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VOLUME 46

FIRST QUARTER 2012

NUMBERS 1

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ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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# THE GENIE

**VOLUME 46**

**FIRST QUARTER 2012**

**NUMBER 1**

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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.

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

## President's Message

We began the year by welcoming Sonja Webb and Linda Lynn as newly elected Trustees to the Board of Directors. Their interest in genealogical research combined with their experience in the teaching profession makes them a perfect addition to our board. We also began the year with an ambitious agenda and a calendar marked with interesting programs.

Our January program placed the bar high for programs to follow. Philip Adderley, CG<sup>sm</sup> presented "Aunt Marshler, Molsey Wild, & Amelia Weinstock: Three Women, Two, or One?" This presentation was based on an analysis of clues gathered from family traditions and indirect genealogical evidence in an attempt to determine if these 19<sup>th</sup> century Louisiana ladies were different individuals or the same person using aliases. In February, we were privileged to have Mr. Roger Jefferson as our guest speaker. He gave a very interesting presentation about his quest for information on his ancestors and the challenges he faced in pursuing inquiries regarding the status of plantation lands his family may be heir to.

We began the month of March with our spring workshop. Jim Jones, Chairman of our Education Committee, planned this year's workshop to include a 'hands on' session using our more experienced members to assist other attendees with their research. The day long event was a huge success and was a lot of fun for all. This year's event gained nine new members. Another highlight of March was a program hosted by the Broadmoor Branch Library's Genealogy Department. Ms. Edith Smith, author of "No Land, Only Slaves", presented a very enlightening program on genealogical information that can be found in county/parish land deed records. She selectively extracted information from pre-civil war deed records that listed names of slaves and compiled this series of books. The theme of our regular March program was Irish history and heritage. Our guest speaker was Mr. Brian O'Nuanain, who was born and raised in Cork, Ireland. His presentation was on "Irish Family Names". He explained Irish naming patterns including their meaning, and origins, as well as Gaelic naming traditions.

In early March, we were saddened to learn of the death of long time member and past president, Marguerite Loftin. She was a member for over thirty years and served two terms as President. For many of those years, she served on our Board of Directors and until recent years was actively involved in almost every facet of our Association. Her loyalty and dedication will be missed.

We have a great team of dedicated individuals in our association who consistently support each and every endeavor. One of those members is Brenda Custer Randall. Brenda is President of the Friends of Genealogy, a sister group of dedicated genealogists, who are focused on collecting and digitizing an ever growing collection of obituaries covering North Louisiana. Brenda is also our hospitality and refreshments coordinator, and insures that we have volunteers scheduled to provide and serve refreshments at our scheduled meetings and programs. She is a much respected team member and is often called upon for advice to ensure our goals and objectives are met. We are fortunate to have Brenda Randall as a member of our association and as a leader in our genealogy community.

Jim Johnson  
President

## In Memory of ... Marguerite Jane Liermann Loftin

The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association was so sorry to learn of the loss of an outstanding member. The Association will remember her great works today and always.



BOSSIER CITY, LA-Funeral services celebrating the life of Marguerite Jane Liermann Loftin age 91 will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday March 10, 2012 at First Lutheran Church, Shreveport Louisiana where she was a faithful member. Officiating at the service will be Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Schmitt and Reverend Sig Kunz. Following the service Marguerite will be laid to rest next to her husband Philip at Hillcrest Memorial Park. Visitation will be held Friday March 9, 2012 from 5:00-8:00 pm at Hillcrest Funeral Home Bossier City.

Marguerite, the oldest of three children, was born in Milwaukee Wisconsin on July 26, 1920 to Louise Emilie Voelz and Frederick Karl Liermann. Marguerite died on March 3, 2012 in Bossier City from complications arising from a recent stroke.

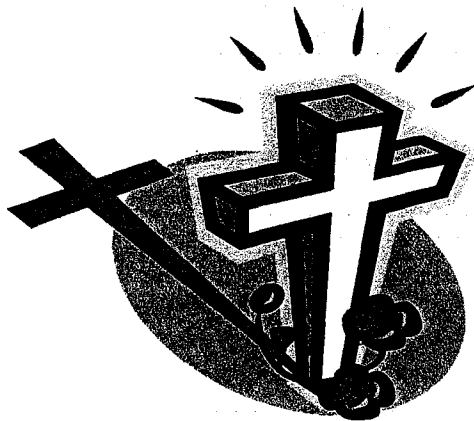
She attended Marquette University and earned a degree in Medical Technology. Following graduation she enlisted in the Navy and was stationed at Bethesda Naval Hospital where she met James Philip Loftin of Martin, Louisiana. They were married in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on August 21, 1943. They lived in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin until 1967 when they moved to Bossier City, Louisiana where Philip assumed the position of Director of the Laboratory at Bossier General Medical center. Both Marguerite and Philip were active in their professional organization. Marguerite was awarded Medical Technologist of the year in 1987 by the Louisiana State Society for Medical Technology.

She was an advocate for good schools and parent involvement with the classroom. She was very involved with the Benton PTA and eventually became President of the Louisiana PTA. She instilled this value of a good education in her children and her grandchildren.

She was passionate about genealogy, enjoying endless hours of researching family histories. She traveled extensively for pleasure and in search of her ancestral roots. She passed this interest along to her children and grandchildren. She also was **Past President of the Ark-La-Tex Genealogy Association**. This interest extended to the Civil War Round Table. She also was involved extensively with other civic and professional organizations including the Shreveport Opera, Symphony and Little Theatre Guilds. She was very proud of her family and especially the fact she has 5 grandsons who are Eagle Scouts.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and her sister Gene Lawrence. She is survived by her brother Frederick L. Liermann and wife Joan of Mukwonago Wisconsin. She is also survived by two daughters, Gail and husband Dan Pearce of Bossier City; Lauren and husband Peter Gould of Oakland New Jersey; four sons, James Philip Loftin MD and wife Patti of Plano, Texas; Michael Clayton Loftin and wife Kay of Benton, LA; Brian Edward Loftin and wife Kathye, of Bossier City LA; David Wayne Loftin and wife Rene' also from Bossier City. She has twelve grandchildren; fourteen great grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews.

***Source: Obituary Published in Shreveport Times on March 9, 2012.***





## **Genealogist digs deep to uncover blacks' roots**

***Written by Brenda Payton:***

*Columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle and a Bay Area writer  
[This article Features Mrs. Electra Kimble Price an 85 years old native of  
Oakland, California through A detailed look at her life and work]  
Online Version: Monday, February 20, 2012*

It started with her mother. After her husband died, Clyde Kimble came to live with her daughter Electra Kimble Price, and started talking about the family. Price told her they needed to get the information down on paper, and being the go-getter dynamo she was (still is, at 85 years old), she bought a microfilm machine and rented microfilm from the National Archives.

"We looked at Crockett's Bluff Township, where she grew up in Arkansas," Price recalls. "Mother would say, 'There's my schoolteacher. There's so and so.' "The result was a manuscript, "My Travels on the Highway of Life," by Clyde Kimble, and it started Price on her travels into African American genealogy. Over the last 23 years, she has helped 50 families trace their ancestry, using a range of sources, including the Social Security death index, military records, voter registration, city directories and school records. And, of course, the U.S. census.

"Information for individuals is not released for 70 years to protect privacy. Everyone is eagerly anticipating the release of the 1940 census (available digitally on April 2)," Price said. For African American families, 1940 was a crucial census that will document the beginning of the Second Great Migration from the South to the North. (The first migration of blacks moving north occurred between 1910 and 1930.)

Seventy years before 1940, the 1870 census was the first to list all African Americans by name. Before that, only free blacks were listed. The vast majority of African Americans, held in bondage, are not listed in the prior censuses. It's an obstacle that makes African American genealogy tricky. The challenge only seems to inspire Price, a.k.a. Ms. Genealogy.

"You look at (property) tax records for slave names. Family Bibles. Plantation records. Researchers of white families sometimes have information about the slave families. The Catholic Church christened slaves, and so there are church records," she said. Another important source is the Freedmen's Bureau, established just after the Civil War to assist former slaves. For Price, black history happens year-round, not just in February, Black History Month.

The Internet has facilitated the explosion in genealogical research. Records from across the country are available, but you don't even have to do the clicking yourself; numerous genealogical websites aggregate the information for you - for a fee. Price helps families for no charge.

"When someone comes to me and says they want to do their family history, I start with their mother's maiden name. I get as much as I can from the interview." And then she begins her detective work.

She is in the middle of researching a prominent African America family from Arkansas. She had found the white ancestors who emigrated from England to Maryland and then to Arkansas.

"But it's important to make sure you have the right slave family and the right slave owner. I am very careful about the documentation. In this case, a black ancestor was said to be born in Arkansas around 1850, moved to Texas as a boy and returned to Arkansas in his teens.

"I'm wondering: How did he get to Texas, who took him, what were the circumstances?" During that time, Price said, Texas landowners rented and borrowed slaves from Arkansas to work their land. "Did a slave owner take him, or perhaps the owner was more humane and sent the entire family? This story hasn't come together yet as something I can prove."

