family tradition attributed to Jacob's oldest surviving son Henry repeated the emigration-at-age-14 account and that, according to Henry, his father Jacob "came from a town on the Rhine," but the author noted the 1841 arrival, referring to it in his own copy of Jacob's declaration of intention to become a citizen.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Caddo Parish, Louisiana, "Register of Death 1874 - July, 1912," Book C, folio 66, Mrs. E. Bodenheimer entry, 21 January 1906; microfilm, Parish Civil Court Records, Caddo Parish, Louisiana (no place: no publisher, no date); held by Broadmoor Genealogy Department, Shreve Memorial Library, Shreveport.

<sup>8</sup> Eliza Bodenheimer obituary, *The Shreveport (Louisiana) Times*, 22 January 1906, p. 10, column 4; age 83. Hebrew Rest Cemetery I (part of Oakland Cemetery, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana), Eliza Weil marker, block 1, lot 5; read and photographed 11 February 2009 by Philip Adderley (Shreveport, Louisiana). The marble stone contains English and a one-line Hebrew inscription. The English reads, "OUR MOTHER / ELIZA BODENHEIMER / BORN IN / BESCHINGER RHINEPAULTZ / GERMANY / Sept. 27, 1823 / Jan. 21, 1906."

<sup>9</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Town of Bellevue, page 305 (stamped), page 609 (penned), dwelling 1101, family 1101, Jacob Bodenham; digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 February 2004); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 230; birthplace Germany.

<sup>10</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Orchard Grove post office, page 2, dwelling 11, family 11, J. Bordinghamer; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 February 2004); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 408; birthplace "Madri<sup>d</sup>." No other evidence has been found to date to support this birthplace—the country was not stated, leaving one to presume Spain; however, researchers should not rule out that a possible Germanic place name variant was given but enumerated incorrectly. Bavarian and Rhine-Pfalz gazetteers did not help, however.

<sup>11</sup> E. M. Bodenheimer, interview by J. Fair Hardin, 15 January 1933.

<sup>12</sup> Bossier Parish, Louisiana, "Minutes of District Court, Nov 1846 - Dec 1856" (marked on interior flyleaf as "Minute Book A"): 28-29, Jacob Bodenheimer declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States, no instrument number, 21 May 1847; Clerk of Court's Office, Benton, Louisiana. Researchers must ask for this book by name as it is not accessible to the walk-in public.

<sup>13</sup> [Jacob Mahne Bodenheimer], "The Bodenheimer Family," (MS, [Shreveport, Louisiana], ca. 1950-1951), pages 1-3, 11; typed manuscript and anonymous handwritten annotations, photocopy supplied February 2004 [name withheld by request]; held by Philip Adderley, Shreveport, Louisiana; hereinafter cited as Dr. J. M. Bodenheimer, "The Bodenheimer Family." The author's identity in this 1st person narrative was derived from numerous references to his Uncle Henry and Aunt Cora Bodenheimer, his [only] brother Gabe Bodenheimer, and his grandfather Jacob Bodenheimer. The handwritten annotations were done by different hands, and their identity unknown. Unless specified indicated otherwise, references are to the typescript information only.

Jacob's mother died in Niederhochstadt, Germany, weakly suggesting this as a possible origin for Jacob.<sup>14</sup> A widower Simon Bodenheimer was one of four Jewish Bodenheimer households registered in the Hochstadt community in 1849, but he was not one of the four Jewish Bodenheimers listed there in 1808.<sup>15</sup> No evidence has surfaced placing Jacob or parents Magdalena Baum and Simon Bodenheimer in the Hochstadt community in the period 1805-1814. For reference, the present-day Hochstadt community includes Oberhochstadt and Niederhochstadt and lies about 10-15 kilometers west of Gemersheim, another town on the Rhine, upriver from Speyer.

Jacob's Shreveport tombstone epitaph was translated from Hebrew in a published source that indicated his birth at "Niderhochstadt [sic], Germany 1808;" however, the translation did not actually include this birth information.<sup>16</sup> The database maintained by the Oakland Cemetery Preservation Society also listed his birth as 1808, in Niederhochstadt, Germany.<sup>17</sup> It is suspected that Jacob's 1808 birth year was derived from Emanuel's 1933 interview, and that his birthplace may have been inferred from his mother Magdalena's place of death.

In the absence of primary or more compelling secondary information supporting a Hochstadt, Pfalz origin, Jacob's Madrid birthplace given in the 1860 federal census has not been completely ruled out. Two factors, however, diminish its likelihood. First, Jews were expelled from Spain by edict in 1492, and this was not revoked by official act until 1968.<sup>18</sup> If Jacob's parents resided in Madrid in the early 1800s, they likely did so either as full Catholic converts, or as converts who privately practiced Judaism, at the risk of expulsion. Second, Jacob and Eliza did not follow Sephardic Jewish naming conventions for their children—the names of their known parents Simon, Magdalena, and Adolph did not appear in any records associated with their known children. That suggested an Ashkenazic Jewish heritage, whose roots lay in medieval France and Germany.<sup>19</sup>

A more authoritative determination of Jacob's birth date and birthplace is needed.

### Eliza's Birth and Birthplace.

Eliza's birthplace possibilities included Madrid and two distinctly different areas in the Kingdom of Bavaria.

Jacob's 1860 Bossier Parish census household listed Madrid for the birthplace of "Mrs. Eliza Bordinghamer," age 30.<sup>20</sup>

In a land purchase Eliza Weil executed in 1854 in Bossier Parish, she noted the remaining inheritance due her from her father Adolph's succession "in the province of Landean [sic] Bravaria [sic]."<sup>21</sup> Bravaria was very likely Bavaria. Although the writer could find no Bavarian "Landeau" within gazetteers, two towns named Landau existed in the Kingdom of Bavaria in this period. One existed then on the Isar River in Lower Bavaria, and one Landau existed in the Pfalz province of Bavaria in a district of similar name—Landau in der Pfalz.<sup>22</sup> The latter has potential ties with Jacob's origins, and remains the best lead of the two choices for Eliza's possible Bavarian birthplace.

<sup>14</sup> Bossier Ph., La., "Miscellaneous Book A," p. 32.

<sup>15</sup> Gerd Pressler, *Über 1200 Jahre Hochstadt: Herausgegeben im Auftrag der Ortsgemeinde Hochstadt* (Hochstadt, Rheinpfalz, Germany: G. Shaffer, 1982), 261-263; Family History Library microfilm #1,224,609, item 6; Pressler included transcriptions of two registers of Jewish inhabitants in the community.

<sup>16</sup> Eric J. Brock, compiler, *A Necrology of Graves at the Old Oakland Cemetery of Shreveport, Louisiana* (Shreveport, Louisiana: J & W Enterprises, 1988), 7 and 104; the author added the place and date of birth on his own account, but cited no source.

<sup>17</sup> Oakland Cemetery (Shreveport, Louisiana), *Oakland Cemetery*, digital database (<http://www.oaklandcemeteryla.org/Index.aspx>; accessed 7 February 2009), entry for Jacob Bodenheimer, no. 208, citing block 1, lot 4.

<sup>18</sup> Zion Zohar, "A Global Perspective on Sephardic and Mizrahi Jewry," and Annette B. Fromm, "Hispanic Culture in Exile: Sephardic Life in the Ottoman Balkans," in Zion Zohar, editor, *Sephardic and Mizrahi Jewry, From the Golden Age of Spain to Modern Times* (New York: New York University Press, 2005), pages 14 and 147 respectively.

<sup>19</sup> Gary Mokotoff, "Jewish American Research," in Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Luebking, editors, *The Source, A Guidebook to American Genealogy*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Provo, Utah: MyFamily.com, Inc., 2006), 765-6.

<sup>20</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Bossier Ph., La., pop. sch., Orchard Grove, p. 2, dwell. 11, fam. 11, J. Bordinghamer.

<sup>21</sup> Bossier Ph., La., Conveyance Miscellaneous Book 3:330-331, James Filer to Eliza Weil, deed of sale, 15 August 1854.

<sup>22</sup> U. Petra Seuss and Daniel Schlyter, "Bavarian Gazetteer," ProGenealogists, Inc., *ProGenealogists Family History Research Group, Records Retrieval and Ancestry Research* (<http://www.progenealogists.com/germany/bavaria/index.html>; accessed 4 August 2005).

The earliest federal census to capture Eliza listed her in 1850 Bossier Parish as age 22, born in Germany.<sup>23</sup> Her husband or she may have been the informant for this information.

Record sources touching on her birth in which she was not an informant included her 1906 Caddo Parish civil death record, her grave marker, and her obituary. The first stated her age 83, and her parents' and her nativities as Germany.<sup>24</sup> The second and third both indicated that she was born at "Beschinger, Rhinepaultz [sic], Germany."<sup>25</sup> The "Rhinepaultz" spelling error present in her obituary and on her marker suggested that they were not mutually independent sources; that is, the same information came from one source. This information likely referred to the Pfalz province of Bavaria; however, no town of "Beschinger" or close derivative has been located on maps of Pfalz or in gazetteers for the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The closest town to Niederhochstadt that is a weaker German-phonetic derivative and might be of future interest is Essingen: Emmanuel Bodenheimer noted his mother was "a young German girl who had come over from a *nearby village* in Germany to his [Jacob's] home."<sup>26</sup> [emphasis added]

Eliza's age at death, 83, in 1906 inferred that she was born ca. 1823, but the 1850-1860 censuses, which inferred birth ca. 1827-1830 were timelier; furthermore, Eliza herself may have been the informant for one or both of them. As she was not a firsthand witness to her own birth, though, and in the absence of primary or more compelling secondary information, a more authoritative determination of her birth date and birthplace is needed.

### Jacob and Eliza - Their History

Jacob Bodenheimer arrived in the United States in 1841, port of entry unspecified, and declared his intention to become a citizen on 21 May 1847. He stated that he was a "Subject of the ... reigning Sovereign of the Province of Ludwick [sic] a province of Germany."<sup>27</sup> He probably referred to Pfalz, a distinct province of the Kingdom of Bavaria ruled by Ludwig I at that time.<sup>28</sup> The filing of the declaration before the Clerk of District Court in Bossier Parish was one of several documents that supported the family tradition that he spent most of the intervening years prior to his marriage to Eliza in northwest Louisiana, working as a peddler. Some documents supporting that were contemporaneous to the decade; others occurred in court testimony forty years later.

Two witnesses in an 1882 Caddo Parish court suit placed Jacob in northwest Louisiana in the early 1840s, but no earlier. Sarah A. Lowry testified on 28 February 1883 that she resided in Bossier Parish for about the past 40 years and had known Jacob "from about 1843 up to the time of his death." Michael Smith testified on the same day that he resided in Bossier Parish for the past 37-38 years and that he knew Jacob before Jacob married Eliza, when Jacob was a peddler in Bossier Parish before it had been formed from Claiborne Parish.<sup>29</sup>

Sarah Lowry's deposition placed her in present-day Bossier Parish as early as 1883 less 40 years, or about 1842-1843. A Sarah A. Lowry was enumerated in Bellevue, Bossier Parish, 1850, four census households from

<sup>23</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Bossier Ph., La., pop. sch., Town of Bellevue, p. 305 (stamped), p. 609 (penned), dwell. 1101, fam. 1101, Jacob Bodenham.

<sup>24</sup> Caddo Ph., La., "Register of Death 1874 - July, 1912," Book C, folio 66, Mrs. E. Bodenheimer entry, 21 January 1906, age 83.

<sup>25</sup> Eliza Bodenheimer obituary, p. 10, col. 4. Hebrew Rest Cemetery I (Oakland Cemetery, Shreveport, La.), Eliza Bodenheimer marker, block 1, lot 5.

<sup>26</sup> E. M. Bodenheimer, interview by J. Fair Hardin, 15 January 1933.

<sup>27</sup> Bossier Ph., La., "Minutes of District Court, Nov 1846 - Dec 1856:" 28-29, Jacob Bodenheimer declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States, no instrument number, 21 May 1847. Jacob's declaration of intent *curiously included a witness signature*, which was not a known legal requirement for this action. However, a witness statement is required to attest to the petitioner's satisfaction of the residency requirements when petitioning the court to become a citizen, which is usually documented in conjunction with the citizenship oath. In this case no oath was mentioned and no citizenship actually conferred. Attempts to locate the final naturalization papers, including oath, were not successful.

<sup>28</sup> Ludwig Ravenstein, *Atlas des Deutschen Reichs*, Digital Production Facility, University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries (<http://www.library.wisc.edu/etext/ravenstein>; updated 26 April 2005, accessed 11 August 2005); from Ludwig Ravenstein, *Atlas des Deutschen Reichs* (Leipzig, Germany: Bibliographisches Institut, 1883); digitized segment map of Rhineland-Pfalz and Bavaria regions, map 7, section M1-F5.

<sup>29</sup> Caddo Ph., La., District Court Files, no. 1056, Henry ... v. ... Lazarus Bodenheimer, for depositions of Sarah A. Lowry, 28 February 1883, and Michael Smith, 28 February 1883.

Jacob and Eliza. She was a 30-year old head of household born in Mississippi. The two oldest Lowry minors were listed born in Mississippi, aged 13 and 11. The next oldest Lowry minor (also named Sarah) was born in Louisiana, aged 9.<sup>30</sup> The same minor in Sarah A. Lowery's [sic] 1860 Bellevue household was aged 18 and born in Louisiana.<sup>31</sup> If the 1850-1860 population schedules are accurate, Sarah migrated with her apparent children to Louisiana from Mississippi roughly between 1839 and 1842. The deposition and the two censuses' information were roughly consistent, suggesting that the three Sarahs were good candidates to be the same person. The deposition regarding Jacob's presence had credibility.

Michael Smith's deposition placed him in present-day Bossier Parish as early as 1883 less 38 years, or about 1844-1845. A Michael Smith was enumerated as a head of household in the 1850<sup>32</sup> (age 40) and 1860<sup>33</sup> (age 50) Bossier Parish censuses, with apparent wife Nancy Ann and three minors. In both censuses Michael and Nancy were listed as Irish, with the oldest minor being apparent child Francis/Frances Smith, born in Louisiana ca. 1844-1845. Michael was not found in the 1840 Claiborne Parish census. On 20 October 1841, a Michael Smith, age 30, origin Ireland, and an "Hnr." Smith of unspecified gender, of an age consistent with Nancy Ann's, arrived on the ship *Alhambria* in New Orleans.<sup>34</sup> The two passengers' data were consistent with that of the adults in the Michael Smith households of 1850 and 1860. This was probably the same Michael Smith who testified in 1882, whose residency statement placed him in Bossier Parish in 1844-1845—consistent with minor Francis Smith's approximate birth. Although his ship's arrival date limited his knowledge of Jacob to a time beginning no earlier than late 1841, Smith's initial presence in New Orleans could well have allowed him to know of Jacob before Bossier Parish was formed from Claiborne Parish in 1843, as many such immigrants used the Red River and its bayous to reach northwest Louisiana. Michael's testimony had credibility.

Direct evidence of Jacob's peddler history in Bossier Parish surfaced in additional court cases. The records indicated that Jacob traveled far, not only to New Orleans to buy goods for his business, but also to Monroe in northeast Louisiana. One of these also illustrated that his peddler business had substantial volume.

On 2 November 1844 Jacob purchased on credit \$28.06 in merchandise from the firm of Jacobs and Philipps, of Ouachita Parish, issuing a note payable to its bearer. The following May he purchased on credit merchandise worth \$722.52 from the firm of Godlib King and Bernard Homburg, located in Monroe, Ouachita Parish, again issuing a note payable to its bearer. King acquired the bearer's note formerly held by Jacobs and Philipps, and then unsuccessfully sued Jacob in Bossier Parish District Court for nonpayment of both notes in 1847.<sup>35</sup> The court record suggested that Jacob worked as a peddler employed by the firm of Perkins and Sugg.

It was more likely that Jacob was employed on his own account, however. E. H. Pomeroy and Company of New Orleans brought suit against the firm of John M. Perkins and J. B. Sugg in Bossier Parish District Court in May 1849. Perkins and Sugg had signed on 31 December 1847 a \$1500 promissory note payable to

<sup>30</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Town of Bellevue, page 305 (stamped), page 609 (penned), dwelling 1097, family 1097, Sarah A. Lowry; digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 February 2004); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 230. Sarah, 9 and three other minors, 7, 5, & 2, were born in Louisiana.