Speculation is part of her process. "It gives you ideas of sources to check to find out where they were and what they were doing." While we were talking, she discovered two free black members of the family, named in the 1860 census.

She uses three computers, each with two monitors, and has a home office that looks like a branch of the public library. Prior to her genealogy work, Price, an Oakland native, was a stay-at-home mom and community volunteer. She went back to school to complete her bachelor's and master's degrees, and then worked for the Oakland school district in community relations, retiring in 1986. In her own family, she's traced 6,000 members on her maternal and paternal sides, after eliminating duplications. For example, Elias Sheard and Elias Sherrod was actually the same person. The penmanship of the census takers is another obstacle. "In the late 1800s, it was a beautiful, Spenserian script. In the early 1900s, the census takers were illiterate, and the handwriting is terrible." Names were frequently spelled phonetically.

"I looked at the name of one ancestor, Magred Blackwell, for two years. I thought, 'That's such an unusual name.' Then I realized it was Margaret."

A frequent visitor at the Oakland Family History Center at the Mormon Temple (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints), she started a genealogy class there for African Americans.

"It's important to me because we know so little about our families. Once you start looking and researching, you see what your ancestors went through to survive, and you have a sense of pride they overcame all of those barriers."

Genealogy has also been a history lesson about our country. "I didn't know about the borrowing and lending of slaves. I learned about the colored troops. I've learned more about the country's history than I was ever taught in school."

With an understandable urgency, she advises all senior centers and complexes to start genealogy projects. "Make sure there is a generational chart in every client's file. If they haven't done it, it is going to be that much more difficult for those who are left."

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2012/02/20/EDTP1N82BA.DTL>  
*This article appeared on page A-8 of the San Francisco Chronicle*

### ***About Mrs. Electra Kimble Price***

In case you missed it, the opinion piece on African American Genealogy "Digging Deep to Uncover Roots" is a detailed look at Electra's life and work. This online version bears a slightly different title but Genealogist Digs Deep to Uncover Blacks' Roots includes every word of Brenda Payton's glowing profile and several more photographs of Price.

Electra has been a member of the California Genealogical Society since 1994. She is an Oakland native and a local legend among Bay Area genealogists. I had the pleasure of meeting her at her home a few years ago when she donated books to the CGS library.

Price was one of the founding members of the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California (AAGSNC). She received the Distinguished Service Award of the Genealogical Society of Utah in 2000 in recognition of the countless hours she has devoted to helping family historians.

Many years ago Electra started an African-American genealogy research class (now taught by Judith Collins) at the Oakland California Family History Center. Price orchestrated a Black History Month event there this past Sunday where she was feted with another award and cake. Nicka Smith's report (and gorgeous photos) can be found on the AAGSNC blog Black Family History Day was a Success!

Congratulations Electra!

## **GOLD POINT PLANTATION**

Submitted by Dale Jennings

[Continued from 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr, 2011]

The Louisiana State Legislature declared on February 29, 1856, that James B. Gilmer and his wife Paulina were "relieved and released from all disabilities resulting from their marriage." By 1858, Paulina – once again Paulina Pickett – still had most of the nine plantations awarded to her in the settlement. She sold her son James her Red Chute Plantation that year and the Cash Point Plantation in 1866. He married Kate Jones, the daughter of District Court Judge Roland Jones of Shreveport and they began a family of five sons. James sold Cash Point in 1876 and lost Gold Point in 1877. His wife Kate sued him in District Court that year for separation of funds and for \$4,000, a sum inherited from her father and converted by her husband to his own use. As a result, his Gold Point Plantation was seized and sold at sheriff's sale. It was purchased by Kate for \$28,260 on February 12, 1877. She retained the proceeds from the sale from which she had to pay outstanding mortgages on the property.

In May 1877, Kate Pickett added the "Douglas Place" to her Gold Point Plantation. She bought that 397-acre tract at the north boundary of her plantation from the James S. Douglas heirs. The sale excluded "the family burying ground and a pecan tree thereon" (probably on the river). James Pickett, Jr. died in 1880 and Katherine died in 1886, making orphans of the five minor sons. Kate had retained the Red Chute and Gold Point plantations, which were held in trust for the children.

Map Section 16 of the 1886 Corps of Engineers Red River Survey (found in the Bossier Parish Library Historical Center map collection) calls the Bossier Parish part of Gold Point inside the peninsula "Gold Point Place. Jim Pickett's Estate." The Caddo part was shown as "Gold Point or Orphan Children Place," a name not widely used. This map shows that the configuration of the Gold Point peninsula had changed little since the original survey. It shows landings at gin houses on each side of the river along the northern segment of the peninsula. The residence is between the two gins on the Caddo side. It shows another landing on the Caddo side on the southern segment. John Glenn's 1890 List of Landings on Red River (LSU Shreveport archives) indicates a ferry at the southern landing. It seems that there would have been a ferry on the north side of the plantation near the residence and cotton gins, but none was indicated. River crossing there could have been accomplished by steam boat from landing to landing.



The partition of the Katherine Jones Pickett estate was made in 1901, after the last of Kate's four surviving sons reached majority. Montford Gray had died by accidental drowning in 1897. James B. III, back from the Spanish-American War, and Paul DeGraffenreid inherited the Gold Point Plantation, each getting an undivided half. (Neville was given the Red Chute Plantation, and Roland the Long Prairie Plantation in Arkansas.) In 1902 James and Paul, desiring to divest themselves of the property in order to pursue other interests, sold the plantation to Bossier Parish planters Walter E. Ivey and William G. Burt. Ivey and Burt maintained their partnership in Gold Point for several years. Then each transferred his still undivided interest to Shreveport business and investment partners, M. M. Silbernagel and H. L. Heilperin. Ivey lost his half interest to Silbernagel by sheriff's sale in 1907 and Burt sold his to Heilperin in 1909.

Red River was undergoing drastic change at this time. A Section 16 Corps of Engineers Red River Survey Map shows the contrast in the courses of the river between 1887 and 1908. The force of the flood waters particularly on the upper segment of Gold Point peninsula had in the intervening years washed out the bank and was closing the mouth of the peninsula. In altering its course, the river had caused a great amount of productive land to be lost to the river, and to be turned into "batture" sand bars.

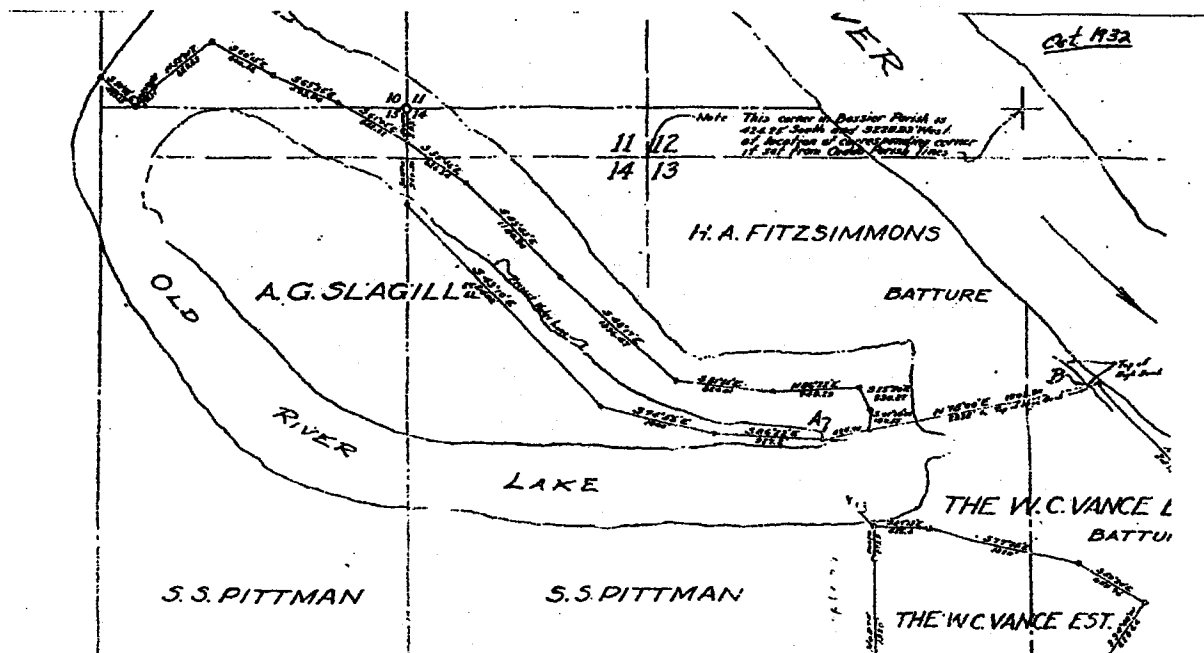
The emergence of the Gold Point Plantation from the Shreveport business partnership saw the change from joint to individual ownership as well as a physical division of the plantation itself. L. B. Anderson purchased the Caddo Parish part of Gold Point Plantation in 1912 and sold it, "821 acres less what may have been lost to cave in," to James M. Byrd in 1917. Clinton O. Gayle bought the Bossier portion of Gold Point in 1918. On January 6, 1923, Gayle sold a tract to J. M. Byrd and A. G. Slagill. It was described as, "that part of Gold Point lying in the bend of Old River Bossier Parish and which lies west of the main channel of Red River as it now runs, land known as "The Island," said originally being in Bossier, but now lying west of Red River the dividing line between Bossier and Caddo," containing 300 acres.