<sup>31</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Bellevue post office, page 81, dwelling 616, family 611, S. A. Lowery; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 February 2004); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 408. Sarah, 18, and two other minors, 14 and 12, were born in Louisiana. Adult female "S. A. Lowery was 42.

<sup>32</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, 4<sup>th</sup> Ward-Township 22, page 315 (stamped), page 629 (penned), dwelling 1240, family 1240, Mikel [sic] Smith; digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 2 September 2005); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 230; Mikel age 40, born in Ireland; Ann age 28, born in Ireland; Francis, age 5, was oldest entry listed who was born in Louisiana.

<sup>33</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Cotton Valley post office, pages 11-12, dwelling 76, family 76, M. Smith; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 2 September 2005); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 408; the designation "Mrs." was placed before Nancy A. Smith. M. Smith age 50, born in Ireland. Nancy age 41, born in Ireland. Frances, age 14, was oldest entry listed who was born in Louisiana.

<sup>34</sup> "New Orleans, 1820-1850 Passenger and Immigration Lists," database, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 3 September 2005), entries for Michael Smith, 30, and Hnr. Smith, 20, arrived 20 October 1841 aboard *Alhambria*; citing *Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New Orleans, LA, 1820-1902*, NARA microfilm publication M259, rolls # 1-33. No minors with surname Smith were listed.

<sup>35</sup> Bossier Parish, Louisiana, District Court Records, no. DC-158, G. King, Agent v. Jacob Bodenhiem [sic], 1847-1848; Clerk of Court's Office, Benton. The loose bearer's notes, with Jacob's signatures by mark, are part of the case file.

"Jacob Bodenhamer" or bearer by the end of April 1849. Jacob had in turn "traded it" to E. H. Pomeroy & Company in the interval. The defendants stated that they had given the note to Jacob "in consideration that he would [not] sell goods or merchandize [sic] in the parish of Bossier on the East Side of Bodcaw [sic, *Lake Bodcaw*] during the time that they the defendants did business as merchants in the parish of Bossier[;] that said Bodenham [sic] violated said agreement [and] sold goods in the parish of Bossier East of Bodcaw directly after said agreement was made[.]"<sup>36</sup> The purchasing power of \$1500 in 1847 translates to about \$39,000 in 2008 dollars,<sup>37</sup> indicating a sizable transfer of goods to Perkins & Sugg.

On 7 June 1848 Jacob paid \$20 cash for his first property in Bossier Parish: Lot 4 in the Town of Bellevue, the parish seat.<sup>38</sup> This half-acre lay in the northern portion of the town, on the east side of a wide main street running north-south.<sup>39</sup> It soon became the location of a country store that Jacob started and operated in conjunction with a local partner and neighbor Horatio P. Hollingsworth, but the partnership dissolved on 21 April 1851. Jacob assumed full ownership of the partnership assets and debts, and no money exchanged hands.<sup>40</sup>

Bodenheimer was not alone as a peddler with a German Jewish background. The largest wave of German immigrants in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century came directly to New Orleans, most of them leaving the Kingdom of Bavaria and the Alsace Lorraine region, which then lay in France just across the border from Pfalz.<sup>41</sup> This had been prompted by riots which started with the 1830 Paris revolt and eventually spread eastward into the Rhineland-Palatinate region and Frankfurt in particular.<sup>42</sup>

Many German immigrants associated with New Orleans wholesale and dry goods suppliers after their arrival, and they peddled these goods into the state's interior, often maintaining their business and social ties if they permanently moved inland. Of these, most German Jewish emigrants to New Orleans were single and most waited "until their lives had stability" before such things as formally joining a synagogue.<sup>43</sup> The need for stability may also have explained why Jacob did not appear in the early records of the New Orleans Jewish congregation to which he would likely have gravitated while in New Orleans—Congregation Gates of Prayer. This congregation was comprised mostly of small sized businesses and merchants with German and Alsatian backgrounds. Most members of this congregation joined later in life.<sup>44</sup>

By June 1848, Jacob had been peddling goods and had now acquired land for his country store in Bellevue. He was in position to consider marrying, and his New Orleans business contacts in the late 1840s may have played a role in his acquiring a bride Eliza Weil on or after 12 June 1849.<sup>45</sup> They may have reached

<sup>36</sup> Bossier Parish, Louisiana, District Court Records, no. DC-254, E. H. Pomeroy & Co. v. Jno. Perkins & J. B. Sugg, 1847; Clerk of Court's Office, Benton.

<sup>37</sup> Lawrence H. Officer and Samuel H. Williamson, "Purchasing Power of Money in the United States from 1774 to 2007," digital article, *MeasuringWorth* (<http://www.measuringworth.com/ppowerus/>; accessed 21 January 2009).

<sup>38</sup> Deed of sale, Police Jury to Jacob Bodenheimer, 7 June 1848; original instrument no. 0535, Bossier Parish Clerk of Court's Office, Benton, Louisiana. A recorded version filed 26 April 1851 is also present in Conveyance Book 2: 194.

<sup>39</sup> Plat map of Bellevue and vicinity, no author, no date, held by Mrs. Cynthia Jett of Bossier Parish Clerk of Court's Office, Benton, Louisiana. The map on file is not the original but a photocopy. It is believed by Mrs. Jett to be the only plat map of the town of Bellevue on file at the courthouse. Researchers must request this map from Mrs. Jett, or the Clerk of Court's Staff.

<sup>40</sup> Contract between J. Bodenheimer [sic] and H. P. Hollingsworth, for Dissolution of Copartnership [sic], 21 April 1851; original instrument no. 0532, Bossier Parish Clerk of Court's Office, Benton, Louisiana. A version recorded on 22 April 1851 is in Conveyance Book 1: 192. Although the location of the firm's store was not specifically stated in this document, it was later identified as being on Lot 4 within the town of Bellevue: see Act [of correction], Jacob Bodenheimer [sic] to James Feiler, 2 March 1853; original instrument no. 0681, Bossier Parish Clerk of Court's Office, Benton. A version recorded 2 March 1853 is in Conveyance Book 2: 469. This act corrected Lot "3" that was erroneously recorded in a Deed of Sale from Jacob to James in 1851, to Lot "4," describing it, "as a certain lot in the Town of Bellevue on which he the said Bodenheimer then had his store, known in the plan of said Town as lot No. Four"

<sup>41</sup> Bobbie Malone, "New Orleans Uptown Jewish Immigrants: The Community of Congregation Gates of Prayer, 1850-1860," *Louisiana History* 32 (Summer 1992): 242.

<sup>42</sup> Nita Cole, "Jewish Pioneers of Northwest Louisiana: the Bodenheimer Family, 1820-1900," *North Louisiana History* 35 (Spring-Summer 2004): 62.

<sup>43</sup> Malone, "New Orleans ... Congregation Gates of Prayer, 1850-1860," 258-260.

<sup>44</sup> Malone, "New Orleans ... Congregation Gates of Prayer, 1850-1860," 239-278. This congregation embraced the reform movement and was particularly attractive to German Jewish immigrants who eventually owned or directed small businesses that depended on businesses being open on Saturdays, the busiest shopping day of the week. On the other hand, according to the author, the orthodox-based Sephardic congregation Gates of Heaven continued to observe Sabbath beginning at sundown Friday and ending sundown Saturday.

<sup>45</sup> Orleans Parish, Louisiana, 4<sup>th</sup> J. P. Marriage Licenses, VEE: 648, Jacob Bodenheimer [sic]-Eliza Weil, 12 June 1849.



Shreveport soon after, by way of the Red River on their way to Bellevue—Eliza's 1906 obituary noted her arrival in Shreveport in 1849.<sup>46</sup> Their arrival perhaps came at, or soon after, an auspiciously difficult time. The Red River crested at 45.9 feet at Shreveport, the highest level in its recorded history, on 10 August 1849, almost 16 feet above the present-day 30-foot flood stage.<sup>47</sup> Planters in northwest Louisiana were probably devastated, and the local region's economy in all probability suffered.

To the marriage Eliza brought \$5,000 cash that she had inherited from father's estate.<sup>48</sup> Under Louisiana's Civil Code this was her "paraphernal property," extradotal property completely separate from her dowry, and as such it was solely her own.<sup>49</sup> In one isolated instance she loaned Parrom Thompson \$200 from her personal estate in 1855. The parish recorder noted that she signed the instrument "in Dutch."<sup>50</sup> This was the only piece of information encountered that alluded to a Dutch background for Eliza.

In November 1849, Jacob acquired 39 acres of Lot 12, a 40-acre square lot just northwest of Bellevue, with the seller holding back the one-acre square in its southeast corner, located immediately north of the main street but not actually in the town.<sup>51</sup> On the 39-acre lot went the family homestead which was occupied through Jacob's death in 1864, Eliza's "yard" allegedly being used to hide some of the cotton the family later claimed that Jacob had owned and hidden from the Yankees near the end of the Civil War.<sup>52</sup> As proof of his ownership, on 23 March 1858 Jacob showed Bossier Parish Surveyor Roswell Elmer the "Patent" he held for Lot 12 when his neighbors and he requested Elmer to survey their property boundaries.<sup>53</sup> The U. S. Government had issued a Final Certificate to the original purchaser of Lot 12, James Carson Scott, on 24 August 1843,<sup>54</sup> and it undoubtedly passed along its chain of ownership to Jacob.<sup>55</sup>

Owning an antebellum Southern country store was a potentially profitable venture in frontier regions like Bossier Parish of the 1840s, and a logical next step from peddling goods, provided that the owner brought sufficient capital to start up the business. Most country store owners had to buy and sell goods on credit, and the credit terms were usually six months, extendable to twelve months with interest. Book accounts extending beyond 6-12 months usually required conversion to a promissory note. Failure to pay the note subjected the borrower to lawsuit. The average store owner almost always operated on a 12-month payment cycle with their wholesale suppliers, and he extended similar credit terms to local farmers and businesses. Payment cycles were usually tied to crop cycles and typically occurred annually in terms of a percentage of the next crop, rather than cash. Once disposed of, about 40-70% of the annual crop went to the store owner, but the situation became

<sup>46</sup> Eliza Bodenheimer obituary, p. 10, col. 4.

<sup>47</sup> HAMweather, LLC, "Red River at Shreveport, Louisiana (Gauge SVPL1)," *HAMweather, bringing weather to your web* (<http://weather.hamweather.com/rivers/gauge/SVPL1.html> : accessed 2 February 2009); citing data provided by NOAA Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service. Present-day flood stage is 30 feet. Present-day "major flood" stage is 33 feet.

<sup>48</sup> Bossier Parish, Louisiana, District Court Records, no. DC-1534, Eliza Weil v. Jacob Bodenheimer, 1860; Clerk of Court's Office, Benton.

<sup>49</sup> Joseph Dainow, editor, 1972 *Compiled Edition of the Civil Codes of Louisiana*, in *West's Louisiana Statutes Annotated*, Volumes 16-17 (St. Paul, Minnesota: West Publishing Company, 1973), 17: 29-30, Article 2315 of the 1825 Civil Code. This source enables its reader to determine exactly what provisions of the Civil Code of Louisiana (Books I-III) applied at any given time from 1808 through 1972, including any acts of the Louisiana legislature that might have superseded previous acts or articles of the code. Hereinafter, the specified article or act of legislature noted was the current law in effect at the time indicated in the narrative.

<sup>50</sup> Bossier Parish, Louisiana, Mortgage Book A: 272, Parrom Thompson to Eliza Weil, mortgage; Clerk of Court's Office, Benton.

<sup>51</sup> Bossier Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 2: 170, William M. Burns and Nathan Pickett to Jacob Bodenheimer, 28 November 1849, original instrument not on file, recorded 11 February 1851; Clerk of Court's Office, Benton.

<sup>52</sup> Caddo Ph., La., District Court Files, no. 1056, Henry ... v. ... Lazarus Bodenheimer, for final opinion and decree of District Court Judge S. L. Taylor, undated [filed 8 January 1883], 5-10.

<sup>53</sup> Roswell Elmer, *Elmer's Survey*, (No place: surviving remnants bound by Bossier Parish Clerk of Court, Benton, Louisiana, no date), 116. Elmer was the Bossier Parish surveyor and kept a contemporary handwritten log of his work. The surviving original remnants were laminated and bound into a single volume maintained with miscellaneous books in the Clerk of Court's Office.

<sup>54</sup> James Carson Scott entry, Lot 12, Section 32, T20N R11W, 24 August 1843, certificate no. 2451, U. S. Land Entries Book 1, Bossier Parish Clerk of Court's Office, Benton, Louisiana. This book contained what appear to be original pages, but only for townships within present day Bossier Parish.

<sup>55</sup> The owners of Lot 12 from John Scott to Jacob Bodenheimer were found in the following title transfers in Bossier Parish Conveyance Books 1: 114, James C. Scott to William M. Burns, 21 October 1844; 1:121, William M. Burns to N. Pickett, 5 December 1844; and 2:170, Burns and Pickett to Jacob Bodenheimer, 28 November 1849 [all but one acre in southeast corner]; Clerk of Court's Office, Benton.

tenuous if crop failures occurred or farm prices dropped. As a result, the average store owner lost 20% of his annual credit sales.<sup>56</sup>

In Jacob's case, availability of initial capital was not a problem for at least two reasons. Court records established that he used his wife's \$5000 paraphernal property to support the family's businesses,<sup>57</sup> and he had a legacy of his own of indeterminate but possibly sizable value from his late mother's German estate.<sup>58</sup>

Jacob continued buying goods on credit from firms in New Orleans. He bought \$193.25 worth of merchandise from Gaithwait, Gifford, and Company of New Orleans, on 12 April 1850, and on 4 March 1851 he obtained \$138 of goods from Frost & Company of New Orleans. Both firms successfully sued him in Bossier Parish for non-payment in 1852<sup>59</sup> and 1853<sup>60</sup> respectively. These were the first evidentiary signs of business distress.

Prices for cotton, tobacco, and staples increased significantly, and the southern economy bloomed in the 1850s.<sup>61</sup> Yet Jacob's country store business did not grow between 1851 and 1854. In fact, it appeared to depreciate in real terms. James Feiler purchased all of Jacob's holdings in 1851 for \$3000, of which \$1000 was the sale value of the town lot and the country store thereon; \$1000 was the sale value of the store's goods, merchandise, book accounts, and notes payable; and \$1000 was the sale value of Jacob's portion of Lot 12, by then 38 acres.<sup>62</sup> On 15 August 1854, Feiler sold the same combination back to the family, Jacob's wife Eliza being the buyer, with a sales price of \$1800.<sup>63</sup> However, the \$1800 price overstated the real value of the property—it included the forgiveness of \$500 in debt, being the residual value of a mortgage taken out in 1851 by Feiler from Simon Rosenbaum, the proceeds of which Feiler used when he bought the property from Jacob at that time. Eliza subsequently purchased that mortgage from Simon Rosenbaum on 8 May 1854,<sup>64</sup> so Feiler had become Eliza's debtor before he sold the land-store combination to her a few months later. In net terms, therefore, the value of the land, improvements, and country store business was \$1800 less \$500, or about \$1300. Perhaps Feiler did not manage the store well, or perhaps he gave Eliza a good deal, since he had married Jacob's niece, Fanny Bodenheimer<sup>65</sup> earlier in the year on 8 February 1854.<sup>66</sup>

There was no doubt, however, that Jacob's business interests declined as the war approached. As tensions built and eventually took the country into Civil War, store owners faced tightening credit from wholesale suppliers. Those wholesale and retail store owners having large proportions of their stock manufactured in the

<sup>56</sup> Lewis E. Atherton, *The Southern Country Store 1800-1860* (Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Louisiana State University Press, 1949), 50-54, 56, 117, 129.

<sup>57</sup> Bossier Ph., La., District Court Records, no. DC-1534, Eliza Weil v. Jacob Bodenheimer, 1860, Eliza sued her husband, according to her petition, for "squandering" her paraphernal property, valued at \$5000.