Irene (Mrs. Wilbur L.) Sibley told the writer several years ago that the government had planned to cut a channel across the narrow neck of the Gold Point peninsula and straighten out that stretch of Red River. However, the Sibleys were apprehensive that the approaching flood season would wash out their best crop on the outside west edge of the peninsula. She said that her brother-in-law, Whit Sibley, went down and dynamited the neck of land diverting the water through and away from their prized field. Jackson Cavett Sibley confirms the story, saying it is his understanding that it was his

father, Whitley Cavett Sibley and Sam Pittman who did the dynamiting in 1922.

Gold Point Island has since passed through the partnership of A. M. Stroud and W. H. North to James C. Pittman, and from Pittman to oil man, David Crow, in 1959. Daughter, Judy McColgan, and husband Dr. William McColgan have recently built a beautiful home on the property, where they reside. The picturesque 176-acre Gold Point Island is completely surrounded by placid Gold Point Lake, accessed by land bridge from the mainland side.

James M. Byrd sold the aforementioned 821 acres of Gold Point Plantation to Hugh Fitzsimmons in May 1928. Fitzsimmons also acquired the batture sand bar inside the outline of the old peninsula, down to the shore of Gold Point Lake, in a judgment against Slagill and Byrd in 1932. This included the site of James Byrd's "Gold Point Pleasure Resort." According to current owner, James Adger, the park had been a successful business venture operated by Byrd in the 1920's. (Gold Point Pleasure Resort, Inc., was registered with the Louisiana Secretary of State in 1924.) A huge swimming hole had been excavated on the north shore of the lake and filled with water pumped out of the lake – the concrete base for the pump is still in place. The swimming hole and adjoining recreation area were said to have been immensely popular and drew large crowds from Shreveport and other areas. (The below 1932 map shows Gold Point Island, Gold Point Lake and the batture, but not the outline of the old peninsula.)



1932 Map Re: Judgment Fitzsimmons vs Slagill & Byrd (Bossier Parish Conveyance Book 60, Pg 383 (Maps) and Conveyance Book 107, Pg 415

Hugh A. Fitzsimmons was a pioneer driller and then independent drilling contractor. He was one of the first to drill over water in the legendary Caddo Lake Pine Island field in the Caddo Parish oil boom of the 1920's. After purchasing Gold Point, he went on to increase his fortune by drilling the Maracaibo Bay field in Venezuela.

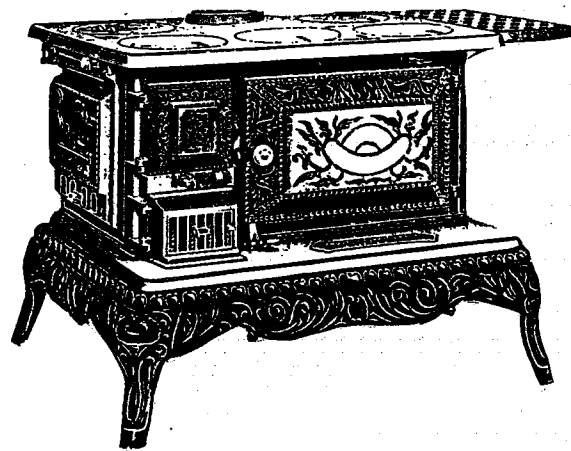
In about 1933, Fitzsimmons moved back to his native state of Texas. (His grandson, Jim Adger, says that he had vowed to do so if Huey Long were to be elected governor of Louisiana.) In Texas he bought three large ranches to include the famed 67,000-acre San Pedro Ranch in Dimmit and Maverick counties.

Shortly thereafter, Red River broke out of its bank in the northeast corner of the plantation and went back into an old loop on the Bossier side. It kept eroding eastward threatening to reach the Cotton Belt railroad track and Benton Road. In 1935, the Corps of Engineers proposed to cut a channel to direct the river back to its previous course. The "Fire Point Cutoff" was accomplished, but at the expense of some of Fitzsimmons' most productive land, which was either lost to the river or went over to the other side. He was compensated with a larger but less productive tract on the east side of the river. His combined land on the east side of Red River now amounted to some eleven hundred acres.

In 1937, Hugh Fitzsimmons' daughter, Jamie, married William Gordon Adger, a member of that pioneer planter family from South Carolina. "Gordon," a dashing adventurer and world traveler, had taken a trip to China and Japan, working his way over and back on a cattle boat. He also made a trip around South and Central America. In an earlier adventure, he had answered an advertisement – and was accepted – for Clyde Eddy's 1929 expedition down the wild Colorado River. Eddy, the organizer and leader, had asked for athletic, adventurous young men who were comfortable with the water. In his 1929 book, "Down the World's Most Dangerous River," he described Gordon as age 23, weighing 196 pounds, five feet eleven inches tall, lean and graceful; also, modest and unassuming, with rare good looks and the faint suggestion of a Southern drawl. Eddy soon recognized Gordon's qualities of leadership and made him captain of one of the boats, the "Powell." He wrote: "Adger was destined to play an important role in our six weeks' battle with the river and the fine qualities he showed before we started were made apparent a hundred times on the long journey to Needles."

Jamie bought the Gold Point Plantation from her father in 1938. Gordon settled into family life while making a success of farming their plantation.

Unfortunately, he died in 1954 before reaching his fiftieth birthday, leaving his widow and a son and daughter. In 1974, Jamie divided her Gold Point plantation between the children, James Gordon (Jim) and Sylvia Lila. James received the 770 acres on the west side of the river and Sylvia the aforementioned land on the east side. They still farm their Gold Point properties and Jim is currently (2011) president of the Caddo Levee District. Both reside in their homes on the north side of Gold Point Lake.



### ***Annual Dues Reminder***

It's time to renew your membership to ALTGA. Dues are only \$20.00 for a single membership, \$25.00 to include spouse/family. Membership brings you the quarterly **"The Genie"** and for Ark-La-Tex residents, the opportunity to attend the regular monthly meetings for genealogical growth. **Please notify** us of address changes or corrections; the Post Office will charge for return Genies.



# Black Land Loss

By Roger Jefferson

*Note: During the ALTGA February 11<sup>th</sup> program commemorating Black History Month; our guest speaker was Mr. Roger Jefferson, a family historian. His topic was "A Personal Experience in Genealogy and Land Research." The following is a letter that was part of the hand out information Mr. Jefferson presented and one that was sent to family members, friends and church groups.*

04 April 2011

From: Roger Jefferson  
3796 Jones Rd  
Haughton, LA 71037

To: (?)

Subject: Black Land Loss

Black land loss. "Not on our watch!" This should be our motto. We should be concerned about educating and teaching ourselves and other black people, young and old, about Louisiana property laws. Our generation must be the ones who break the cycle of fear of the Southern courthouses. Back in the Jim Crow days it was understandable that black people were frightened about having to go to the courthouses. Most were abused and some even killed. The fear of retribution prevented many from being able to freely research court records. If the past generations of black people had been afforded the opportunity of free access to property records they may have been able to teach themselves and their children about holding on to their unmovable property. The white Southern land grabbers were well aware that many of the land holding blacks did not know how to hold on to their land. Consequently, many of them lost their land because of this.

Many black people believe that in the case of Heir Property, if the taxes are paid the land is safe. False! If any one relative with interest in the property sells their interest, there are laws that will allow the buyer to file a partition suit against the property and the court will oversee the sell of the property.

In this day and time there are no more Jim Crow laws. The only thing we have to fear is ourselves. We should want to know what happened to our ancestor's land. There is no one who has the job of informing us about this issue. We need to start educating ourselves. We need to become familiar with *Title at Law* and *Declaration of Land Patent* which is sometimes referred to **Allodial Title**. These are titles issued by the United States and signed by the president of the United States that were issued to many of our ancestors. There were more than 2 millions patents that passed evidence of title to individual parcels of public land. The first United States land patent was issued March 4, 1788 to John Martin. The Bureau of Land Management has

original copies of these patents on file. To research land patents go online to <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/landpatent>. Or you may e-mail [ErinMorgan@blm.gov](mailto:ErinMorgan@blm.gov) or call (703) 440-1742. You may also write the Bureau of Land Management Eastern State Office, 7450 Boston Blvd, Springfield, VA 22153 or check out the Bureau of Land Management on line at <http://www.blm.gov>.

To determine if your ancestor received a land patent, first you find your earliest ancestor's name by researching the United State Census records, which dates back to 1870. You may do this on line; or by visiting your local library's Historical Center for help. Once you find the name of your ancestor, check with your local parish courthouse to see if you can locate any records showing if they owned any property/land. Once you have determined that they did indeed own property, way back when, you can contact the Bureau of Land Management to find out what happened to that property. In regards to the loss of land formerly belonging to blacks we have been lied to for so long that most of us have the Willie Lynch syndrome. To read about Willie Lynch, The Making of a Slave, go to <http://Thetalkingdrum.com/wil.html>.