<sup>58</sup> Bossier Ph., La., "Miscellaneous Book A," p. 32. Brother Isaias personally carried the sum to the United States. The record was clear that this was the last sum that Jacob received from the estate, implying the existence of previous amounts.

<sup>59</sup> Bossier Parish, Louisiana, District Court Records, no. DC-522, Gaithwait, Gifford, & Co. v. Jacob Bodenheimer, 1852-1854; Clerk of Court's Office, Benton. Evidence included the note signed by Jacob with his mark. Jacob confessed to the charge and asked for a stay to allow him to repay the debt by 1 September 1852, which was granted.

<sup>60</sup> Bossier Parish, Louisiana, District Court Records, no. DC-625, Frost and Co. vs Jacob Bodenhim [sic], 1853; Clerk of Court's Office, Benton.

<sup>61</sup> Paul S. Boyer, editor, *The Oxford Companion to United States History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), 206.

<sup>62</sup> Deed of sale, Jacob Bodenheimer to James Feiler, 1 September 1851; original instrument no. 0579, Bossier Parish Clerk of Court's Office, Benton, Louisiana. The clerk's office also recorded the deed on 8 December 1851 in Notarial Book B: 263-4, presently found as Conveyance Book 2: 263-264. The sale erroneously stated Lot 3 in the town of Bellevue. The Bossier Parish Recorder later corrected "Lot 3" to "Lot 4" in the town of Bellevue in an Act [of correction] from Jacob Bodenheime [sic] to James Feiler, 2 March 1853.

<sup>63</sup> Bossier Ph., La., Conveyances Miscellaneous Book 3:330-331. This is a re-recorded typed transcription of the handwritten recorded document, the original instrument of which is not on file—no registry number. The Bellevue Town Lot number stated in the conveyance was incorrectly "3" instead of "4," (2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence of error despite the fact that the 1<sup>st</sup> instance of the error had been previously corrected by the clerk on 2 March 1853). A correction of the second erroneous entry has not been found; however, when this lot was subsequently sold at sheriff's auction in November 1860 to Eliza Weil, and subsequently by her to Lazarus Bodenheimer in February 1861, Bellevue Town Lot number 4 was correctly stated.

<sup>64</sup> Deed of sale of conventional mortgage, S. Rosenbaum to Eliza Weill [sic] wife of J. Bodenhamer [sic], 8 May 1854; original instrument no. 0774, Bossier Parish Clerk of Court's Office, Benton, Louisiana. Jacob, in accordance with the law, gave permission for his wife's transaction. The mortgage at the time of transfer was valued at \$645.20.

<sup>65</sup> Caddo Ph., La., District Court Files, no. 957, Lazarus Bodenheimer succession, 1882. Lazarus' Last Will and Testament identified his sister Fanny [Bodenheimer] Filer of New York City and his father Isaias Bodenheimer of Heidelberg, Germany. Isaias was identified as Jacob Bodenheimer's brother in Bossier Ph., La., "Miscellaneous Book A," p. 32. Lazarus was also identified as Jacob's nephew in Caddo Ph., La., District Court Files, no. 1056, Henry ... v. ... Lazarus Bodenheimer, 1882. Taken together, Fanny was Jacob's niece.

<sup>66</sup> Bossier Parish, Louisiana, Marriage Book 2:136-137, James Feiler and Fanny Bodenheimer, marriage bond, license, and marriage return, 8 February 1854; Clerk of Court's Office, Benton.

North faced supply source disruptions should war break out, as well as increased political pressure to stop patronizing the North.<sup>67</sup> With his homestead's proximity to the parish seat of Bellevue, Jacob expanded his home to serve as a hotel and stage office by 1857,<sup>68</sup> and he probably took in visiting lawyers during court terms.<sup>69</sup>

The 1860 U.S. Census Agricultural Schedule for Bossier Parish indicated that Jacob had a forty acre farm in the Bellevue Post Office region. This had to be his 38-acre holding in Lot 12 of Section 32, T20N, R11W, located immediately north of the town. The farm consisted of 25 improved and 15 unimproved acres, valued at \$2000. His livestock consisted of 1 horse, no mules, 10 milk cows, no working oxen, 11 other head of cattle, and 5 sheep, all valued at \$200. Perhaps consistent with his Jewish heritage, his farm had no swine—uncommon for farmers in this parish's agricultural census schedule. His produce during the year ending 1 June 1860 consisted of 200 bushels of Indian corn, 20 bushels of Irish potatoes, 100 bushels of sweet potatoes, and 100 pounds of butter. He slaughtered about \$100 worth of animals during the year. Specifically his produce included zero bales of gleaned cotton.<sup>70</sup> This all suggested a profile of subsistence support for his family and slaves, as well as support for his hotel guests. It clearly showed that he was not in the business of raising cotton as of 1 June 1860.

Despite the receipt of the residual inheritance from his mother's estate, eventually documented in 1859,<sup>71</sup> wife Eliza took the significant action of suing her husband in September 1860 to recover her \$5000 paraphernal estate.<sup>72</sup> Eliza claimed that Jacob had "squandered the same in his unfortunate merchantile [sic] business and is now insolvent." Eliza's paraphernal estate—what she had acquired via inheritance or donation—was legally and solely her property. Since she apparently did not administer it separately and alone, her husband had a right to use it and legal obligations to maintain it and to be accountable to her for what happened to it.<sup>73</sup> Her suit's petition claimed his failures to do so in the simplest and most visible terms. On the surface, Eliza sought to have her paraphernal estate restored and then be placed in complete and solitary administration of it. Interestingly, though, Eliza did not seek a divorce or even a legal separation.

First, Jacob signed a confession in open court with respect to Eliza's claims and petition. The court agreed with her and ordered not only restitution of her \$5000 estate, but also interest charges and court costs. It assessed the value of everything that Jacob owned and that Jacob and Eliza jointly owned and accumulated through marriage at \$3765. Of this the land/store combination then assessed at a total of \$2000.<sup>74</sup> The court then ordered all of this sold at auction, which occurred in November 1860. Eliza herself became the highest bidder at \$2510.<sup>75</sup>

Why she went to this trouble begged motive. One theory was that she intended to use the law to protect what was left of the family's assets, to legally shield them from her husband's creditors. Before the court put Jacob's and the couple's joint holdings on the auction block in November 1860, it had ordered in September 1860 the dissolution of the "community of acquets and gains" between the couple. Therefore when Eliza became the highest bidder, she gained sole ownership and virtually complete control over the entire purchase.

<sup>67</sup> Lewis E. Atherton, *The Southern Country Store 1800-1860*, 59, 117.

<sup>68</sup> Bodenheimer Hotel advertisements, *Bossier (Louisiana) Times*, 19 September 1857–1 October 1858; microfilm no. 1999.62.3, reel 1, Bossier Parish Library Historical Center, Bossier City, Louisiana, see the 24 April 1858 issue for the most legible version. Jacob took out an ad starting 19 September 1857 for his hotel and "General Stage Office." The ad appears in surviving issues up to and including 1 Oct 1858. It stated in part, "The Proprietor of this old and well known establishment, having recently made considerable additions to his house" [emphasis added].

<sup>69</sup> Dr. J. M. Bodenheimer, "The Bodenheimer Family," 3.

<sup>70</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, agriculture schedule, Bellevue post office, pages 1-2, line 10, J. Bordinghamer; NARA microfilm publication T1136, roll 6. A line-by-line review of this schedule for Bossier Parish showed roughly 85-90% of farm entries listed swine.

<sup>71</sup> Bossier Ph., La., "Miscellaneous Book A," p. 32.

<sup>72</sup> Bossier Ph., La., District Court Records, no. DC-1534, Eliza Weil v. Jacob Bodenheimer, 1860. Jacob signed with his mark a written confession to the allegations in open court on 11 September 1860.

<sup>73</sup> Dainow, ed., 1972 *Compiled Edition of the Civil Codes of Louisiana*, 17: 58, Articles 2361-2 (1825 Civil Code).

<sup>74</sup> Bossier Ph., La., District Court Records, no. DC-1534, Eliza Weil v. Jacob Bodenheimer, 1860. The inventory was appraised on 3 November 1860, received under the signature of Sheriff Philo Alden as part of the proceedings.

<sup>75</sup> Deed of sale, Bossier Parish Sheriff to Eliza Weil, 12 November 1860; original instrument no. 01851, Bossier Parish Clerk of Court's Office, Benton, Louisiana. In addition to the original deed on file, the parish recorded it twice: 13 November 1860 in Bossier Parish Sheriff's Book A: 137-8, and 23 February 1861 in Bossier Parish Conveyance Book 5 pt 2: 561-562.

Jacob no longer owned or jointly owned the land and improvements, or anything else that Eliza might earn from it or acquire on her own. He still retained the authority to give or withhold his consent of his wife's future transactions involving immovable property such as land and improvements. But even that could be overcome with a judge's authorization.<sup>76</sup>

Now that Eliza's paraphernal estate—or more accurately what was left of it—had been restored to her, was it really safe from Jacob's creditors? Nominally yes, but the 1825 Civil Code had one troublesome article: "The creditors of the husband may object to the separation of property decreed and even executed with a view to defraud them. They may even become parties to the suit for a separation of property, and be heard against it."<sup>77</sup> Perhaps with that in mind, within three months of her purchase at auction, she sold the land/store combination on 2 February 1861 to Jacob's nephew Lazarus Bodenheimer, adding to it both of her female slaves, the household's wagon, buggy, and 2 horses, for \$3000. Since the transactions included immovable property, Jacob's authorization for his wife's deed of sale to Lazarus was required and included.<sup>78</sup> This sale disposed of the remaining real estate held by the couple.

Lazarus agreed to an interesting purchase arrangement with Eliza in the deed. As a condition of sale she agreed to release all matrimonial and paraphernal rights to the property, and he agreed to write a promissory note for \$3000 cash within two days of the sale and to pay the note within 10 days of the sale. This might have been difficult to do for most residents, but Lazarus Bodenheimer and his partner Simon Levy, Jr., demonstrated significant wealth.<sup>79</sup> When it was over, Jacob owned nothing, and Eliza retained, in her sole possession, 10 head of cattle valued at \$40, a hack valued at \$50, the household furniture and farming utensils previously valued together at \$200, and \$3000 cash from the sale.<sup>80</sup> With the store—its assets and debts—no longer in the family's possession, Jacob's creditors then became Lazarus Bodenheimer's.

Lazarus Bodenheimer was a close and trusted relative of the family at this point in time. Jacob, Eliza, and their family continued to reside on the same Bossier Parish land, now owned by Lazarus, through the war's end.<sup>81</sup> Eliza herself petitioned the court for Lazarus' eventual appointment as Under-Tutor [co-guardian] to her children in 1864 after Jacob's death as "a suitable person to be appointed under tutor to the said minors[.]"<sup>82</sup> There was some evidence that Jacob ran a tavern in the war years—he might have worked for someone other than his wife or Lazarus but this was doubtful. Despite Lazarus' probable generosity with respect to the free use of his property and perhaps his employment of Jacob, the family apparently still struggled in the war years.<sup>83</sup>

Excluding their 38-acre homestead and the Bellevue country store, all but one of Jacob's and Eliza's remaining land transactions were minor from 1850 to 1858, involving .5 to 1.5 acre per transaction, and resulting in no net gain or loss of land for the couple.<sup>84</sup> The exception occurred 19 October 1850: Jacob bought another lot of about 40 acres in the northeast corner of the northeast corner of Section 33 in T20N

<sup>76</sup> Dainow, ed., 1972 *Compiled Edition of the Civil Codes of Louisiana*, 17: 84–91, Articles 2399–2410 (1825 Civil Code).

<sup>77</sup> Dainow, ed., 1972 *Compiled Edition of the Civil Codes of Louisiana*, 17: 90, Article 2408 (1825 Civil Code).

<sup>78</sup> Bossier Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 5 Part 2: 552–553, 2 February 1861, recorded 2 February 1861; Clerk of Court's Office, Benton, Louisiana.

<sup>79</sup> Deed of sale, L. Baer to Levy & Bodenheimer, 9 September 1863; original instrument no 02013, Bossier Parish Clerk of Court's Office, Benton, Louisiana. A recorded version filed 1 November 1863 is also in Bossier Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 5 pt 2: 786–787. The firm of Simon Levy, Jr., and Lazarus Bodenheimer paid \$6750 cash for ½ interest in 1200 acres in Bossier Parish.

<sup>80</sup> Determined from the 3 November 1860 inventory (in Bossier Ph., La., District Court Records, no. DC-1534, Eliza Weil v. Jacob Bodenheimer, 1860) less the effects sold by Eliza to Lazarus Bodenheimer on 2 February 1861 (in Bossier Ph., La., Conv. Bk. 5 Pt 2: 552–553, 2 February 1861).

<sup>81</sup> Bossier Parish, Louisiana, Parish Court Records, no. P-214, Eliza Weil and husband v. S. P. Day, 1870–1874; Clerk of Court's Office, Benton; Lazarus Bodenheimer testified that Eliza Weil was the wife of the late Jacob Bodenheimer, and that she moved from Bossier to Caddo Parish in 1865. In Dr. J. M. Bodenheimer, "The Bodenheimer Family," 5, Lazarus "had lived at Jacob Bodenheimer's widow's home during his lifetime."

<sup>82</sup> Bossier Parish, Louisiana, Probate Records, no file number, Tutorship of the Minor Heirs of Jacob Bodenheimer, 30 June 1864; Clerk of Court's Office, Benton. Eliza petitioned the court to appoint Lazarus as Under Tutor.

<sup>83</sup> Caddo Ph., La., District Court Files, no. 1056, Henry ... v. ... Lazarus Bodenheimer, for final opinion and decree of Judge Taylor, no date [8 January 1883], 11, noting that the family lived in "indigent, if not destitute" circumstances in the years leading up to Jacob's death.

<sup>84</sup> Bossier Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Books 2: 93–4, 188, 188–9, 221; 3: 252–3, 424–5; 4: 217–8, 372; 5 part 1: 344; Clerk of Court's Office, Benton.

R11W.<sup>85</sup> This lay 10-15 miles east-northeast of Bellevue on the road to Cotton Valley, but he conveyed it to another party on or before 21 December 1852.<sup>86</sup>

Slaves did not appear to play a significant role in Jacob's and Eliza's business affairs. The earliest surviving records indicated the purchase and sale of a crippled male slave named Jackson/Jack in March and May of 1850 respectively.<sup>87</sup> On 1 June 1850, the census day, the slave schedule showed that Jacob owned one female mulatto slave aged 40.<sup>88</sup> Eliza then bought a 45 year old female slave named Maria in April of 1851.<sup>89</sup> The next reference to slaves occurred in the slave census schedule of 1860,<sup>90</sup> where the family owned a total of two female slaves—consistent with expectations—aged 35 and 55, although the 35 year age given for one was doubtful. Two female slaves were sold at auction by the sheriff on 12 November 1860 as a result of Eliza's suit against Jacob—to Eliza herself,<sup>91</sup> who then resold them to Lazarus in February 1861.<sup>92</sup> The last recorded slave transaction was Jacob's purchase of Andrew, a 52 year old male, for \$200 on March 28, 1863.<sup>93</sup> Thus, in the inventory of Jacob's succession filed in 1864, Jacob owned, as expected, a total of one male slave, whom the sheriff was subsequently unable to sell at auction for cash or as a 12-month credit sale.<sup>94</sup> Andrew was thus assessed at \$0 in the Jacob's 1864 inventory. Although there were inconsistencies in their expected 1860 ages, the two female slaves who appeared in 1850-1851 may have been the same ones sold to Lazarus Bodenheimer in February 1861. In addition to supporting Eliza in her childbearing years, they probably supported Jacob as the "servants" noted in his newspaper ads for the Bodenheimer Hotel in 1857-1858.<sup>95</sup>

Although it was a struggle to survive and flourish economically in frontier regions like Bossier Parish in the 1840s, life was not totally consumed with work. Jewish worship in private homes in nearby Shreveport, Caddo Parish began in the 1840s, and, though no record shows him owning property or living there, Jacob was noted as a founding member of its Jewish community.<sup>96</sup> Although perhaps Orthodox in origin, many Jews eventually practiced Reform Judaism, which developed in the next decades, allowing economic and cultural assimilation in the local community.<sup>97</sup>

Jacob actively supported his Bellevue, Bossier Parish community in fraternal spirit and civic duty. The District Court of Bossier Parish appointed him to serve as a member of its Grand Jury for the court session that began on 20 May 1850.<sup>98</sup> Masonic Lodge #95 was constituted in Bellevue after early 1850, and Jacob applied as a candidate for the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree (apprenticeship) in March. The lodge was subsequently chartered on

<sup>85</sup> Deed of sale, A. F. Lockly to Jac. Bodenheimer [sic], 19 October 1850; original instrument no. 0462, Bossier Parish Clerk of Court's Office, Benton, Louisiana; a recorded version dated 31 October 1850 is also in Bossier Parish Conveyance Book 2: 96.

<sup>86</sup> A conveyance of this land after 19 October 1850 from Bodenheimer to a subsequent owner was not recorded by the Bossier Parish Recorder. A page-by-page reading of Bossier Parish Conveyance Book, 2: 96-431 held no reference to the land parcel. It then appeared in Conveyance Book 2: 432-3, Minton M. Carter to John W. Goodwin, deed of sale, 21 December 1852.

<sup>87</sup> Deed of sale, Elizabeth Ann Walker and Martha Walker to Jacob Bodunhamer [sic], 13 March 1850; original instrument no. 0466, Bossier Parish Clerk of Court's Office, Benton, Louisiana; a version recorded 15 March 1850 is also in Bossier Parish Conveyance Book 2: 99. Deed of sale, J. Bordenheimer [sic] to Charles Lewis, 24 May 1850; original instrument no. 0538, Bossier Parish Clerk of Court's Office, Benton, Louisiana; a version recorded 25 November 1850 is also in Conveyance Book 2: 195-196.

<sup>88</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, slave schedule, Ward No. 4, Town of Bellevue, no page number, column 1, line 32, Jacob Bodenheimer; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 September 2005; citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll number not identified by website; one mulatto female slave was listed, age 40.

<sup>89</sup> Deed of sale, Chas. Lewis to Eliza Bodenhum [sic], 19 April 1851; instrument no. 0610, Bossier Parish Clerk of Court's Office, Benton, Louisiana. A version recorded on 22 April 1852 is also found in Bossier Parish Land Conveyance Book 2: 321-322.

<sup>90</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, slave schedule, Ward No. 4, page 1, (stamped) page 216, column 2, lines 17-18, J. Bordenhamer; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 September 2005; citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll number not identified by website.

<sup>91</sup> Deed of sale, Bossier Parish Sheriff to Eliza Weil, 12 November 1860.

<sup>92</sup> Bossier Ph., La., Conv. Bk. 5 Part 2: 552-553.

<sup>93</sup> Deed of sale, John H. Lofton to Jacob Bodenheimer, 28 March 1863.

<sup>94</sup> Bossier Ph., La., District Court Files, no case file no., Jacob Bodenheimer succession, 1864.

<sup>95</sup> Bodenheimer Hotel advertisements, *Bossier Banner*, 19 September 1857-1 October 1858.

<sup>96</sup> Brock, *Images of America, The Jewish Community of Shreveport*, 10, no source cited.

<sup>97</sup> Brock, *Images of America, The Jewish Community of Shreveport*, 31, members of Shreveport's B'Nai Zion Congregation who continued to support traditional Orthodoxy separated and formed their own congregation in 1875. Those who remained practiced Reform Judaism. For a discussion of pressures that led to or were accommodated by Reform Judaism, see Malone, "New Orleans ... Gates of Prayer, 1850-1860," 249-250.

<sup>98</sup> Cardin, *Bossier Parish History 1843-1993*, 37.

21 January 1851, and Jacob obtained his 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree on 19 April and 19 May respectively.<sup>99</sup> Jacob jointly purchased with 41 other men a 1x2 acre lot in the nearby town of Fillmore on 31 May 1853: whether this was done to support the building of a Masonic lodge or to support some other function such as a cemetery or school remains to be determined.<sup>100</sup> Jacob's role as a Mason must have continued for the rest of his life: his tombstone was engraved with the compass and square symbols of the Masonic Order.<sup>101</sup>

There was no question that Jacob supported the South at the onset of the Civil War. Tensions in Louisiana escalated in late 1860 with talk of secession from the Union, culminating in a vote to do so on 26 January 1861. Just prior, on Saturday, 19 January 1861, Jacob had placed himself on a company roll of light infantry under the prospective command of Captain Wm. Harrison,<sup>102</sup> but the company never reached full strength and did not become an active military unit. Most either joined other companies or were too old to serve.<sup>103</sup> No record has surfaced showing that Jacob enlisted elsewhere. The *Bossier Banner* of 25 January 1861 appealed to the over-aged volunteers: "we request those over forty-five years old to call a meeting at an early day, for the purpose of forming a home battalion."<sup>104</sup> Since Jacob was probably at least 46 years old when he attempted to join,<sup>105</sup> perhaps he volunteered for the requested home battalion. Oral family tradition maintained that Jacob "did not soldier in the Civil War. He was beyond the age limit, and was crippled from a runaway accident."<sup>106</sup>

The Civil War, as it had with virtually every inhabitant of the Confederacy, impacted the Jacob Bodenheimer household. Repercussions from it would take Eliza and her children to the Louisiana Supreme Court by 1883.

In March and April of 1864, General Nathaniel Banks and Admiral David Porter conducted a combined Union land-river offensive from New Orleans up the Red River towards Shreveport. One major goal was the seizure of cotton that many, but not all, Southerners had deliberately withheld from the market, a policy that had been enforced by Confederate forces, creating a "Cotton Famine" in the North.<sup>107</sup> The Union offensive did not reach Bellevue.

Family tradition maintained that Jacob died of malignant malaria after the close of the Civil War, but that before he died, he had hidden "a large quantity of baled cotton."<sup>108</sup> He actually died about June 1864, but the Confederate policy of withholding cotton from the markets was in full effect by the time the Red River Union Offensive began. Thus, the hiding of baled cotton—if it existed—was a reasonable likelihood, if not by Jacob himself, then perhaps by his surviving wife or Lazarus.

Jacob having died intestate, Eliza petitioned the Bossier Parish District Court to be appointed the Administratrix of Jacob's succession on 28 June 1864. On 30 June her separate petition to be appointed Natural Tutrix (Guardian) and for Lazarus Bodenheimer to be appointed Under Tutor for Jacobs' four minor children was received and granted.<sup>109</sup> The inventory in his succession totaled \$765.76, comprised solely of accounts and notes receivables (and a slave valued at \$0), and no land or other assets of any type, including unsold bales of cotton. These findings were not unexpected. They were consistent with results of Eliza's legal actions against Jacob and her deed of sale to Lazarus in 1860-1861. The court ordered her appointment as

<sup>99</sup> Dr. J. M. Bodenheimer, "The Bodenheimer Family," 8. Dr. Bodenheimer cited the history of the Bellevue Lodge and Jacob's progression within it from the contents of a 1926 letter he held addressed to Cora (Weil) Bodenheimer from Dr. Tucker, the Secretary of the Masonic Lodge at Haughton. Dr. Bodenheimer stated that the Haughton Lodge was formerly located in Bellevue.

<sup>100</sup> Bossier Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 3: 100-101, 31 May 1853; Clerk of Court's Office, Benton. A suggestion was made that this sale was done for a social or civic purpose by Cole, "Jewish Pioneers of Northwest Louisiana: the Bodenheimer Family, 1820-1900," 72.

<sup>101</sup> Hebrew Rest Cemetery I (Oakland Cemetery, Shreveport, La.), Jacob Bodenheimer marker, block 1, lot 4.

<sup>102</sup> "Sixty Years Ago," *Bossier Banner*, 27 January 1921, page 2, columns 1-3; *Bossier Banner* newspapers, Film 53, Noel Memorial Library, LSU-Shreveport, Shreveport, Louisiana; the company's roll was transcribed from the 25 January 1861 *Bossier Banner* issue.

<sup>103</sup> "Sixty Years Ago," *Bossier Banner*, 27 January 1921, p. 2, cols. 1-3, findings and opinions of the 1921 newspaper staff writers.

<sup>104</sup> "Sixty Years Ago," *Bossier Banner*, 27 January 1921, p. 2, cols. 1-3, quoting the 25 January 1861 issue.

<sup>105</sup> Given the probable range of birth years 1805-1814, noted earlier in this work, Jacob would have been 46-56 years old.

<sup>106</sup> Dr. J. M. Bodenheimer, "The Bodenheimer Family," 3.

<sup>107</sup> John D. Winters, *The Civil War in Louisiana* (Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 1963), 321, 325, 331.

<sup>108</sup> Dr. J. M. Bodenheimer, "The Bodenheimer Family," 5.

<sup>109</sup> Bossier Ph., La., Probate Records, no number, Tutorship of the Minor Heirs of Jacob Bodenheimer, 30 June 1864.

Administratrix on 28 August 1864 after she posted a \$1000 bond.<sup>110</sup> In 1869 the Bossier Parish Court conducted another inventory of Jacob's estate, for the purposes of monitoring the tutorship of his minor children. The inventory valued at exactly that of 1864, \$765.76.<sup>111</sup>

Other evidence of Jacob's and Eliza's separate financial conditions at the war's end appeared in a civil suit contemporaneous to the period. James McGuigan sued Eliza Bodenheimer in Bossier Parish District Court on 22 August 1865 for non-payment of a promissory note she signed 29 January 1861. Sheriff Philo Alden served the summons at her residence in Bossier Parish on 25 August. She signed a confession, filed 11 January 1866. The plaintiff noted that Eliza "was separated in property by a Judgment of your said court and that she possessed considerable property in her own right.... Jacob Bodenheimer the late husband ... was notoriously insolvent."<sup>112</sup>

Eliza moved her family to Shreveport in 1865.<sup>113</sup> Lazarus continued his ownership of the Bellevue town lot and the family's homestead until 1875 and 1880 respectively.<sup>114</sup>

Within two years, the widow remarried. Jacob Citron posted a marriage bond and obtained a license to marry Mrs. Eliza Bodenheimer [sic] on 20 May 1867.<sup>115</sup> The next day he established a marriage contract with Eliza and formally donated \$3000 cash, "for her separate use and for the support of said Eliza Weil and her family."<sup>116</sup> This proved wise for Eliza's sake. She married him on 23 May 1867, but by 1872 the marriage was in serious trouble. Citron sued Eliza for divorce and for the return of his \$3000 donation. She countered with a petition that he had been unfaithful. An appeals court in Monroe, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana eventually rejected both petitions.<sup>117</sup>

Citron's suit against Eliza must have incensed Lazarus Bodenheimer and Simon Levy, Jr., as they almost immediately filed a suit of their own against Citron for five years of unpaid rent. Citron had moved in with Eliza and the family, and he had assumed that the rent-free status that Eliza had enjoyed before their marriage was to continue. His allegations proved accurate and the court found for him after appeal, dismissing the case.<sup>118</sup> She successfully divorced Citron on 9 March 1888,<sup>119</sup> having lived apart from him as early as 1880.<sup>120</sup>

When Eliza began and ended business on her own account was unclear, but in 1880 she was doing business as a commercial firm operating in Bossier Point, Bossier Parish, under the name E. Bodenheimer. Evidence of its existence appeared in the form of mortgages taken out by local farmers and sharecroppers in which they pledged to the firm the first baled cotton from their crops as security for repayment of money and supplies advanced to them. The mortgages ranged from \$50 to \$200, and were often witnessed at Mercer's

<sup>110</sup> Bossier Ph., La., District Court Files, no case file no., Jacob Bodenheimer succession, 1864.

<sup>111</sup> Bossier Parish, Louisiana, Mortgage Book B: 693-694, Accounting of the tutorship of the minors of Jacob Bodenheimer, 1869; Clerk of Court's Office, Benton.

<sup>112</sup> Bossier Parish, Louisiana, District Court Records, no. DC-1722, James McGuigan v. Eliza Bodenheimer, Bossier Parish, 1865-1866; Clerk of Court's Office, Benton.

<sup>113</sup> Bossier Ph., La., Parish Court Records, no. P-214, Eliza Weil and husband v. S. P. Day, 1870-1874, for Lazarus Bodenheimer's testimony.

<sup>114</sup> Caddo Parish, Conveyance Book V: 597, Lazarus Bodenheimer to Dr. John B. Walthall, agreement, 13 October 1875; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport, Louisiana; agreement to sell the "Bodenheimer Property" in the town of Bellevue. Deed of sale, L. Bodenheimer to J. H. Keyser, 21 April 1880; original instrument no. 03833, Bossier Parish Clerk of Court's Office, Benton, Louisiana; sale of the 38 acre homestead located immediately north of the town for \$325.

<sup>115</sup> Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Marriage Book 3: 75, Jacob Citron and Mrs. Eliza Bodenheimer [sic], marriage bond and license (20 May 1867), and marriage return (23 May 1867); Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

<sup>116</sup> Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book P: 705, Jacob Citron to Eliza Weil, marriage contract, 21 May 1867; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

<sup>117</sup> Caddo Parish, Louisiana, District Court Records, no. 8232, Jacob Citron v. Eliza Weil, 1872; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Appellate actions also appear in this case file.

<sup>118</sup> Caddo Parish, Louisiana, District Court Records, no. 8276, Levy and Bodenheimer v. Jacob Citron, 1872; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Appellate action is included in this case file.

<sup>119</sup> Caddo Parish, Louisiana, District Court Records, no. 2648, Eliza Citron v. Jacob Citron, 1888; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

<sup>120</sup> 1880 U.S. Census, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Shreveport, enumeration district [ED] 21, page 4, dwelling 43, family 54, Simon Levy; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 August 2005); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 449; enumerated on Spring Street were Simon Levy, his 3 children, his mother-in-law E. Bodenheimer, and sister-in-law Teresa Bodenheimer. *Waldo's [1881] Shreveport Directory* (unknown: unknown [publication place and publisher not captured on film], 1881), p. 19, entry for J. Citron residing on Texas Street; microfilm, Shreveport City Directories-1875-1903 (part), roll number 1, Broadmoor Department of Shreve Memorial Library, Shreveport, Louisiana.



Store in Haughton, Bossier Parish, by Henry Bodenheimer, Eliza's eldest son.<sup>121</sup> It is unlikely that the firm was owned by Eliza's other son Emanuel Bodenheimer as he had not reached majority and was clerking in a Shreveport mercantile store associated with M. J. Goldsmith.<sup>122</sup> Henry's presence in Bossier Point and Haughton was supported by family tradition.<sup>123</sup>

Eliza's son-in-law Simon Levy, Jr. received a wire soon after Christmas 1881 informing him that his partner Lazarus Bodenheimer had died in New York City on 26 December 1881.<sup>124</sup> Although Lazarus named Simon's children—her grandchildren—as legatees, he did not name Eliza or any of Jacob's surviving children as legatees.<sup>125</sup> The original inventory document subsequently compiled in Caddo Parish showed that Lazarus' estate consisted almost entirely of his ½ undivided partnership interest in the real estate and personal property owned by the firm Levy and Bodenheimer, appraised at over \$123,000. In early 1882, Jacob's surviving children filed a petition and an amended petition with the 1<sup>st</sup> District Court in Caddo Parish that Jacob either had owned, or co-owned with his nephew Lazarus Bodenheimer, a sum of 108 bales of cotton that had been hidden from Union troops and later sold by Lazarus. The children maintained that Jacob's cotton had been deliberately excluded from the inventory of his estate at his death because of the need to hide it from Union forces, and that they did not receive the proceeds from the sale of Jacob's cotton from Lazarus before Lazarus died.<sup>126</sup> Therefore they sought redress from Lazarus' estate.