I would like to share a personal experience with you. I went to the Bossier Parish Courthouse and while checking in through the metal detectors I was insulted by one of the Sheriffs that were on duty. As soon as I walked in he asked me if I was there to pay a ticket. I kindly replied, no, that I was looking for the tax assessor's office. I was so proud to tell him that because it appears that he was profiling me. He naturally assumed that most black men not in a suit and tie are there to pay a ticket. It was quite evident that it never occurred to him that I was there to research the land records.

Many years ago I heard some black men talking about those big books at the parish courthouse that contained all sorts of information. I promised myself that one day I would go to the courthouse and look through those big books — properly known as Conveyance Books. In 2005 I went there for the first time. I did not have a clue where to start or how. After walking around for a long time watching all the white people watching me (I was the only black there) I decided to ask one of the clerks on duty to help me. She said, sure, and so my journey began. I said that to say, there is no shame if you don't know what to do. We just were not taught anything about the courthouse, taxes and the records department. It is not our fault that no one taught us but now that the opportunity is there it is our responsibility to learn and to teach others.

I would like to close with a poem. "*If Must Die*" by Claude McKay, 1921  
If we must die, let it not be like hogs: hunted and penned in an accursed spot.  
If we must die, oh let us nobly die, dying but fighting back.

Sincerely Yours  
Roger Jefferson

## PERIODICAL EXCHANGE REVIEW

Compiled by Glenda Efferson Bernard

The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association is part of an exchange program with other genealogical societies across the nation. The idea is to obtain newsletters and bulletins from these various societies in exchange for a copy of "The Genie." This very successful endeavor benefits genealogists who visit the Broadmoor Branch of the Shreve Memorial Library in Shreveport, Louisiana.

The publications discussed in this article, along with many others, may be found on the magazine racks to one's right upon entering the Genealogy Department. The purpose of this article is to acquaint the reader with several publications which may be of interest in their research. Generally speaking, one can find more data about the person of interest if research is covered in his locale before searching nationwide. For example, regional articles may provide an early church roster with just the name needed while a magazine showcased to reach statewide readers may not include such detail.

Numerous exchange copies have been deposited recently into the library's collection. Some interesting ones include:

***Ash Tree Echo, Nov 2011***, published by the Fresno County Genealogical Society is 26 pages in length. Its featured sections are The Ayon (Ayllon) Family Reunion Rocks Irwindale and James P. Barker, a Foreign-Born Union Soldier. Of special interest is "A Tutorial: How to Find Probate Records in Fresno County, California." The publication has a favorite websites section, query submission section and a surname index.

***Connections, the Hoosier Genealogist***. Presented by the Indiana Historical Society, Spring/Summer 2011, Vol. 51, Issue 1, this bulletin is 64 pages in length. It is a large, pictorial volume with numerous features such as "Early Midwestern Orphanages" and "Counting People of Color." Numerous regional sources and stories are also included such as "Court Papers" and "Community News." This volume separates parts of the state into Northern, Central and Southern Indiana with articles about each from these various parts of the state. How great to see this excellent layout which is easy to read.

***Tennessee Ancestors***, A Tri-annual Publication of the East Tennessee Historical Society, April 2011, Vol. 27, Issue 1 is 60 pages long. Included is a great article, "Civil War Veterans Reunion, about 1913." Also an extensive article in this volume is "Stories From East Tennessee" which is about the life of a coal miner's son in Scott County, TN. Another very interesting article, "Tennessee's Little Known Pioneers - Part 1" showcases those who marked the path for future generations in the mountains of Tennessee. Quite a long article

"Captain Alfred J. "Jim" Lane – Civil War Recruiter and 'Pilot', highlights his contributions and shows images of his wartime records.

***Our Heritage***, San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society, Fall and Winter 2011-2012, Vol. 53, Numbers 1 and 2. This is a terrific journal which is 90 pages in length. There are many pictures, charts, original records from Bexar County, TX. Numerous lengthy extractions such as "Bexar County Index of Civil Minutes 1837-1875: Plaintiffs "I, J, K Indexes," and "Bexar County District Court Minutes, Book B" fill the pages of this bulletin. Several interesting articles such as "Excerpts from a Civil War Diary" as well as "The First Protestant Church in San Antonio" caught the eye of this reader. There is a biography section as well as the everyday memories and letters of the man on the street within this publication. The type is easy to read and the layout is clean.

***Legacies and Legends of Winn Parish, Louisiana***, Vol. 15, No. 2 is a November 2011 publication. Its 105 pages of photos, charts, letters, diaries and choice miscellaneous information captivate the reader. Of special interest in this edition is the inclusion of a copy of the "Class of 1914 from Dodson High School in Winn Parish" handout. Subsequent to those pages copied, are short biographies of nine students of the graduating class as well as a rather involved paragraph on the superintendent of the parish in 1914, J.J. Mason. Fourteen pages of genealogy and notes are included in "One Smith Family, The Trek Back from Winn Parish, LA to Bladen Co., North Carolina." This appears to be a well-researched genealogy of John Christopher Smith and his family. "Letters From Lonie" provides history and details of the life of Emma Leona Washburn in Jefferson County, AL in her own words through diary entries...very, very interesting!

***Footprints, August, 2011, Vol. 54, No. 3***, is published by the Fort Worth Genealogical Society and consists of 46 pages. This publication has an ongoing series, "Pioneer Families of Tarrant County" and highlights the genealogy of several charter members from their local society. What a great idea! Other than the transcription of a set of court records, "Tarrant County, Texas Marriage Book 2" and short biographies of "Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County," this writer thoroughly enjoyed the insertion of two short articles, "Grandma's Aprons" and "What it Took to Get an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Education in 1895."

***Stalkin' Kin in Old West Texas***, published by the San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society of San Angelo, TX, Vol. 39, Numbers 1 and 2. The editors are commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil War in this 120 page bulletin. Many articles and pictures surround the Civil War timeframe. "Tom Green County, TX, District Court Docket 1924," is recorded along with six other abstracted records of the San Angelo, TX, area...marriage records, obituaries and death notices from the San Angelo *Standard-Times*.

## ***Hansel and Gretal***

**Submitted by Barbara Johnston**

In the story of Hansel and Gretal did you ever wonder if, "The names were changed to protect the innocent?" As a small child, in a strange sort of way, I felt like I knew both Hansel and Gretal unlike most children could never comprehend.

I was very curious growing up and had a strong imagination. Like most children, I wanted to know about my grandparents and what it was like for my parents.

Asking my mother about her parents and her childhood brought hesitation on her part and most times refusal to talk. Even as a young child, I could see the pain in her face. This only made my curiosity stronger and I was even more determined to learn some answers. From the start I learned quickly that I had to catch my mother in a good mood to ask questions.

My mother first opened up by telling me that her mother died when she was a small child. I could not comprehend not having a mother. Finally my first question of course was, "why". "She just did," was my mother's only reply. I knew the time for questions and answers were finished. I would have to bide my time to learn more.

I could only get small pieces of what had happened in my mother's life at a time. Her life had been so painful that it was extremely difficult for her to talk about it. I was already comparing her life as Gretal by this time. Uncle Chester refused to tell his children anything about his childhood. His two children grew up knowing nothing about his past. After my uncle's death, his daughter and son believed all West family history was lost forever. They did not realize that my sister and I had pried out some information about our mother's family. Our mother was determined to keep us in the dark about most of her family's past. My sister and I were very persistent and would not give up on our research. Thus, our genealogy really took roots.

Little by little over the years I asked more questions. I learned by grandmother had died after my Uncle Bruce was born. My grandmother, Ella was left alone to get some rest. Two hours later someone went in to check on her. On that hot August day in 1920, she had quietly slipped away. Since Ella died at home, I have been unable to get a death certificate.

In those days burial was not like it is today. On a steamy hot day in August 1920, there wasn't a choice of what to do. Her body had to be put in the ground as soon as possible. The men in the logging camp got busy making a coffin, while the women prepared her for burial.

By the time everything was completed it was beginning to get dark. My

mother, as a very young child was only able to remember bits and pieces. She remembered riding in a wagon with her mother's body. When they reached Beulah Cemetery in Sabine Parish, the funeral was completed by lantern lights. The only good memories my mother carried with her was that she had been loved and her mother had long beautiful red hair.

Reality quickly set in for my grandfather, James West. Here he was with two small children, Chester who was 4 years old and Cora who was 2 years old. Now he also had a newborn son Bruce, to raise alone. It was now time to make some hard decisions.

James worked for Temple Logging Company as a log hauler. So, working long hours in the forest with a team of oxen and a wagon made it impossible to take his small children along. Living in a logging community, living in tents, or even in an old railroad car, life was very hard. People were lucky if they had the luxury of being able to have a small cabin. Logging camp residents always lived with the knowledge, they would be moving on to the next location.

There were no family members to help James with his new dilemma. Knowing a couple living close that wanted children, but were unable to have their own seemed a solution for the newborn son.