The trial court ruled against the children, found that Jacob's alleged ownership of the cotton "claimed is left in very grave doubt" and noted that it was "doubtful whether Jacob Bodenheimer had the means to purchase the large quantity of cotton involved in this suit." The court found that Jacob had run a tavern in the war years in Bossier Parish, and that his business had failed before the war. It ruled that the children should have sought redress from Eliza, for presumably failing in her guardianship duties, and that, regardless of whether they had done so, she herself had had ample opportunity to seek redress against Lazarus, while he was alive, for an apparent failure of his guardianship responsibilities as Under-Tutor to her children.<sup>127</sup>

The children appealed. The Louisiana Supreme Court heard the case in 1883 and affirmed the lower court's decision. It further concluded that during the war Jacob and Eliza's family lived in the house in Bellevue that Lazarus owned, that Lazarus actually had owned the cotton and stored on his property in Bellevue, and that he had sold it in July 1865 as his own.<sup>128</sup>

Although it appeared otherwise, Jacob was not a prosperous cotton planter or plantation owner at his death in 1864. The family's fortunes revolved around his Bellevue country store, peaking in the early 1850s and slowly waning as the decade played out. Jacob became insolvent and Eliza assumed the dominant role controlling the family's assets, especially noticeable just prior to the war years. It was fortuitous that Lazarus Bodenheimer was in a position to help the family. Despite the family's suit against his estate in 1882, he must

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<sup>121</sup> The mother-son relationship is separately discussed. Henry's actions on behalf of the firm E. Bodenheimer are found in Bossier Parish, Louisiana, Mortgage Books G: 509, 510, 510-511, 511, 512, 512-513, 513, 513-514, 514, 515, 580, 685, 686; and H: 125; Clerk of Court's Office, Benton. As of late 2008, the mortgage books had been relocated to the Criminal Records department.

<sup>122</sup> 1880 U.S. Census, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Shreveport, enumeration district [ED] 20, page 75, page 398C (stamped), dwelling 663, family 739, W. A. McCutcheon; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 May 2005); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 449; E. Bodenheimer, a clerk, and several office personnel, were enumerated with wealthy merchant M. J. Goldsmith.

<sup>123</sup> Dr. J. M. Bodenheimer, "The Bodenheimer Family," 6. Henry "settled in Bossier Point, Koran, and finally at Haughton before coming to Shreveport."

<sup>124</sup> "Lazarus Bodenheimer," *Shreveport (Louisiana) Times*, 28 December 1881, page 4, column 3.

<sup>125</sup> Caddo Ph., La., District Court Files, no. 957, Lazarus Bodenheimer succession, 1882. Lazarus signed his will in New York City on 7 December 1881. The will successfully completed probate proceedings on 4 March 1882 in Surrogate's Court, New York County, New York. The version observed in this case file was an exemplified [true] copy of the will provided by the Surrogate's Court to the Caddo Parish District Court and filed as Evidence Exhibit A by the latter on 16 March 1882.

<sup>126</sup> Caddo Ph., La., District Court Files, no. 1056, Henry ... v. ... Lazarus Bodenheimer, 1882. See both the petition and amended petition of the plaintiffs to get the correct total number of cotton bales. The petitions explicitly stated that Jacob owned or co-owned the cotton with Lazarus. 108 bales of cotton weigh roughly about 25 tons.

<sup>127</sup> Caddo Ph., La., District Court Files, no. 1056, Henry ... v. ... Lazarus Bodenheimer, 1882, for Final Opinion and Decree of Judge S. L. Taylor, 11 pages.

<sup>128</sup> *Henry Bodenheimer, et al., v. Executors of Lazarus Bodenheimer*, case no. 105, in Henry Denis, *Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of Louisiana* (New Orleans: Jas. A. Gresham, 1884), 35: 1005-1007. The appellate case file itself is lost: the court transferred it to the New Orleans Public Library, but local archivists could not locate it.

be credited for assisting them, not only through the war but for several years thereafter, in concert with Simon Levy, Jr., Eliza's eventual son-in-law.

Jacob Bodenheimer and Eliza Weil were the parents of:

- i. HARRIET BODENHEIMER, born 7 June 1850, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, died 12 February 1878, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana. Harriet was buried on 13 February 1878 in Hebrew Rest Cemetery I, now part of Oakland Cemetery, Shreveport.<sup>129</sup> She married Simon Levy, Jr., 11 July 1866, in Caddo Parish,<sup>130</sup> and by him had three children, (a) Juliette Levy, born 23 August 1871, Shreveport, died 30 October 1934, Shreveport,<sup>131</sup> (b) Jake Levy, born about 1873, probably Shreveport,<sup>132</sup> and (c) Fannie Levy, born about July 1877, probably Shreveport, died 29 May 1940, New Orleans.
- ii. HENRY BODENHEIMER, born possibly 28 September 1853, Bossier Parish, died 29 January 1938, in Shreveport.<sup>134</sup> He married Cora Weil, 26 May 1880, in Caddo Parish.<sup>135</sup> Henry and Cora are buried beside each other Hebrew Rest Cemetery II, Shreveport.<sup>136</sup> Cora was born 25 February 1863 in Shreveport, died 29 October 1944, in Shreveport.<sup>137</sup> They had three children, (a) Jacob H. Bodenheimer, born 20 July 1881, in Shreveport,<sup>138</sup> died in New Orleans,<sup>139</sup> (b) Moise Harry Bodenheimer, born 22 April 1883, Louisiana, died 4 March 1889, Haughton, Bossier Parish,<sup>140</sup> (c) Albert C. Bodenheimer born 14 January 1885, Shreveport, died 22 October 1949, Shreveport.<sup>141</sup>
- + 2 iii. EMANUEL MAHNE BODENHEIMER, born possibly 13 April 1860, in Bossier Parish, died 5 November 1939, in Shreveport.<sup>142</sup> Emanuel married Ella Bertha Levy on 22 February 1882 in Caddo Parish.<sup>143</sup>
- iv. THERESA BODENHEIMER, born possibly 27 April 1862, Bossier Parish, died 30 January 1947, New Orleans.<sup>144</sup> In her early years she lived with her mother and her Levy relations as late as 1899;<sup>145</sup> she lived in New Orleans for her remaining 48 years.<sup>146</sup> Family tradition never indicated whether she

<sup>129</sup> Caddo Ph., La., "Register of Death 1874 - July, 1912," Book A, Harriet B. Levy entry, 12 February 1878. Harriet Bodenheimer obituary, *The Shreveport (Louisiana) Times*, 13 February 1878, p. 4, column 2, she died at age 27 on 12 February and was buried the next day. Oakland Cemetery (Shreveport, Louisiana), *Oakland Cemetery*, digital database (<http://www.oaklandcemeteryla.org/Index.aspx> : accessed 7 February 2009), entry for Harriette Bodenheimer Levy, no. 151, citing block 1, lot 2. Harriet's mother Eliza was alive and residing in Shreveport at her daughter's death—she had firsthand knowledge of her daughter's birth information.

<sup>130</sup> Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Marriage Book 3: 9, Simon Levy and Miss Harriet Bodenheimer, 1866, recorded bond, license, and return; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

<sup>131</sup> Louisiana State Department of Health, death certificate 11450 (1934), Juliette Levy Kahn; Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge.

<sup>132</sup> 1880 U.S. Census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch., Shreveport, ED 21, p. 4, dwell. 43, fam. 54, Simon Levy. The children were Juliet (age 9), Jake (7), and Fannie (2).

<sup>133</sup> Orleans Parish, Louisiana, Death Records Vol. 214: 1260 (1940), Fannie Levy Mayer (widow of Norman Mayer); Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge. Birth date inferred from age 63 years, 10 months.

<sup>134</sup> Louisiana State Department of Health, death certificate 1324 (1938), Henry Bodenheimer; Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge. Hebrew Rest Cemetery II (Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana). Henry Bodenheimer marker, plot 123; read and transcribed 13 August 2004 by Philip Adderley (Shreveport, Louisiana).

<sup>135</sup> Henry Bodenheimer-Cora Weil marriage notice, *The Shreveport (Louisiana) Times*, 27 May 1880, page 4, column 3, Rev. E. L. Hess married the couple on 26 May.

<sup>136</sup> Hebrew Rest Cemetery II (Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana), Henry Bodenheimer and Cora Weil markers, plot 123; read and transcribed 13 August 2004 by Philip Adderley (Shreveport, Louisiana).

<sup>137</sup> Louisiana State Department of Health, death certificate 516 217 (1944), Coral Weil Bodenheimer; Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge.

<sup>138</sup> Caddo Parish, Louisiana, District Court Records, no. 6352, Jacob H. Bodenheimer v. Emancipation, 28 September 1899; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Jacob stated his birth 20 July 1881 and he was the "male issue of marriage between Henry Bodenheimer and his said wife Cora Bodenheimer nee' Weil ..." Both parents signed their consent for emancipation.

<sup>139</sup> Dr. J. M. Bodenheimer, "The Bodenheimer Family," 10.

<sup>140</sup> Hebrew Rest Cemetery II (Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana), Moise Harry Bodenheimer marker, plot 123; read and transcribed 13 August 2004 by Philip Adderley (Shreveport, Louisiana). Moise H. Bodenheimer death notice, *The Shreveport (Louisiana) Times*, 5 March 1889, page 4, column 5, although Moise died in Haughton, he was buried in Shreveport.

<sup>141</sup> Hebrew Rest Cemetery II (Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana), Albert C. Bodenheimer marker, plot 123; read and transcribed 13 August 2004 by Philip Adderley (Shreveport, Louisiana).

<sup>142</sup> Louisiana State Department of Health, death certificate 13855 (1939), Emanuel M. Bodenheimer; Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge. Hebrew Rest Cemetery II (Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana), Emanuel M. Bodenheimer marker, plot 77; read and transcribed 13 August 2004 by Philip Adderley (Shreveport, Louisiana).

<sup>143</sup> Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Marriage Book 14: 169, Emanuel Bodenheimer and Miss Bertha Levy, 1882, marriage bond, license, and return; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Emanuel Bodenheimer-Ella Levy marriage notice, p. 4, col. 3.

<sup>144</sup> Louisiana State Department of Health, death certificate 0576 (1947), Theresa Bodenheimer; Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge. Theresa was listed as single, age 84 at her death, born at Bellview [sic].

<sup>145</sup> 1880 U.S. Census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch., Shreveport, ED 21, p. 4, dwell. 43, fam. 54, Simon Levy; enumerated with Simon and his 3 children were his mother-in-law E. Bodenheimer and sister-in-law Teresa Bodenheimer. The children's deceased mother was Theresa's sister Harriett. Vol. V. *Chittenden's 1899 Shreveport City Directory* (no place: Chittenden's Directory Company, 1899), 101; microfilm, Shreveport City Directories-1875-1903 (part), roll 1, held by Broadmoor Department of Shreve Memorial Library, Shreveport, Louisiana; Miss Theresa Bodenheimer lived at 528 Travis Street, the home of J. M. Levy (p. 87).

<sup>146</sup> Louisiana State Department of Health, death certificate 0576 (1947), Theresa Bodenheimer.

married;<sup>147</sup> however, she may have done so in the decade preceding the 1 Jan 1920 census day, when she was enumerated as a widow in her niece's New Orleans household.<sup>148</sup> No record of a marriage has been located.

The above children survived their 21<sup>st</sup> birthdays. Family tradition indicated that that there were "many" other children of the couple who died.<sup>149</sup> If true, one or more children could have been born in the six to seven year gap between Henry and Emanuel's births.

A marker for a "Harriet Bodenheimer" with death marked 15 July 1866 is present in the same lot, separated by three graves, from Jacob Bodenheimer,<sup>150</sup> husband of Eliza Weil. Harriet appeared as "Miss H. Bodenheimer" with the same death date in a Shreveport City Council record book of that time.<sup>151</sup> Oakland Cemetery held her as "Henriette" Bodenheimer with unknown birth and birthplace, and death 15 July 1866.<sup>152</sup> Finally, one published source described her as an infant child of Eliza and Jacob named "Henrietta," with birth 1864 and death 1866.<sup>153</sup> Given (a) the similarity of the first name of the deceased to older children Harriet and Henry, (b) her burial as a Bodenheimer in the same Jewish cemetery in the same block/lot as Jacob, and (c) the absence of other persons of similar surnames and derivatives in the local record sources of the period, the following alternative theories are proposed:

- She was a child of Jacob and Eliza. For this to hold it is unlikely that her full given name was Harriet, as the couple had already named their first daughter Harriett. Given his death in June 1864, for Jacob to have been her father, Eliza would have had to be pregnant with this child before she initiated tutorship; otherwise, the child was alive and should have appeared with the other four children in the tutorship proceedings of June 1864.<sup>154</sup> Eliza's age in 1864 was probably no greater than 41, and the fourth child Theresa had been born in 1862, so Eliza was potentially capable of giving birth to a another child in 1864.
- She was a child of Harriet Bodenheimer and grandchild of Jacob and Eliza. The writer cannot rule out that Eliza's eldest daughter Harriet could physically bear a child by 1864. The latter married Simon Levy, Jr., on 11 July 1866, at age 16.<sup>155</sup> For this theory to hold, Eliza's daughter Harriett either had given birth sometime before her marriage to Simon Levy, Jr., or she was with child when she married. The presence of surname Bodenheimer on the marker suggests that the child was born out of wedlock before the marriage, but the latter scenario cannot be ruled out.
- Harriet was an older unmarried Bodenheimer, possibly kin to Jacob, but not his child or grandchild. The writer cannot rule out the possibility that another relation had been visiting the family in the 1866 timeframe.

— To be continued in the next issue of the *The Genie* —

<sup>147</sup> Dr. J. M. Bodenheimer, "The Bodenheimer Family."

<sup>148</sup> 1920 U.S. Census, Orleans Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, New Orleans, enumeration district [ED] 230, sheet 13B, 4923 St. Charles Avenue, dwelling 256, family 289, Norman Mayer; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 August 2005); citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 624; this was the only record found indicating a possible marriage.

<sup>149</sup> Dr. J. M. Bodenheimer, "The Bodenheimer Family," 3.

<sup>150</sup> Hebrew Rest Cemetery I (part of Oakland Cemetery, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana), Harriet Bodenheimer marker, block 1, lot 4; read and photographed 11 February 2009 by Philip Adderley (Shreveport, Louisiana). The marble stone contains English and Hebrew inscriptions. The English reads, "HARRIET BODENHEIMER / Died / July 15, 1866."

<sup>151</sup> Judy Riffel, compiler, "Shreveport Sexton Reports 1862-1869," *le Raconteur* 22 (August 2002): 91-113, in particular 102, citing Shreveport City Council Record Book C, page 66, entry for Miss H. Bodenheimer, died 15 July 1866.

<sup>152</sup> Oakland Cemetery (Shreveport, Louisiana), *Oakland Cemetery*, digital database (<http://www.oaklandcemeteryla.org/Index.aspx> : accessed 7 February 2009), entry for Henriette Bodenheimer, no. 204, citing block 1, lot 4.

<sup>153</sup> Cole, "Jewish Pioneers of Northwest Louisiana: the Bodenheimer Family, 1820-1900," 92, "Henrietta (1864-1866)," a child of Jacob and Eliza in a figure entitled "Descendants of Simon Bodenheimer," no source cited.

<sup>154</sup> Dainow, ed., *1972 Compiled Edition of the Civil Codes of Louisiana*, 16: 155, Article 415 (1825 Civil Code). No tutor (guardian) was appointed for a pregnant mother's children until after their birth; however the code allowed a judge "if it should be necessary" to appoint a curator for the preservation of the children's rights. There was no evidence of a curator appointment in this instance.

<sup>155</sup> Dr. J. M. Bodenheimer, "The Bodenheimer Family," 5. Harriet was reportedly 16 when she married.

# EXCHANGE PERIODICAL REVIEW

Compiled by Constance Whatley

Many of the periodicals we receive, in exchange for "The Genie" provide 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, Shreveport.

**Topeka Genealogical Society Quarterly**, Volume 40, Number 1, January 2010, published by Topeka Genealogy Society of Kansas is an article with the title: New and Free DAR online databases. The Dar announced the availability of the DAR Genealogical Research System (GRS) on its public website. The direct links are: [http://www.dar.org/library/online\\_research.cfm](http://www.dar.org/library/online_research.cfm) or [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org). The GRS is a growing collection of databases that provide access to the many materials collected by the DAR over the past 119 years. Included in this collection of databases is the GRC National Index which has been available to researchers for the past few years.

**The Tree Tracers**, Volume 33, Number 4, June –August 2009, published by SW Oklahoma Genealogical Society, Lawton, Ok, page 152, tells of a new book on Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Indian research. The author, Barbara Morris Goodin researched her Indian roots then wrote up the process in several articles. Goodin's writings are extensive and cover a wide range of topics mostly centering on KCA tribes of SW Oklahoma. The topics are grouped by category: Indian Research, Cemeteries and books.