James carried Bruce on a pillow down the road to this childless couple. He told the Beckcoms that he was willing to allow them to raise his baby as their own under two conditions. They were not to ever change his name and to teach him how to work hard. The couple had no hesitation to the agreement. They were thrilled to have a child of their own. There was no need for adoption because they knew James would be true to his word.

Thus, the story of Hansel and Gretel begins. The names now are Chester and Cora. Both scenes begin near the forest, with a small girl and older brother. The mother was deceased and thus enters the wicked stepmother.

For the two sets of children, times were hard. Both families lived in poverty, but they both had a loving father. The stepmothers resented their step children and felt they were just extra mouths to feed. The one difference was that Dreu had a son of her own about the age of Chester. She was truly evil because she didn't even want him. He was mostly raised by his grandfather. Cecil's life wasn't easy either. He was not wanted by his mother, living with his grandfather and step grandmother, he was forced to sleep in the barn. During James and Dreu's marriage, they had another son. This child, Dreu kept.

Dreu was very jealous of any attention James gave to his and Ella's children. My mother remembered Dreu taking her out into the woods to pour out a jug of James' whiskey. She threatened Cora that if she told her dad, she would take care of her later. The threat alone was enough to scare Cora into silence. My mother said she knew Dreu would follow through with her threat because she was so cruel and mean to her and Chester. Dreu was always

locking Chester out of the house. She gave him continuing threat of how she would chop his head off. Chester and Cora certainly didn't feel a safe and warm feeling living in their house. One can only imagine the feelings of a young child being made to live in fear day by day. They didn't dare tell their father due to the fear of Drue's rage. Whether or not James had a drinking problem is unknown.

In the spring of 1925, Cora and Chester's life took another rough road to travel. Their father was injured in a logging accident and died on May 30, 1925. I can't imagine the fear of the children being left alone with their step mother.

She waited around until after September 1925. She then got her hands on the insurance money James had taken out to see to the care of her and his children. Being the greedy woman she was; her plans were most likely made in advance.

With money in hand, she packed the wagon with all the things she wanted to keep. She then locked Chester and Cora in the cabin and loaded her children in the wagon. Taking the horse reins in her hand, she drove away without looking back. How did my mother and uncle feel about what had just happened? My mother would only say, "We were seared".

Some people in the nearby town had seen Dreu drive by in her wagon of things and only her children. When some people got around to it, they went to check on Chester and Cora. Not knowing what they would find, they found the two frightened children locked in the cabin to fend for themselves.

I do not know how it came to happen or when but Drue's father took the responsibility for the unwanted children. My mother did remember being passed from family to family. Mr. Slater, Dreu's father certainly did not plan to take in two children. As soon as possible he made arrangements to turn the children over to the Baptist Children's Orphanage. The Orphanage had been moved from Lake Charles to Monroe.

The children were put alone on a train heading to Monroe, not knowing what type of life they now would live. The children had gone from one tragedy to another.

I have paperwork stating my mother and uncle were "committed" to the orphanage in October 1926. On a 1930 census sheet all the children are listed as "inmates". I felt this paperwork was a disgrace. These children, who had done nothing wrong, are now committed and labeled as inmates. I realize life at the orphanage has greatly changed. I visited it for myself with my mother, who filled in what it was like in the 1920's and 1930's. It was another hard and cruel place to live.

Chester ran away when he could take no more. No one cared enough to look for him. Cora was put out in her mid teens due to overcrowding. She now

had to make a life for herself. No one would be around to make decision for her.

Learning all the facts I was able to learn, I was able to see things in a different light. The story of Hansel and Gretel had a happy ending. The story of Chester and Cora was a different matter. Both children in the real story carried scars that were invisible to the sight. Chester refused to talk of his childhood completely. After his death his two children felt they would never know anything about their father's family or childhood. After his son's death, his daughter Betty and I started talking about our parents. Betty was shocked and pleased beyond belief that my sister, Frances and I had already done some research. She could not believe anyone knew anything about the past. She and I have worked hard to discover all the information we can. Together, with God's help, we have learned more than we ever dreamed possible. I can now understand all the hesitation and pain I saw on my mother's face and why it was so hard for her to talk. Though I do so wish she had felt comfortable enough to share more of her memories instead of taking them to her grave forever. It is still amazing to me that a little girl taken with the story of Hansel and Gretel started the beginning of her genealogical research.

All facts about Ella's untimely death and what took place afterwards were furnished by Bruce's new parents. After Cora was grown she made many visits to the Beckcoms.

#### SOURCES:

1. Information obtained from interviews with Cora West Johnston, My Mother; Judy West, wife of Cecil West the oldest son of Dreue; and N. Wallace of Plain Dealing by Barbara Johnston.
2. Birth and Death Record Book 1B, 1917-1928, Sabine County, Hemphill, TX, Page 229, Certificate No. 8.
3. Louisiana Baptist Children's Home records, Monroe, LA, est.1899.
4. Drue West vs. Lumberments Reciprocal Assoc. Suit # 3268, Sabine Co, TX.
5. Parish Courthouse Research: Natchitoches, Winn, Sabine, Grant, Vernon, Caddo, Bossier, and Hemphill County, TX
6. Cemeteries in many LA Parishes, and Court houses: Natchitoches, Winn, Sabine, Grant, Vernon, Caddo, Bossier, and Hemphill County Texas



## How a COW became a SWAN

By Golda F. Walker

Submitted by Brenda Custer Randall

When a full-blown moon rode the summer air a vintage black crone stopped our childish romp by suddenly appearing from nowheret as we played outside the cowpen in the stomp. Old-fashioned brogans laced with tattered ties topped her ankles. Calico wrapped her frame and mystery clothed her ebony eyes. Our pinafores would never be the same as terrified, we scaled the feedlot fence. I was never more afraid before or since.

Mother was milking but rushed to the scene. The apparition shuffled coarse-clad feet and mumbled words peculiar to her mien: seven foreign-sounding words repeated seven times. Between each septet she said: \_ "Heal the warty cow. Heal the warty cow."

A grotesque bovine in our herd, Ugg had massive warts on her hide and bag, but how to cure her mystified us. Pinch a teat — old Ugg would kick us and upset the pail. We had tried all remedies known. No feat remotely healed. We knew this try would fail.

Old Sparrow said her last incantation, threw sand over her shoulder the seventh time toward the moon and gave an explanation about results, wiped the remaining grime from her rough hands and slowly walked away.

Seven days passed, yet all the warts remained, our doubts justified. On the fourteenth day Mother capsized her pail of milk and sprained her foot in her excitement to run tell the news that Old Sparrow — we blush and bow to her — performed her exorcism well for Ugg had changed into a SWAN of a cow!

*[Note from Brenda ... My Aunt Golda Wrote "How a Cow Became a Swan" as an entry in BEST YEARS Folklore contest in the Spring of 1931. She's been a poet since high school in Calhoun, Louisiana and has won many awards. It's cute and my grandmother (Big Ma) told the tale as true many times while I was growing up.*

*In submitting her entry, "How a Cow Became a Swan," Golda explained: "This happened in the late 1930's when I was a child". My father, Murphy James Foster, had died a few years before. I was a witness to this event with my mother, Florence Alvin McDaniel Foster, and my four siblings.*

*This was an eerie but a true tale of a mysterious "voodoo woman" and the surprising spell she cast one full moon's eve is the winner of BEST YEARS Folklore Contest; in this rural community near Calhoun, Ouachita Parish, LA.*

*This winning entry, in verse form, was submitted by Golda F. Walker of Baton Rouge, LA, who witnessed the strange event.*

*In announcing the competition the past January, BEST YEARS editors said "we hope each one of you will join in the fun of recollecting and sharing American folklore to keep our heritage alive for ourselves and younger generations."*



## SAINT JOSEPH AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

14756 Rosenwald Road (Highway 599)

Bonita, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana

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In 1873 in Bonita, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana, Reverend C. W. Williams led a group of African Americans to organize a Church. They chose the name of "Saint Joseph African Methodist Episcopal Church." He became its first pastor.