**Searchers & Researchers**, Volume XXXII, Issue 4, Winter 2009, published by Ellis County Genealogical Society, Waxahachie, Texas, page 40-42, is an article with the title: 1890 Census Substitutes: Bridging the Gap. One paragraph of the article states that Ancestry.com claims to have created the first definitive online substitute for the missing 1890 census with the release of the 1890 Census Substitute (ancestry) database.

**The Ark Valley Crossroads**, Volume 21, Number 1, January 2010, page 17 lists 10 signs you have technology overload.

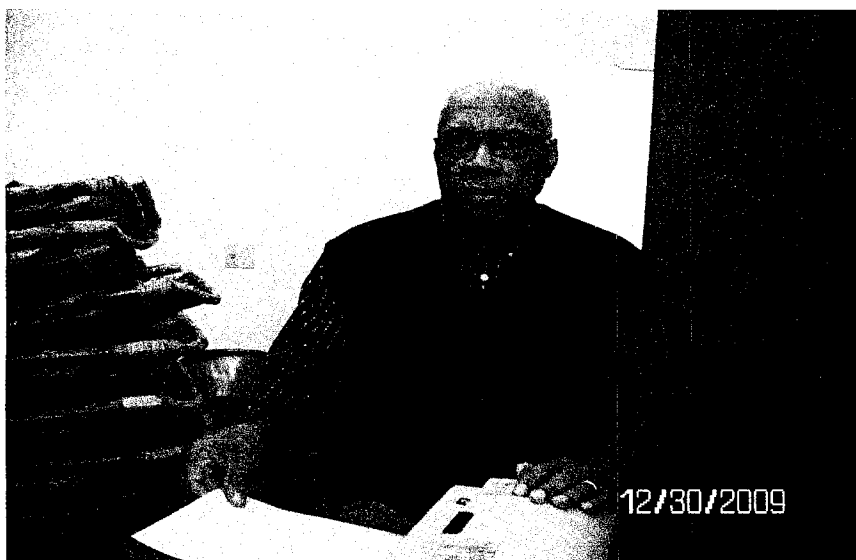
1. You try to enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven't played Solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of 4.
4. You chat regularly online with strangers from the U.S. but you have not spoken to your neighbor this year.
5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends is that they do not have an email address.
6. Your idea of being organized is multiple colored post-it notes.
7. You hear most of your jokes via email rather than in person.
8. Your granddaughter sells her Girl Scout cookies via her web site.
9. You did not give your valentine a card this year, but you posted one for your email buddies via a web page.
10. You call your son's beeper to let him know its time to eat. He texts you back from his bedroom: What's for dinner.

**Ash Tree Echo, Volume 44, issue 3, November 2009**, published by Fresno California Genealogical Society, pages 93-94, lists BLOG websites that may be of interest to some of our readers. The titles of these sites are: My Heritage; [Geneabloggers.com](http://Geneabloggers.com); Chris Durham's Blog Finders; Family Bibles and Ancestor Hunt. If these sound interesting consult this issue of Ash Tree Echo.

**The Quarterly, published by St Louis Genealogical Society, St. Louis, Missouri**, page 64 is an article titled: The Benefits of an [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) Soundex Search. This option maybe used if a name has been misspelled or the surname has been incorrectly indexed. This Soundex Option is only available if you are doing an "exact" search.

## Meet Our Editor

*Willie R. Griffin*



Willie is the past president and has served on the Board of Directors in various positions for over 11 years. He has served as editor of *The Genie* for ten years.

**Bossier Parish Library Historical Center**  
**PRESS RELEASE, FEB. 11, 2010**

The Bossier Parish Library Historical Center sees as a shortcoming in its collections the limited number of photographs of African Americans in Bossier Parish. Starting February, which is Black History Month, and throughout the year until supplies last, the Bossier Parish Library Historical Center will give a colorful Black History button to any one who brings in photos of African Americans in Bossier Parish to the Historical Center. The Staff will scan up to 5 photos and make copies for the patron and possibly the Center's collection. Of course, we would also be thrilled to receive documents (we can make copies and you keep the originals, if so desired) and objects relating to African-American history in Bossier Parish. Items are reviewed by the Historical Center's Collections Committee to determine our ability to care for and store the items, and how well they fit our mission of preserving the history of Bossier Parish for the people of Bossier Parish. The Bossier Parish Library Historical Center is at 2206 Beckett Street, Bossier City, next to Bossier Parish Central Library. Bring in items Mon-Fri 9-4 or by appointment. Call Pam at 746-7717 for more information.

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## A Query

### The HOWE; POOL; GORE Connection

I am trying to find any descendants or information about Charlie C. (C.C.) POOL born c1874 Oklahoma, who married a HOWE, probably in the Ark-La-Tex area. In 1920's-1930's they were in Lafayette Co., Arkansas; around Bradley. In 1940's they were in Bossier Parish, Louisiana; around Plain Dealing.

In 1951, Evelyn HOWE was in Bossier City, Louisiana. One of C.C.'s wives, and mother of Evelyn was Minnie Lee GORE, a Choctaw Indian, the daughter of John GORE (a Choctaw Indian), and Tinney ANDERSON. Evelyn has a brother Willie, and a sister Nancy in 1920; Pushmataha Co., Oklahoma, all children of Minnie.

Please contact me at: <searchingtrail@bellsouth.net > or write to me at: Genevieve Tharp, 141 Kaiser Lake Road, Natchez, MS 39120-8936.

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## PANDORA PLANTATION

By Dale Jennings

William E. Hamilton anticipated the end and made a will before he died in Shreveport on April 4, 1888. After stipulating how his wife was to be provided for, Hamilton willed that his real property be equitably divided among his five surviving children. He wanted this to be determined by a "family meeting" (relatives or friends of the family approved by the court). This was at least partly because one of the children was a minor and would need to be represented. It was decided that the property would be divided into five lots to be drawn for by the heirs. The largest assets, the 1,240-acre Pandora Plantation in Bossier and Caddo Parishes and the 644-acre Du Bose Island Plantation in Arkansas, were designated Lots 1, 2 and 3 and drawn for as one. These properties went jointly to two of the daughters, Carrie Hamilton Skannal and Penelope "Pennie" Hamilton Bryan, and a son, John Clinton Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton's other plantations and tracts in Louisiana and Arkansas, and city lots in Shreveport and Dallas, were acquired as elements of Lots 4 and 5 by William Everard and Katie, a minor. (Hamilton's business was to be put into stock shares and distributed equally)

Carrie Skannal sold her share of the real property, including her one-third interest in the Pandora Plantation, to the other two siblings of interest. Pandora was partitioned by John Hamilton of Shreveport and his sister, Pennie, a resident of New Orleans with her husband, Edward Jefferson Bryan. John took the western part, consisting of the original acreage inside the peninsula and that on the Caddo Parish side of Red River, along the under side of the peninsula. The Bryans accepted the 450 acres across old Pandora's east boundary line in the south arc of Benoist Bayou, which they renamed, "East India Plantation." This occurred in 1892.

John Hamilton sold his Pandora Plantation to Pennie and Edward Bryan in 1893. In 1902, the Bryans, now residents of Alabama, sold their Pandora and East India plantations to Blackshear M. Bryan of Alexandria, Louisiana. The following year, Blackshear sold both back to Edward Bryan. Then in January 1906, Edward sold 740 acres "all of the Pandora Plantation west of the Red River as it now runs" (explanation later) to Charles S. Beard of Shreveport. Beard incorporated it as the "West India Planting Company," with Edward Bryan as a member. Jackson B. Ardis acquired the property from the planting company and made it an asset of his Shreveport based Louisiana Gas Company. "Col" Jackson Bryan Ardis was a premier Shreveport businessman, bank director, newspaper owner, civic leader and major owner and general manager of Ardis & Company, probably the largest wholesale house in Shreveport. In 1917, Ardis and the



Louisiana Gas Company sold Pandora, still 740 acres west of Red River, to Samuel S. Pittman of Caddo Parish.

It was envisioned with the establishment of its boundaries, that Caddo Parish would be on the west side of Red River and Bossier Parish would be on the east. However, the river has never considered itself bound by that rule. It has always altered its course, usually by advancing from one side to the other, sloughing off its banks and leaving a widening river bed and sand bars in its wake. In so doing, both parishes (and their landowners) would find their property going into and over to the other side of the river.

The river sometimes made more abrupt changes in seeking a new course altogether. The rampages of flood water from the river's tremendous watershed put great pressure on the bends and the levees in those bends. A flood in May 1890 broke the Pandora levee at the lower end of the bend near the store. Such a break caused great alarm along the east side of the river – both below and above. A complete breakthrough into the low “back land” at that critical point could have resulted in a major diversion of the river, with only one reentry. That was through Lake Bistineau and finally back into Red River through Loggy Bayou at the lower end of the parish. The *Shreveport Times* expressed apprehension in 1890 that the water might back up out of Bistineau, and then trapped between the “hills” on the east and the high ground along the river, could flood the whole, wide valley all the way back up to Benton. The Pandora levee break was destructive, but not nearly to the extent feared.

More often the bends in Red River were cut off purposely by ditching or dynamiting. This was done where the neck of the switchback bend was progressively narrowed by the action of the river. Such would be the case with the Gold Point Cutoff, and the Fire Point Cutoff above that. It was almost certainly the case earlier when the river sliced through Pandora at the neck of its peninsula, probably sometime between 1902 and 1906. This change of course made the Pandora peninsula into an island, bordered on the east by the new channel of the river, and otherwise bounded by the outline of the peninsula, now “Old River,” as shown below. Such does not change the old parish boundaries.

Samuel Pittman held Pandora from 1917 until 1924, when he sold it to Calvin L. Cross of Shreveport. Pittman, however, retained most of the plantation's Caddo Parish acreage. Pandora now consisted of 571 acres, 275 of which were in the island, 262 acres in either sand bar or Old River, and an additional 35 acres in Caddo Parish. (See conveyance map) Pittman gave Cross the plantation in exchange for six city lots in Bossier City and \$10,000.

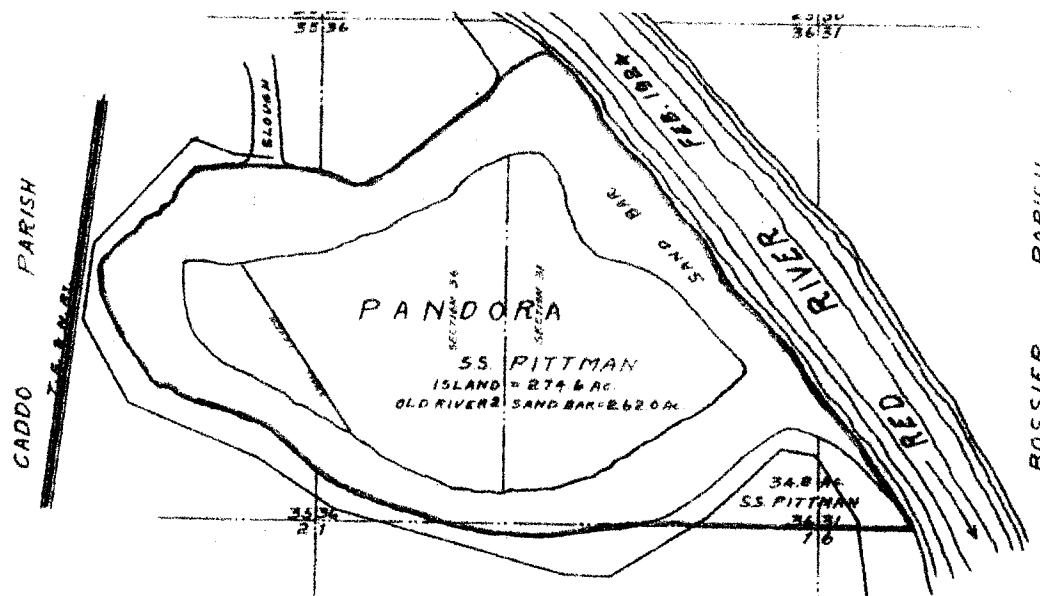
Cal Cross must have been an interesting man judging from the *Shreveport Times* headline article that announced his death in 1931. The Monday July 20, 1931, edition announced that, “C. L. (Cal) Cross, 46, one of the proprietors of the Midway Social Club seven miles from Shreveport on the Coushatta Road in

Bossier Parish was shot and instantly killed by one of five hi-jackers who held up patrons of the club shortly after 1:30 A.M. Sunday." It went on to say that Cross had been in a back room with six patrons when the robbers invaded the club. Unable to reach his shotgun, he attempted to protect one of his partners with a rifle and was riddled with bullets from a .45 caliber pistol. In their haste, the perpetrators overlooked several thousand dollars in cash, taking only about \$350 from a table in a rear room. The paper said that Cross had been a resident of Shreveport for the past thirty years and was a well known planter, having extensive farming interests, and for many years had been a railroad engineer. Cal also had oil and timber interests and owned considerable residential properties in Shreveport.

Calvin Cross left no will. By law the estate went to his sole heirs, his widow, Sarah Hoeff Cross, and married daughter, Dorris Cross Smiley. (Dorris was Sarah's stepdaughter, being Calvin's daughter by his first marriage) The property inventory relative to his 1931 succession indicates that Pandora's configuration had changed little from the 1924 conveyance map. A 1939 aerial photo still shows no significant change to the plantation's Red River and Old River boundaries.

The river was to leave its channel again. A 1955 aerial photo shows the radical change caused by the flood of 1952. Another such photo in 1979, (shown here), fairly represents the configuration of the river as it was in the mid-1950's and as it remains today. The river no longer turns east from the tip of Cash Point, and then back west to form the upper part of the Pandora peninsula. In a wide swath, it had scoured down through the heart of the plantation. But for the efforts of the U.S. Corps of Engineers, it would have caused even more havoc. The Corps of Engineers halted the river's southward erosion and stabilized its banks before the entire peninsula was overtaken. As seen, what remains of Pandora is the peninsula's tip and narrow underbelly between Red River and Old River. Perhaps this completes the Greek legend's prophecy of hope – the last vestige of Pandora saved only because of man's timely intervention.

The remaining 122 acres of Pandora Plantation inside the island and the 35 acres in Caddo Parish stayed intact after the death of Calvin Cross's widow Sarah in 1974. She left her undivided half interest in the plantation to her Hoeff side of the family. The other half interest was retained by her stepdaughter, Dorris Smiley. Mrs. Smiley died in 1996, leaving her half interest jointly to her sons, Calvin R. Smiley and Donald E. Smiley. By then the Hoeff heirs had increased through the deaths of primary heirs to more than two dozen. In administering their mother's estate, Calvin Smiley, with his brother's concurrence, wanted to sell Pandora and other properties in order to distribute the proceeds in an equitable manner. A buyer for Pandora was found in Joe Withrow, the owner of adjoining property. Most of the Hoeff heirs were located and all eventually consented to the sale. Under the Withrows, Pandora Plantation has functioned primarily as a commercial "dirt pit." Great quantities of "river sand" soil is being hauled away to be used for residential and commercial building sites.



1924 Conveyance Map



1979 Aerial Map

# ***Funeral Home Records***

By Kimberly Powell, About.com Guide

Funeral homes keep records about the individuals that they care for, making them a valuable and often overlooked resource for family historians. Funeral home records vary greatly by location and time period, but generally contain basic information about where a person died, names of surviving relatives, the dates of birth and death, and the place of burial. Some funeral homes maintain more in-depth information, and may have details on parentage, occupation, military service, organizational memberships, the clergyman's name and church, and even the name of the deceased's insurance company.

## **Locating the Funeral Home**

To determine the undertaker or funeral home who handled the arrangements for your ancestor, check the death certificate, obituary notice, funeral card or obituary for a notation. The cemetery where your ancestor is buried may also have a record of the funeral home which handled the arrangements. City or business directories from the time period may be of assistance in learning which funeral homes were in business in the area. If all that fails, then try the local library or genealogical society for help in tracking down likely funeral homes. Once you locate a name and city, you can get the actual address of the funeral home through the *American Blue Book of Funeral Directors*, or through the phone book.

## **Be Respectful**

Many funeral homes are small, family owned businesses with few people on staff and little time to handle genealogy requests. They are also privately-owned businesses, and are under no obligation to provide any information. The best way to approach a funeral home with a genealogical request is to write a polite letter with as many details as you can provide and the specific information for which you are searching. Offer to pay for any time or copying expenses that are incurred, and enclose a SASE for their reply. This allows them to handle your request when they have the time, and increases the chances of receiving a response - even if the answer is "no."

## **Out of Business?**

If the funeral home is no longer in business, don't despair. Most defunct funeral homes were actually taken over by other funeral homes who will often keep the older records. Funeral home records can also be found in library or archive collections and, increasingly, online (do a search for "funeral home" plus the area in which you are searching).  
[genealogy.about.com](http://genealogy.about.com)

## **MATCHING FUN FOR GENEALOGY!<sup>1</sup>**

[Submitted by Glenda Bernard]

Each word on the left has a definition which matches it on the right. Write the appropriate letter in the space to the left of the corresponding word.

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. Collateral          | a. A person appointed by a testator (person writing a will) to carry out directions and bequests.   |
| _____ 2. Indenture           | b. A female guardian or tutor   |
| _____ 3. Intestate           | c. when a person dies without a will  |
| _____ 4. Grantor             | d. the person by whom a grant is made; buyer  |
| _____ 5. Anno Domini         | e. "namely"   |
| _____ 6. "by these presents" | f. A deed to which 2 or more persons are parties, and in which these enter into reciprocal & corresponding grants or obligations towards each other |
| _____ 7. Abstract            | g. "in the year of our Lord"  |
| _____ 8. Real property       | h. the seller; a person to whom a grant is made   |
| _____ 9. Personal property   | i. "by this document"   |
| _____ 10. "to wit"; "viz"    | j. a brief statement about the main parts of a document   |
| _____ 11. Collations         | k. indicates a female's maiden name   |
| _____ 12. Et al              | l. belonging to the same ancestral family, but not in direct line( i.e. aunts, cousins, etc.)   |
| _____ 13. Issue              | m. careful examinations & comparisons to note points of disagreements   |
| _____                        |   |

<sup>1</sup> General Genealogical Vocabulary Dictionary," database, Heritage Genealogy College, Genealogy.edu (<http://genealogy.edu/moodle/>: updated January 2010.

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| ____ 14. Twp.     | n. Latin for "and his wife"   |
| ____ 15. Grantee  | o. generally property for land and buildings                                |
| ____ 16. Et uxor  | p. the property to which a widow has claim upon<br>the death of her husband |
| ____ 17. Tutrix   | q. Latin for "and others"   |
| ____ 18. Executor | r. public announcement, especially in church, of an<br>intention to marry   |
| ____ 19. Banns    | s. all lineal descendants of a common ancestor-not<br>just his children     |
| ____ 20. Dower    | t. abbreviation for township  |
| ____ 21. nee      | u. moveable property  |

[Correct Answers at Bottom of Page]

1) L 2) F 3) C 4) H 5) G 6) I 7) J 8) O 9) U 10) E 11) M  
12) Q 13) S 14) T 15) D 16) N 17) B 18) A 19) R 20) P 21) K

**Key to Matching Fun**

## "FINDING JIM'S MARY, A WORLD WAR II SWEETHEART"

A Shreveport TRIGEN Program, 7 November 2009

Philip Burnett Adderley, CG<sup>SM</sup>

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Locating missing women in the United States in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is a genealogical challenge. Privacy laws and upward trends in divorce and remarriage rates stress the search. When the searcher is not related to the woman being sought; the memories of firsthand events and people are over, say, fifty years old; and the search begins mid-century, a premium is placed upon sound genealogical research methodology. Although that in itself does not guarantee success, a foundation so laid sets the table for serendipitous moments,<sup>1</sup> should they occur.

### TAKEAWAYS FROM THIS PROGRAM

1. Firsthand knowledge of events and mental images (memories) of people that go unrecorded degrade with time. A researcher must be open to this possibility at all times. The mere fact that someone recalls an event or person does not necessarily mean that the *details* s/he recalls are as fresh or complete as the moment they were first experienced.
2. Sometimes the smallest, seemingly insignificant details of someone's recall may help correlate research findings and give them added meaning. Ask "why" often. Why in this project, for example, did Jim meet Mary at McKinley's Grocery? Why did she never take Jim home with her? Do the findings help answer the questions and, if so, are they consistent with other findings?
3. Traditionally, genealogical research success involving multiple generations is more likely when starting with present generations and working backward in time. The underlying reason, however, is really information-based, not time-based. Efficient and effective research usually starts where the most reliable information is available, enlarges that information base, and then expands it to outlying generations. The greater the base of reliable information, the greater the opportunities are when attempting to correlate future findings.
4. Building a reliable information base includes not only the target ancestors and their kin, but also friends, associates, and neighbors. This case study came to its close heavily influenced by (a) the results of an interview focusing upon Jim's and Mary's neighbors, and (b) two of their closest friends.
5. At the present time, feet-on-the-ground courthouse research remains fundamentally important in this researcher's experience. While progress is encouraging, filming and now digitization of records is far from complete for 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century records. For example, in the 172 year history of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, civil suits covering only forty-five years (1880-1925) reside on Family History Library film.<sup>2</sup> A

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<sup>1</sup> Webster's New World College Dictionary, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Cleveland, Ohio: Wiley Publishing, 2002), 1308, defines serendipity. Used here, the closest meaning is "luck, or good fortune, in finding something good accidentally."

<sup>2</sup> Civil suits have been scanned since 2001, but they are only accessible to the public at the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court's office.

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1927 civil suit provided key pieces of reliable information in this case study, and they had to be extracted at the courthouse.

6. City directories are crucial research tools for 20<sup>th</sup> century research. Exploit all portions of a city directory, not just the alphabetical listings. Examine the types of information added or changed as the directories evolved. The neighborhood walk-through in this project draws from the block-by-block street listings (also known as a householder or crisscross directory) for 1946 Shreveport.
7. Published cemetery listings (transcriptions) are a great convenience. Those that capture the placement of markers and tombstones relative to their surroundings are even more valuable, because co-location tentatively suggests kinship. Nevertheless, when still-legible markers survive, examine them (or high quality images of them) in their original form. A published cemetery listing with relative locations provided helpful information about Mary and her kin, and a follow-up on-site examination corrected an important transcription error.
8. Privacy laws and/or operating policy may block access to funeral home records, funeral services, and detailed interment records. However, some burial location records such as sexton's cards may be accessible. A sexton's card aided in this instance. It carried key name information that differed from the corresponding burial marker.
9. Though the researcher cites no study, increasing ease of mobility and advances in healthcare of American society may support the following hypothesis: the later the decade, the more likely a person will die in one location and be interred in another. Besides all of the known residences of the deceased, consider also the residences of all close kin at the time of death when searching for all obituaries. An elderly person in the 20<sup>th</sup> century may move (temporarily or permanently) to a long term care facility, a skill nursing home, a hospice, or a retirement community tailored for the elderly, any of which may be located near kin living elsewhere. In this study, grandmother May was a lifelong resident of Shreveport and she was buried there, but she spent the last two years of her life apart from her husband at a nursing home a few hundred miles away in Lake Charles, Louisiana, where one of her sons resided. An obituary and a funeral notice were published at each location. As it developed their content differed, providing important information.
10. Not all Social Security Death Index search sites are created equal. Some are more latent than others incorporating the latest updates from the Social Security Administration (SSA). More importantly, some allow search query combinations in ways that others do not. For an excellent discussion, see Kathleen Hinckley, *Locating Lost Family Members and Friends* (Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 1999), Chapter 7.
11. For women who died in later decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, SSA benefits may have begun using a surname acquired through a *previous* marriage, but, for whatever reason, the SSA records may not have been updated with surnames adopted via subsequent marriage(s).
12. Interviews are vitally important when interviewees may have firsthand knowledge of events or people with whom they interacted. In the researcher's experience, sometimes the recall of very distant events or interactions is there, but in a dormant state. Probing *associated* events or interactions may trigger a chain reaction of thought, unveiling those dormant memories. A follow-up, focused interview with narrower objectives may help when broader brushed interviews fall short. Tailor it to the interviewee's comfort zone—their background and likes. For many, old photographs and scrapbooks may start the



- ### SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING

Szucs, Loretto Dennis, and Sandra Hargreaves, editors. *The Source, A Guidebook to American Genealogy*, 3rd edition. Provo, Utah: Ancestry, 2006. For 20th century researchers, Chapter 20 "Urban Research," by Loretto Dennis Szucs and John M. Scroggins is a key resource.

# Mount Olive United Methodist Church Cemetery

## ©2009 By Isabelle Woods

THE MOUNT OLIVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CEMETERY IS AMONG THE TREES ON THE RIGHT  
SIDE OF ST. JOHN STREET IN BASTROP, LOUISIANA, WHERE ST. JOHN STREET DEADENDS.

ID	NAME (Last, First, Middle)	PRE/SUFFIX	BIRTHDATE	DEATHDATE	INSCRIPTION/NOTES
27	BENNETT, DAVE R.			02 MAR 1989	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 07 MAR 1989
19	BONNER, BERNICE		08 NOV 1920	24 DEC 2002	MOTHER (REA). F N, BASTROP (LA) ENTERP., DTD 27 DEC 2002
1	BRANDON, JAMES		02 SEP 1905	06 MAY 1991	FATHER. OBIT., BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE, 10 MAY 1991
22	BUSH, T. H.	REV.	1892	1936	
24	DAVIS, ROBERT S.			30 DEC 1980	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 01 JAN 1981
30	DUNN, LILLIAN	MRS.		11 APR 1987	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 17 APR 1987
32	GOLDSBY, EUGENE			30 APR 1994	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 06 MAY 1994
10	HALL, LILLIE		19 SEP 1877	UNDER SOIL	DEEP IN BUSHES
9	HALLEY, EDDIE	MRS.	13 JAN 1898	06 SEP 1983	SISTER. OBIT., BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 9 SEP 1983
25	HUNTER, DOYLE			30 JUN 1984	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 06 JUL 1984
13	HUNTER, JOE		1892	1949	LOUISIANA PRIVATE 1ST WORLD WAR
3	LOWE, GUY		04 JUL 1899	13 JAN 1981	DUO W/ SARAH LOWE
4	LOWE, SARAH		24 NOV 1901	25 JUL 1978	DUO W/ GUY LOWE. OBIT., BASTROP (LA) ENTERP., 31 JUL 197
28	RAMEY, LEKEVIA K.			1988	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 02 MAR 1988
26	RICE, ROSELLA	MRS.		02 APR 1993	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 08 APR 1993
6	ROSE, CHARLIE	JR.	1910	1969	
17	SCOTT, BERTHA LENA		12 JUL 1906	04 JUL 1986	WIFE. OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 9 JUL 1986
23	SCOTT, EDDIE LEE		10 AUG 1925	05 JAN 1946	LOUISIANA SEAMAN 1CL U. S. N. R.
29	SCOTT, FRED	SR.		JUN 1997	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 20 JUN 1997
18	SCOTT, JAMES EDWARD		08 MAY 1898	24 FEB 1967	HUSBAND
7	SCOTT, MALLIE L.		05 MAY 1911	24 MAR 1971	LOUISIANA PVT U S ARMY WORLD WAR II
8	SCOTT, SUSANNA WALKER		18 MAR 1889	21 AUG 1982	MOTHER
2	SCOTT, SUSIE BRANDON		23 MAR 1917	11 SEP 1984	MOTHER. OBIT., BASTROP (LA) ENTERP. DTD 14 SEP 1984
5	SCOTT, WILLIE L.		31 AUG 1910	23 JUL 1992	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 27 JUL 1992
14	SMITH, EUGENE WILSON	REV.	20 SEP 1921	25 JUL 1995	PFC U S ARMY WORLD WAR II.
20	SMITH, SAMUEL OTHELLO		03 JUN 1923	09 JUN 1952	LOUISIANA SSG 3380 SUPPLY SQ AT
31	SMITH, WILSON			MAR 2006	FN, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 17 & 22 MAR 2006
21	WELLS, BUSTER		09 DEC 1905	05 NOV 1949	LOUISIANA PVT 357 ENGINEERS W W II
12	WHITLOW, GRACE S.		1912	1956	DUO W/ LEWELLYN S. WHITLOW; MOMMA
11	WHITLOW, LEWELLYN S.		1899	1961	DUO W/ GRACE S. WHITLOW; FS: DADDY
16	WHITLOW, MELVINA		1890	1980	DUO. OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 26 JAN 1980
15	WHITLOW, ROBERT J.		1890	1957	DUO W/ MELVINA WHITLOW

## OBITUARY

"MRS. SUSANNA WALKER SCOTT, daughter of the late Diana Wade Walker and the late Henry Walker was born in Morehouse Parish, Wardville, Louisiana.

"She departed this life on Saturday, August 21, 1982, at 3:10 p.m. at the home of her daughter, Susanna S. Rose, Bastrop, Louisiana, after a long illness.

"Early in life Mrs. Scott accepted the Lord as her savior and united with the Washington Chapel United Methodist Church. Later she moved to Bastrop, Louisiana, and united with the Mt. Olive United Methodist Church, where she served in many areas of church work. She was a dedicated church school worker and senior choir member. When she became disabled to attend church this still was a part of her interest working with children and singing Zion's songs.

"She was married to the late Ollie Wallace Scott. To this union, three sons: Willie, Mallie (deceased) and Fred; two daughters: Bertha and Susanna were born.

"She leaves to cherish her memory: two daughters: Mrs. Susanna S. Rose, Mrs. Bertha S. Scott; two sons: Willie L. Scott, Fred J. Scott of Bastrop, Louisiana; eight grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, four great, great grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends."

MTO 8

Source: "Funeral Services In Loving Memory of Mrs. Susanna Walker Scott," (photo) dated August 25, 1982, in possession of Mrs. Isabelle Woods, 2016 Surrey Lane, Bossier City, Louisiana.

## OBITUARY

"REVEREND EUGENE WILSON SMITH was born in Bastrop, Louisiana, on September 13, 1920. He was the youngest of eleven children born to John Smith and Lucy McCormick Smith.

"He departed this life on Tuesday, July 25, 1995.

"His mother was a member of Mt. Olive Methodist Church and Eugene grew up with Christian nurture in this church. Sometime later he moved with his brother, Joseph, and joined the Washington Chapel Methodist Church.

"At some point he was called to preach. He served at Lawson Methodist Church in Bonita, Louisiana, and St. Peter Methodist Church in Lake Providence, Louisiana.

"He returned to the Bastrop community to do a stewardship service for the children of Louis and Madeline McCormick (deceased) in 1994. He joined Mt. Olive United Methodist Church August 14, 1994.

"He leaves to cherish his memory: one brother, Joseph Smith; one nephew, John Joseph Knight of Bastrop, Louisiana, and many relatives and friends."

MTO 14

Source: "Funeral Service In Memory of Reverend Eugene Wilson Smith," (photo) dated July 29, 1995, in possession of Mrs. Isabelle Woods, 2016 Surrey Lane, Bossier City, Louisiana.

## ALTGA's Horn-Book: "Merging Historical and Genealogical Research, Rev. John Henry Scott and East Carroll Parish"

*For presentation and discussion at the  
ALTGA General Session of 13 February 2010.  
© 2010, Philip Burnett Adderley, CGSM*

The population schedule of the 1930 federal census for Lake Providence, East Carroll Parish, Louisiana, shows nephew-in-law Lawrence Brown living in the African-American household of Walter Brown. Lawrence's parents do not appear in the household. A partial digitized view of the population schedule follows:<sup>1</sup>

79	90	Walter Brown	Head	O	800	M	27	M	22	M	1
		Lucas	Wife	M		F	32	M	17	M	1
		Peasants, Charlie	Nephew-in-law			M	49	M	1	M	1
		Brown, Lawrence	Nephew-in-law			M	18	S		M	1
		L. Grant, Nancy	Nephew-in-law			F	17	M	50	M	1

What happened to Lawrence's parents? The simplest possible answer is usually the best initial hypothesis—they pre-deceased their son.