Affectionately known as "Saint Joe," this Church and its cemetery filed its Act of Incorporation on January 10, 1874, at the Morehouse Parish Court House, Bastrop, Louisiana. Dr. James W. Pratt sold five acres more or less for seventy-five dollars in cash to Mr. Harry Roberts, President of the Board of Trustees of the "Colored St. Joseph A. M. E. Church South and graveyard" and to his successors in office. These five acres were located in the North West corner of the North East Quarter of the North West Quarter in Section 8, Township 22, North Range 8 East lying West of Bayou Bonne Idee.<sup>1</sup>

On April 2, 1901, its Board of Trustees--Henry Causey, Jackson Haynes, L.W. Jenkins, G. W. King, Reverend G. W. Lacy, M. P. Penny, W. F. Thompson, and D. D. Watt authorized its President Abe Dantzler and its Secretary William Watt, to sign their names to a deed to purchase land. On April 5, 1901 in Bonita, Louisiana, they appeared before George W. Naff, Clerk of the Sixth District Court, in and for the Parish of Morehouse, Louisiana to purchase thirty-three acres, more or less, from Harry W. Buatt for three hundred and twenty dollars. They paid fifty-six dollars down and carried promissory notes demanding payments of sixty-six dollars due annually on the first day of January for the next four years at an eight percent interest rate until paid (1905).<sup>2</sup>

President Rev. R. Amos and Secretary Sam Keith represented the Bonita Normal and Industrial upon purchasing ten acres from the Church on January 27, 1906. The Church's Board of Trustees consisted of President P. W. Williams, Secretary William Watt, and Trustees: Henry Causey, Abe Dantzler, Alex Dantzler, Jack Haynes, Geo. King, Monroe Penny, W. T. Thompson, and David Watt.<sup>3</sup>

Mr. Bert A. Olive, a resident of Galion, Louisiana, purchased three acres from the Church on April 3, 1906, which was south and adjacent to the lot recently sold to the Bonita Normal and Industrial School.<sup>4</sup>

On September 23, 1916, J. A. Gibson, Pastor of St. Joseph A. M. E. Church, purchased ten acres more or less for fifty dollars from these Charter members of the Bonita Normal and Industrial Institute in Bonita, Louisiana: Joe Anderson, Henry Causey, George W. King, James Prater, Dan Roberts, R. A. Walker, D. D. Watt, and A. Watts.<sup>5</sup>

On April 18, 1918, Reverend J. A. Gibson on behalf of the St. Joseph A. M. E. Church

purchased three acres more or less for two hundred and twenty-five dollars in cash from Bessie M. Olive Alford, wife of Bert A. Olive.<sup>6</sup>

The St. Joseph A. M. E. Church was rebuilt in 1923 under the leadership of Reverend C. W. Williams, President M. P. Penny, Secretary W. Williams, and its Board of Trustees: M. H. Callion, D. Causey, Abe Dantzler, H. C. Causey, G. W. King, J. McNeil, W. F. Thompson, W. M. Watt.

The Church was renovated in 1954 under the leadership of Reverend T. H. Terry, Presiding Elder Reverend G. H. J. Thibodeaux, Bishop Reverend H. Thomas Primm, Secretary S. S. Watt, and its Board of Trustees: Ben Elm, S. W. Elm, T. C. Causey, Ben Dantzler, C. C. Dantzler, James Dantzler, Sam Harris, H. Johnson, L. J. Johnson, L. J. Thompson, Ernest White. The Bonita Lodge No. 2, Elbert Woods G. M. A., F & A. M., laid the cornerstone.

Some of the Pastors who have served the St. Joseph African Methodist Episcopal Church from 1873 to 2007 are: Rev. John W. Arnold, Rev. Barin, Rev. James Henry Clark, Rev. Hiser Coleman, Rev. Willie Lee Debro, Rev. Cleveland Dixon, Rev. L. S. Durban, Rev. E. D. Franklin, Rev. J. A. Gibson, Rev. Dennis J. Hampton, Rev. E. D. Harvey, Rev. M. H. Hill, Rev. Robert Horton, Rev. G. W. Lacey, Rev. D. D. Lawson, Rev. Mabray, Rev. Alex Parnell, Rev. Stave, Rev. Theodore H. Terry, Rev. Norman R. West, Rev. Edward White, Rev. C. W. Williams, and Rev. Edward Wilson.<sup>7</sup>

In the interim, the St. Joseph A. M. E. Church sold some of its property. The Church has sold ten acres to the Morehouse School Board and one acre to the Webb Choice Lodge.

This Church has been continually undergoing renovations since 1991, when it was modernized with a central air and heating system, a handicap ramp, and other major modifications.

On June 17, 2007, Reverend Robert Horton and his congregation dedicated a memorial called the "Engraved Brick Wall of Fame." Prior to this dedication, individuals brought bricks engraved with the names of present and former members of the St. Joseph A. M. E. Church. The bricks were combined to form a wall of bricks in front of the Church.

The St. Joseph A. M. E. Church Cemetery is the burial site of African American decedents. It is on acreage near the west bank of Bayou Bonne Idee bordering some of the property owned by this Church. It is reached by traveling north on Wilmot Highway 165 North toward the Village of Bonita and by turning right on Rosenwald Road (Highway 599). After passing the St. Joseph A. M. E. Church, take the first driveway on your right which will take you beside the defunct Rosenwald School. The Cemetery is at the end of this driveway.

The Saint Joseph A. M. E. Church Cemetery is being given scheduled maintenance. However, some areas along its boundaries are not being mowed consistently. It is highly probable that some headstones are inaccessible and/or have been overlooked.

#### Sources:

<sup>1</sup>Document No. 929A, Deed, J. W. Pratt to Henry Roberts, et al., Notarial Book J, Pages 470 and 471, filed January 10, 1874, Morehouse Parish Courthouse, Bastrop, Louisiana.

<sup>2</sup>Notarial Book X, Pages 289 et seq., Deed and Mortgage, H. W. Buatt to St. Joseph A. M. E. Church, and Mortgage Book U, Pages 9 et seq., filed April 5, 1901, Morehouse Parish Courthouse, Bastrop, Louisiana.

<sup>3</sup>Notarial Book 29, Pages 202, Document No. 9470-A, Deed with Mortgage, St. Joseph A. M. E. Church to Bonita Normal and Industrial Institute, filed January 27, 1906, Morehouse Parish Courthouse, Bastrop, Louisiana.

<sup>4</sup>Notarial Book 29, Pages 324, Document No. 9575-A, Deed, St. Joseph A. M. E. Church to Bert A. Olive, dated April 3, 1906, Morehouse Parish Courthouse, Bastrop, Louisiana.

<sup>5</sup>Notarial Book 37, Pages 312, Document No. 13526-A, Cash Deed, Bonita Normal and Industrial Institute to the A. M. E. Church, filed October 3, 1916 at the Morehouse Parish Courthouse, Bastrop, Louisiana.

<sup>6</sup>Notarial Books, Book 40, Page 295, Document No. 14748-A, Cash Deed, Bessie M. Olive (Alford) to St. Joe A. M. E. Church, filed March 5, 1918, at the Morehouse Parish Courthouse, Bastrop, Louisiana.

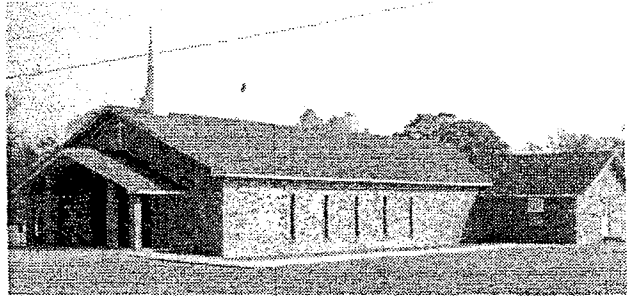
<sup>7</sup>Booklet entitled, "St. Joe African Methodist Episcopal Church 132<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary, 1873-2005; The Legacy of St. Joe's Past, Present, and Future," produced under the leadership of Mrs. Shellie Watt-Johnson, Anniversary Chairperson, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, copy of which is in the possession of Mrs. Isabelle Woods, Bossier City, Louisiana.

## SAINT MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, 1904 TO PRESENT<sup>1</sup>

14518 Wilmot Highway 165  
Bonita, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana

Compiled by Melba Andrews Brown  
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The Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church in Bonita, Louisiana, was organized in 1904 under the leadership of Rev. Chris Williams, who served as Pastor until 1927.



The old "Saint Mark" sat back in the woods (known as the "shoot"), which is now the area behind the present church. The old church was completely wood-framed. Coal-oil lamps and wood-burning heaters kept members warm during the winter. To keep cool during the summer, members fanned themselves as they sat beside raised wooden windows.

Winfield Benton, W. J. Johnson, Mashine King, Louis Powell, Pete Watson, William Wroten and others served as Deacons under Rev. Williams. Sisters Hilda King, Sarah Hill Lambert, Cora Sims, Susie Thomas, Julia Wroten, among others, were Mothers of the Church at that time. Other known members were Bro. Henry Hill and Sis. Jane Sims (who later became Mrs. Jane Odom).

Imagine the sounds of foot stomping, hand clapping, and singing echoing through the trees from a distance! Not wanting to miss anything, everyone hastened to get to church. To attend a revival or a regular church service, members had to walk through the woods to get to church. In inclement weather, members' passage through the "shoot" to the church was very difficult. Even the church flooded every time it rained.

In 1927, the Rev. Sam David Bland, the second son of the Rev. and Mrs. Melinda (Scott) and Scott C. Bland, was elected Pastor.

The church back in the shoot later burned down.

Rev. Bland and the membership considered the loss of their church as an opportunity to rebuild the church on Wilmot Highway 165. A relocation on Highway 165 would give all easier access to the church regardless of the weather.

Bro. Curtis Harden, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lelia (Averett) and Peter Harden, had a close friendship with Mr. Daniel Robert "Bob" Harp, who owned the site preferred for the new church. Therefore, he was appointed by the membership to determine if Mr. Harp was willing to sell a portion of his land along Highway 165 for a church. On March 24, 1928, Mr. Harp sold five and one-half acres of land for seventy-five dollars at eight percent interest to the membership of Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church represented by Deacons Winfield Benton and W. J.

Johnson. The acreage purchased by its membership was sufficient to build a church and to provide for a cemetery.<sup>2</sup> In 1928, the Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church was rebuilt on Highway 165.

The prominent Hill and Odom families who began as members of "Saint Mark," later joined the Saint Luke Missionary Baptist Church. Bro. Henry Hill, who became a noted farmer in Bonita, was converted and baptized in 1908 under Rev. Chris Williams. He later became a deacon at "Saint Luke." Sis. Cora Sims (mother of Mrs. Jane Odom) was an exception. She remained at "Saint Mark" until the Lord called her home.

Rev. Sam D. Bland died on April 1, 1958.<sup>3</sup> The Rev. N. B. McCall continued to conduct services at "Saint Mark." In the same year, the membership elected Rev. N. B. McCall as its third Pastor. He was admired for his love for all humanity.

Under Rev. McCall's leadership, the church grew. He was assisted by a Finance Committee comprised of Sis. Dorothy Whitmore, Sis. Joana Rone, Bro. Jessie Brown, Sr., Bro. Jack King, and Bro. Moses King. Prayer meeting was every Wednesday night. Church services were held on the First and Third Sundays. Members filled each Sunday School class. Baptist Training Union was at 5:00 p.m. with Bro. Jack King in charge. Evening Service was at 6:00 p.m. The Church Custodian was Bro. A. C. Cox.

During the early 1960's, Rev. McCall of "Saint Mark" and Rev. Henderson Smith of "Saint Luke" held joint Revivals and Vacation Bible Schools at their churches.

Eventually "Saint Mark" progressed from wood-burning heaters to gas space heaters and from coal-oil lamps to electricity. However as the years passed, Rev. McCall noticed the church needed a few renovations. Brothers Mashine King, Jessie Brown, Sr., Jack King, and the Rev. Leonard Posey renovated "Saint Mark." Rev. McCall was responsible for the bricks laid on the front of the church.

After the death of Rev. N. B. McCall on August 21, 1977, Rev Emmett Odom temporarily performed services at "Saint Mark" until another Pastor was elected.

In December of 1977, Rev. Eddie Dean Montgomery was chosen as Pastor of "Saint Mark." Ordained at the Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church in January of 1978, he was installed as Pastor of "Saint Mark" in April of 1978. Rev. T. J. Wells preached the sermon at Rev. Montgomery's installation.

In December of 1984, Rev. Montgomery was the first minister to combine Youth Night services with several Louisiana churches: Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church, Bonita; Saint Luke Missionary Baptist Church, Bonita; Lightwood Missionary Baptist Church, Bastrop; Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, Galion; and Green Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Bonita. Later, he included Saint Joseph African Methodist Episcopal Church, Bonita; and Shady Grove Baptist Church, Jones, Louisiana. Service commenced at "Saint Mark" and continued until a Youth Night service had convened at each church.



In 1987, Rev. Montgomery also created the first Youth Usher Board. Sis. Ruthie Price served as President and Sis. Florence Hicks was Vice-President. He then established the first Pastor's Aid Club with Sis. Elizabeth Gordon, President, and Sis. Lois Price, Vice-President. Under Rev. Montgomery's leadership, a new sanctuary was built and dedicated in 1989. Services were conducted by Rev. David McGhee and his church families.

Sis. Maggie Odom (who later became Mrs. Maggie Kelly), had served as Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church's musician for several decades. Her assistant, Deacon John Washington, succeeded her when she resigned this position in the late 1980's. By 2004, Bro. Jordan West was the assistant to Deacon Washington.

Rev. Jack King (1989) and Rev. Lorenzo Michael Price (1994) were called into the ministry under the leadership of Rev. Eddie Dean Montgomery. Rev. King performed Youth Night Services until this program was terminated after several months. In September, 1994, Rev. Price preached his first sermon at "Saint Mark." Shortly thereafter, Rev. Price was elected Pastor of the Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Galion, Louisiana.

Since the 1950's, Bro Henry Thomas had served as Superintendent of Sunday School. He was known for playing the harmonica. Due to illness in 1993, Bro. Prince Lavern Whitmore, Sr., replaced Bro. Thomas as Acting Superintendent. After Bro. Thomas died on April 12, 1995, Bro. Whitmore, Sr., was elected the Sunday School Superintendent. Bro. Whitmore, Sr. continues to serve this position diligently.

In 1998 after serving 21 years as Pastor at "Saint Mark," Rev. Montgomery was elected Pastor of Piney Grove Baptist Church in West Monroe, Louisiana.

Through the prayers of the members of "Saint Mark," the Rev. Lionel D. Wilson became its fifth Pastor in April, 1998. Rev. Wilson was a little man in stature, but always did a mighty work for the Lord. When Rev. Wilson resigned on October 10, 2004, he had served "Saint Mark" for six years.

On November 28, 2004, Rev. Timothy Henderson preached a sermon at "Saint Mark." On January 23, 2005, he was elected as its sixth Pastor and was officially installed on April 24, 2005. The installation services were conducted by Rev. John L. Russell, Sr., and the New Antioch Baptist Church of Monroe, Louisiana. Rev. Henderson also served as "Saint Mark's" musician.

Under his leadership, the membership laid pavement on the Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church's campus, installed a new church sign, extended its dining hall, installed two restrooms, and reorganized the Youth Choir. Rev. Henderson established a dance and praise team, which he named, "Princess of Prosperity." In 2010, Rev. Timothy Henderson resigned as Pastor of "Saint Mark."

Once more the church was faced with not having a physical shepherd to lead the flock. However, there was no doubt that the church still had the main Shepherd, the Lord. In Psalms 23:1 we find, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Once again, the church believed the Lord would provide for its sheep.

After a considerable amount of prayer and a petition to God for a spiritual leader, God blessed "Saint Mark" with a seventh dynamic Pastor, the Reverend Robert Gaines. He reminded the membership that his election was a package deal which included Sis. Crystal Gaines, his lovely and spiritually-filled wife. Rev. Gaines is not only a Pastor who can preach, teach, and sing; but also one who brings unity to scattered sheep and makes them feel as a family. Since his installation on October 10, 2010, the enrollment of "Saint Mark" has grown by more than forty new members. Rev. Gaines is God's messenger for today's generation. He inspires both the elderly and the youth of "Saint Mark" as well as the visiting community.

Under Rev. Gaines' leadership, the church has created a website where members can acquire Bible Studies and Daily Devotion, a spiritually-filled Bible Study every Wednesday after a Pastoral Sunday, the Men and Women's Ministry, a One Hour Make-Over Ministry, the New Member's Ministry, the Media Ministry, an Events' Coordinator, and a live network ministry via the internet. "Saint Mark" has also been blessed with a new Deacon and Deaconess, Bro. James Christian and his wife, Sis. Evelyn Christian, to help with the duties of the church.

The Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church has a very bright future. This Church has been resourceful in appointing leaders who selected excellent Pastors for election by its membership to direct its destiny. These leaders have successfully overcome adversities, have transformed adversities into opportunities, and have consistently adopted the latest technology to spread the Lord's message to everyone, at home or away.

Let us remember these distinguished leaders and members of the Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church of Bonita, Louisiana, who have been or currently are responsible for Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church's progress, prosperity, and perpetuity.

#### **PASTORS**

Rev. Chris Williams	1904-1927
Rev. Sam David Bland	1927-1958
Rev. N. B. McCall	1958-1977
Rev. Eddie Dean Montgomery	1977-1998
Rev. Lionel D. Wilson	1998-2004
Rev. Timothy Henderson	2005-2010
Rev. Robert Gaines	2010-Present

#### **SERVICE**

#### **DEACONS**

John D. Andrews, Jr.	Joseph "Joe" Jackson	Charlie Peterson
Winfield Benton	W. J. Johnson	Louis Powell
Curtis Brown	Jack King	Lorenzo Michael Price
Jessie Brown, Jr.	Mashine King	Perry "Dude" Sanders
Jessie Brown, Sr.	Moses "Peter" King	Henry Thomas
James Christian	Jimmy McClinton	John H. Washington, Jr.
Robert Harden	Earnest Montgomery	Pete Watson
Warren Harden	Spencer Montgomery, Jr.	Prince Albert Whitmore
Michael Hicks		Prince Lavern Whitmore, Sr.
Marvin Holmes, Sr.		William Wroten

## DEACONESS

Janine Brown  
Melba Andrews Brown  
Evelyn Christian  
Regina Hicks  
Dorothy McClinton  
Caroline Montgomery  
Rosalind Price  
Deborah Washington  
Barbara Whitmore

## MOTHERS

Pearl Benton  
Ernestine Brown  
Elizabeth Gordon  
Minnie Bell Harden  
Elsie Hollins  
Hilda King  
Princella King  
Sarah Hill Lambert  
Ethel Lumpkins  
Addie Martin  
Marcella Miles  
Maggie Moore  
Letha Ann Peters  
Carrie Mae Lambert Robinson  
Joana Rone  
Minnie Sanders  
Cora Sims  
Dora Thomas  
Lillie Mae Thomas  
Susie Thomas  
Martha Washington  
Luvada Whitmore  
Julia Wroten

## OTHER LEADERS OF DISTINCTION

Donna Baker  
A. C. Cox  
Patricia Dismuke  
Crystal Gaines  
Curtis Harden  
Florence Hicks  
Henry Hill  
Alma Jackson Jones  
Maggie Odom Kelly  
Rev. Emmett Odom  
Jane Sims Odom  
Rev. Leonard Posey  
Lois Price  
Ruthie Price  
Catherine Waters  
Jordan West  
Dorothy Whitmore



### Sources:

- 1 Brown, Melba Andrews, compiler. "Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church History, 1904 to Present," copy in possession of Mrs. Isabelle Woods, Bossier City, Louisiana.
- 2 Credit Deed No. 8804, *D. R. Harp to First (Saint) Mark's Baptist Church*, Book 61, Page 238, Morehouse Parish Court House, Bastrop, Louisiana.
- 3 "Certificate of Death " for Reverend Sam Bland on Page 456, Volume 6, Louisiana State Archives, Baton, Rouge, Louisiana; Funeral Program of S. D. Bland
- 4 Photograph of the Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church, Bonita, Louisiana, by Mrs. Isabelle Woods, Bossier City, Louisiana.