Unwary beginners focus on their target family and move on. More seasoned researchers will examine 100-200 entries before and after the household. Doing this will surface a few more minors between 14 and 18 years old whose parents are not enumerated in those households. What happened to their parents? Same answer as Lawrence's?

Experienced researchers may suspect a pattern and "research slowly" the entire town, and perhaps the surrounding enumeration districts. They may well be able to describe the pattern more accurately and develop better hypotheses, but the pure researcher still is at a disadvantage.

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<sup>1</sup> 1930 U.S. census, East Carroll Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Lake Providence (Town), ward 3, folio 183 (stamped, reverse side), enumeration district (ED) 18-4, sheet 3-B, dwelling 79, family 90, Walter Brown household; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed January 2010); citing NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 792.

The historical events of East Carroll Parish as reflected in the firsthand accounts of Reverend John Henry Scott quickly aid the genealogical researcher. Recalling the inequities of treatment involving black school children, he wrote,

*Negroes didn't have a single bus ... Many children who lived in the rural areas outside of Lake Providence never attended high school because of the distance, and they had no other options for transportation. Some parents moved their children in with people in Lake Providence during the school months just so their children could attend high school.*<sup>2</sup> [emphasis added]

A researcher who studies the history of East Carroll Parish and includes the work of Rev. Scott may quickly recognize a pattern of high school age children enumerated without their parents in Lake Providence households. Their initial hypotheses about the missing parents will be very different: one or both parents are probably living elsewhere in the rural areas of the parish.

The effectiveness of genealogical research is greatly enhanced by dedicated study of historical works. Scholarly historical works reduce the "fog" of researching earlier time periods. Here are at least two thoughts—feel free to add more...

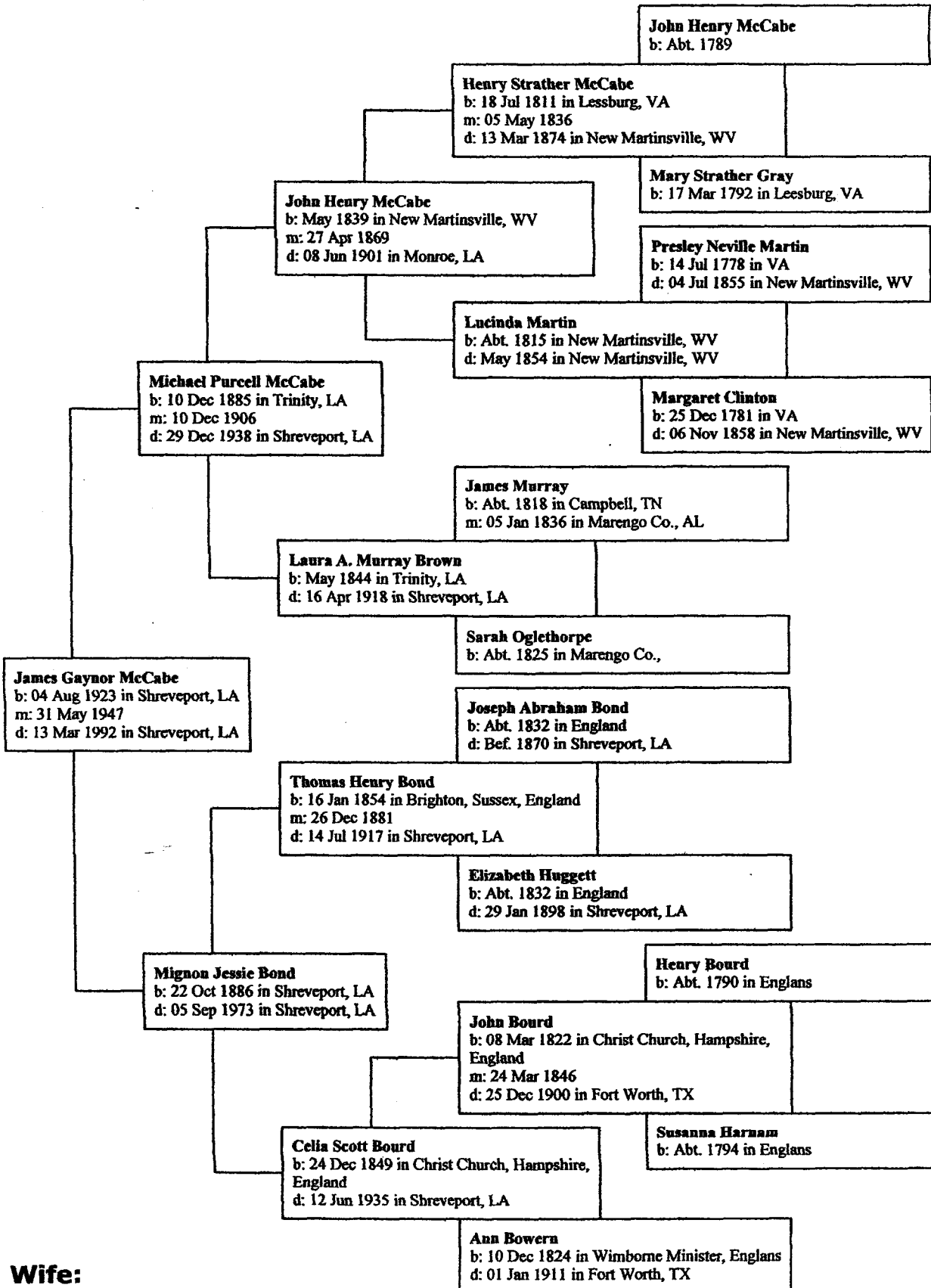
- Scholarly historical works help us **better interpret** the records left behind, perhaps in a whole new light!
- Scholarly historical works help us formulate **unique theories** and suggest **more effective research strategies**.

Consider reallocating some of your research time – the added investment you make studying well-regarded historical works will pay dividends, in the writer's opinion, and enrich your genealogical pursuits.

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<sup>2</sup> John H. Scott, with Cleo Scott Brown, editor, *Witness to the Truth, My Struggle For Human Rights in Louisiana* (Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 2003), 116.

## Ancestors of James Gaynor McCabe



## **"Who did she marry?"**

Submitted by Susette Cook  
330 Stuart Drive - Odenville, Alabama 35120  
Susette\_cook@hotmail.com

Searching for family history is so much fun! And at some point or another you are bound to run across a daughter or aunt or other female that you found as a child but have absolutely no idea who they married and what happened to them.

Often searching for a grown daughter will lead you to what happened to the parents in their declining years and where they are buried. Sometimes these grown daughters will take in nieces and nephews to raise. Sometimes they ended up with the family bible or family pictures. There is no telling what interesting family tidbits you will turn up as you search for a grown daughter, sister or aunt.

### ***So here are 14 ways to help you find out "Who did she marry":***

1. Marriage records. The marriage records are the best place to look for the name of a spouse. The index on ancestry <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=7838>; 1800-1969 is a pretty good index to search in. Some of the entries will only list one spouse. If that is the case for yours then run a new search using the same date and same place but no name and you will find the name of the other person. If you find a marriage from this index for the years 1936-1969 then I will be happy to supply you with a photo copy of the marriage certificate for \$8 each [Alabama].

Just because a Alabama marriage is not listed in the above index does not mean that it did not take place. There are other marriage records and index. Visit my page and let me tell you some more about finding a copy of an Alabama marriage record  
<http://alabamadeath.tripod.com/marriage/index.html>

2. Census. Often a census search for a aging parent will find them in the home of their grown daughter. The relationship column lists the relationship to the head of the household. Example: If you ran a 1930 census search for Martha Cook and you found her living in a household as a mother-in-law then the head of the household would be her son-in-law, who's name you did not know, and the wife would be her daughter.

Often girls married the boys that lived nearby. So check out the families that lived nearby on the earlier census to see if they have a son that was of marriageable age.

Sometimes on the census under the marriage column you will find the letter M with a little 2 beside it. That means that this is the second marriage. That means the first marriage record will list the female's maiden name but the second marriage record may list her first married name and not her maiden name.

Often the girls lived in a home right near their parents. So on later census; be sure to carefully check out any near by families to see if any of the wives could be the one that you are searching for.

### 3. Death certificate index.

<http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#p=collectionDetails;t=searchable;c=1307888>

This is the new Alabama death certificate index put up by FamilySearch. It is possible to click on the words "Advance search" and fill in only the name of the parents. The results may turn up the girls with their married names! Be sure to try various ways for the parents... Search only the mother or only the father or nick names such as Bill for William, also try searching for the mother with her maiden name and married name.

Also try this idea: say you have Louise Baker as a child and you wonder who she married. This time you run the search enter Louise Baker as the mother. It is possible that she had a child that died as an infant and she herself was listed as the mother. If you that turns out to be the case then the name of the father will be her husband!

4. Death certificate for family member. Often a married daughter will sign the death certificate or be the informant for a death certificate of her siblings or parents, aunts or uncles. Her married name and the town she lived in are often listed at the bottom of a death certificate. I am happy to assist you with copies of death certificates 1908-1959 for \$3 each and copies 1960-1974 for \$8 each [Alabama]. <http://alabamadeath.tripod.com/death8.htm>

5. Newspapers. If you know when one of the siblings or aunts or uncles married, then if there was an account in the newspaper of the wedding, often it will list the other females in the family by their married names. Obituaries for a parent or sibling also will list the married names of the grown daughters and siblings.



It never hurts to read the old newspapers for the area your family lived in. Often the social columns will say things like "Sally Ann Hornsby and her three children came to visit her mother/grandmother Bessie Oliver this week" and right there it gives you the married name of Sally. There are always lots of interesting things in those old newspapers. You can order copies of the old newspapers from the Alabama state archives.

<http://www.archives.alabama.gov/newsmicro/search.cfm>

6. Cemetery. Often family members are buried near each other. So look around the cemetery and see the last names buried nearby. Daughters like to be buried near their mothers and perhaps the tombstone will reveal the married name that you are searching for. While you are there be sure to check out the sexton record (cemetery record). It tells who is buried where and sometimes it tells who purchased the plot. The stone for an unfamiliar infant child buried near the grandparents may end up leading you to the married name that you are searching for.

7. Church records. If you search for the parents names in church records and the children are listed with them then later church records may list the marriage of the child or where the child moved to. Which, in turn may lead you to the spouse's name that you are searching for?

8. Deeds. When you make a trip to the court house be sure to check out the deeds. Sometimes a parent will deed property to a married daughter when she marries or the married daughter will have to sign over her rights to a piece of property. Or the death of a parent may cause the property to be deeded to a daughter and her married name and often even her husband will be listed. Check all deeds for the last names that you know. You never know when someone will be listed in someone else's deed. If you can not make a trip to the court house here are the instructions on how you can view the court house records on microfilm at a Family History Center near you. <http://alabamadeath.tripod.com/lesson/id29.htm>

9. Wills. Wills of parents will often list children by their married names. But don't stop there! Be sure to check out the wills of aunts and uncles and siblings and grandparents to see if one of them might list the daughter with her husband that you are searching for. If you can not make a trip to the court house to view the wills, here are the instructions on how you can view the court house records on microfilm at a Family History Center near you. <http://alabamadeath.tripod.com/lesson/id29.htm>

10. Signatures. Carefully check out the signature of witnesses at the bottom of legal papers. A name that you do not recognize may be the name of a son-in-law. Try to figure out who signed the paper and how they are related to the family. You might stumble onto the very name that you are searching for.

11. Family records. Bibles and journals of family and friends may list the marriage of a female and her husband. Also old family pictures may list on the back the daughter's name and her husband's name. Family letters may also reveal the spouses name. It never hurts to ask the decedents of the neighbors if they have any information about your family.

12. Military pensions. If the father had a pension application then the married daughters might be listed. Civil War and Rev. War pension records can be found in various places, one being on <http://www.footnote.com>

13. Others research. And lastly don't forget to check out other people's research and see if they know who the daughter married. Post a note on county sites and places like <http://genforum.genealogy.com/> and attend family reunions. It is possible that your aunt or uncle may already know the answer to the question you are seeking.

14. Talk to older family members and friends of the family. You never know what someone else might remember. Track down long lost cousins and descendants of neighbors that live next door. Who knows what interesting tidbits they might have to share and one might even be the name of who she married.

Happy Hunting! I hope you have a great time searching for your ancestors! And I will be happy to assist you with photocopies of Alabama death certificates 1908-1959 for \$3 each and 1960-1974 for \$8 each anytime that you might need them.

Susette Cook

330 Stuart Drive

Odenville, Alabama 35120

Alabama Death Certificates photo copies \$3 each for the years 1908-1959

<http://www.alabamadeath.com>



# **Historic Newspapers Online**

By Kimberly Powell, About.com Guide

Research online in these historic newspaper collections from around the world; Most include digital images of the actual newspapers as well as a searchable index.

## **1. Newspaper Archive**

Tens of millions of fully-searchable, digitized copies of historic newspapers are available online through NewspaperARCHIVE. Over 2.5 million new pages are added each month from newspapers primarily in the United States and Canada. NewspaperARCHIVE (or a portion thereof) can sometimes be found bundled with subscriptions to other genealogy Web sites such as WorldVitalRecords and Godfrey Memorial Library. *Subscription*, but with a *free membership option* allowing up to three newspaper page views each day.

## **2. GenealogyBank**

Search for names and keywords in over 92 million articles, obituaries, marriage notices, birth announcements and other items published in more than 500,000 issues of over 1,300 historical U.S. newspapers. New content added monthly. *Subscription required*.

## **3. Ancestry.com Historical Newspaper Collection**

Full text search plus digitized images make this collection of more than 16 million pages from over 1000 different newspapers across the US, U.K. and Canada dating back to the 1700's a treasure for online genealogy research. *Subscription*.

## **4. Google Historical Newspaper Search**

Google News Archive Search generates a timeline of stories that match a particular subject or keyword, with hits arranged chronologically by date. This is a search engine only, with links to articles appearing on other sites. Results are both *free* and *subscription*.

## **5. ProQuest Historical Newspapers**

This large historical newspaper collection can be accessed online for free through many public libraries and educational institutions. Over 20 million digitized pages in PDF format can be searched or browsed for major newspapers, including The New York Times, Atlanta Constitution, The Baltimore Sun, the Hartford Courant, the Los Angeles Times and the Washington Post. There is also a collection of black newspapers from the Civil War era. Check with your local library to see if they offer access to this collection for library members.

#### **6. Footnote Historical Newspapers**

Millions of historical newspapers from small towns and big cities across the United States are available as part of a paid subscription to Footnote.com. *Subscription.*

#### **7. Chronicling America**

The Library of Congress and NEH first launched this digitized historic newspaper collection in early 2007, with plans to add new content as time and budget permits. The newspapers are fully searchable, and cover the years 1880 to 1910 in several states, including California, District of Columbia, Florida, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, Texas, Utah and Virginia. Ultimate plans are to include historically significant newspapers from all states and U.S. territories published between 1836 and 1922. *Free.*

#### **8. The Olden Times**

A growing (and free) collection of historic newspapers (primarily U.S.), including obituaries, birth & marriage announcements, legal notices, etc. Search for your surnames in the index and follow the link to complete scanned copies.

#### **9. British Library Online**

Olive Software, Inc. and the British Library have collaborated to produce a wonderful online digital archive of microfilmed historic newspapers. *Free.*

#### **10. The Scotsman Archive**

The Scotsman Digital Archive allows you to search every newspaper edition published between the paper's founding in 1817 through 1950. Subscriptions are available for as little as one day. *Subscription.*

#### **11. The Belfast Newsletter Index, 1737-1800**

Search through over 20,000 transcribed pages from The Belfast Newsletter, an Irish newspaper that began publication in Belfast in 1737. Almost every word on the pages is indexed for searching including personal names, place names, advertisements, etc. *Free.*

#### **12. Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection**

Colorado's Historic Newspaper Collection includes 120+ newspapers published in Colorado from 1859 to 1930. Newspapers come from 66 cities and 41 counties throughout the state, which were published in English, German, Spanish, or Swedish. *Free.*

#### **13. Georgia Historic Newspapers Search**

Search digitized issues of several important historic Georgia newspapers, the Cherokee Phoenix, the Dublin Post, and the Colored Tribune.

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