## ALEXANDRIA NO. 2 BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY

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THIS CEMETERY IS BEHIND THE ALEXANDRIA NO. 2 BAPTIST CHURCH, 115 PLUM STREET, OAK RIDGE, LOUISIANA.

ID	NAME (Last, First, Middle)	PRE/SUFFIX	BIRTHDATE	DEATHDATE	INSCRIPTION/NOTES
14	COLEMAN, GLORIA D. PATTEN		25 JUN 1932	BLANK	MOTHER. DUO W/ JIMMIE COLEMAN
10	COLEMAN, JIMMIE	SR.	02 SEP 1894	17 DEC 1983	A LOVING FATHER
13	COLEMAN, JIMMIE	JR.	23 APR 1930	04 AUG 2001	FATHER. MARRIED JAN. 3, 1955.
28	COLEMAN, MARY			01 APR 2006	FN, NEWS-STAR (MONROE, LA) DTD 07 APR 2006
26	CRISS, LILLIE MAE			11 JUN 2010	F N, NEWS-STAR (MONROE, LA) DTD 17 JUN 2010
24	GREEN, PETE			26 FEB 2008	F N, NEWS-STAR (MONROE, LA) DTD 01 MAR 2008
12	HARRIS, LULA B. MILLER		25 AUG 1908	10 JUL 2001	
2	HUBBARD, SAM	SR.	04 AUG 1914	2011	DADDY. DUO W/ SHELLY IDA HUBBARD.
15	HUBBARD, SARAH		24 FEB 1920	26 JUN 2002	F N, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 5 JUL 2002
3	HUBBARD, SHELLY IDA		11 SEP 1915	15 APR 1993	OBIT BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 19 APR 1993
22	JOHNSON, CLABON		07 OCT 1920	16 OCT 2007	F N, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 18 OCT 2007
18	JOHNSON, IDA B.		25 DEC 1926	18 MAR 1990	OBIT BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 23 MAR 1990
20	JOHNSON, JAMES "NICK"		11 FEB 1912	23 NOV 1994	OBIT BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 25 NOV 1994
25	JOHNSON, JUANITA		16 JAN 1961	09 AUG 2009	F N, NEWS-STAR (MONROE, LA) DTD 13 AUG 2009
21	JOHNSON, MARY M.		04 JAN 1917	12 APR 2005	DUO W/ JAMES "NICK" JOHNSON
11	JOHNSON, REGGIE		30 APR 1966	21 AUG 1997	A LOVING SON
5	JOHNSON, UPORA		19 SEP 1905	10 JUN 1999	AUNTIE
1	MCKINNEY, DOROTHY		11 DEC 1926	21 OCT 1996	MOTHER
4	MILLER, D. R.	REV.	27 APR 1882	23 FEB 1950	FOOTSTONE: D.R.M.
9	MILLER, LEROY		10 JAN 1906	27 AUG 1991	
8	PARKER, JOSEPH		10 JUL 1934	10 APR 1996	OBIT BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 12 APR 1996
16	PARKER, SHEVERY L.	SR.	01 JUN 1954	06 APR 2005	F N BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 14 APR 2005
7	SCATES, VIOLET C.		02 FEB 1920	BLANK	MOTHER. DUO W/ WILLIAM H. SCATES.
6	SCATES, WILLIAM H.		16 OCT 1918	19 MAR 1993	FATHER. DUO W/ VIOLET C. SCATES.
27	SMITH, CONOLUS			2010	FN, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD JUN 2010
19	THAXTON, RANDOLPH		04 JUL 1927	21 AUG 1993	OBIT BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 27 AUG 1993
17	THAXTON, VALISHA DORSEY		17 OCT 1965	13 AUG 2005	PHOTO
23	THOMAS, MELVA			21 SEP 2009	F N, NEWS-STAR (MONROE, LA) DTD 23, 24 SEP 2009

## ALEXANDRIA NO. 2 BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY

### JIMMIE COLEMAN

"Funeral services for JIMMIE COLEMAN, 89, will be at 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, at Alexandria No. 2 Baptist Church in Oak Ridge with the Rev. E. J. Jones officiating.

"Burial will be in the church cemetery under the direction of Tennant Funeral Home of Rayville.

"Mr. Coleman died Saturday at Hickory Manor Nursing Home after a short illness.

"Survivors include his wife, Mary Woods Coleman of Oak Ridge; five daughters, Mary Coleman Johnson and Hazel Levingston, both of Bastrop, Sarah Hubbard, Eva Johnson and Dorothy Danielfield, all of Oak Ridge; eight sons, Jimmy Coleman, Jr., of Bastrop, Jimmy Ray Coleman, Norman Coleman and Kenneth Coleman, all of Oak Ridge, Roger Woods, Madison Woods and Jerry Woods, all of Monroe and

Joe Woods of El Dorado, Ark.; three sisters, Lula Miller of Pine Bluff, Ark, Lucy Thaxton and Margaret Tylor, both of Monroe; two brothers, Leroy Miller of Pine Bluff and Felix Miller of Pittsburgh, Cal.; 43 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren.

"Visitation will be from 7 to 8 p.m. tonight at the funeral home in Rayville."

Source: Obituary of Jimmie Coleman, *Bastrop Daily Enterprise*, 119 East Hickory Avenue, Bastrop, Louisiana, dated December 20, 1983. [ALX2-10]

### SHELLY IDA HUBBARD

"Services for SHELLY IDA HUBBARD, 77, of Oak Ridge will be held Tuesday, April 20, 1993, at 1 p.m. at the Alexandria No. 2 Baptist Church with the Rev. E. J. Jones officiating.

"Burial will follow in the church cemetery under the direction of Loche's Mortuary.

"Survivors include her husband, Sam Hubbard of Oak Ridge; one son, Sam Bernard Hubbard of Oak Ridge; one daughter, Joyceleen Loche of Longview, Texas; three sisters, Mrs. Willie J. Cleveland of Colinston, Mrs. Bessie M. Gable of Los Angeles, Calif., and Mrs. Mary C. Davis of Mer Rouge; and seven grandchildren.

"Serving as pallbearers will be Solomon Loche, Jr., Michael Loche, LaTor Hubbard, Solomon Loche, Sr., Sam B. Hubbard and Kenneth Cleveland.

"Visitation will be held Monday, April 19 from 6:30—7:30 p.m. at the mortuary chapel."

Source: Obituary of Shelly Ida Hubbard, *Bastrop Daily Enterprise*, 119 East Hickory Avenue, Bastrop, Louisiana, dated April 13, 1993. [ALX2-3]

### JAMES EDWARD JOHNSON, JR.

"Funeral services for JAMES EDWARD JOHNSON, JR., are

scheduled for 1 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 29, 1994, at Alexandria Number II Baptist Church with the Rev. E. J. Jones officiating.

"A quiet hour will be held from 6-7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 28, at Miller's Funeral Home.

"Mr. Johnson died Wednesday, Nov. 23, at Morehouse General Hospital.

"He is survived by his wife, Mary Johnson of Bastrop; two sons, James Johnson, Jr., of Mer Rouge and Emmett Johnson of Bastrop; three daughters, Jessie Mae Johnson and Lula B. Love, both of Bastrop, Mary Ann Battle of Westbury, N. Y.; one sister, Ida McKinney of Oak Ridge; four brothers, Robert Johnson, Sr., Clabon Johnson Sr., L. T. Tyson of Houston, Texas, and a number of other relatives."

Source: Obituary of James Johnson, *Bastrop Daily Enterprise*, 119 East Hickory Avenue, Bastrop, Louisiana, dated November 25, 1994. [ALX2-20]

## How to Find Granddad in the 1940 U.S. Census

By **Kimberly Powell**, About.com Guide

February 28, 2012

<http://genealogy.about.com/>

*[Looking forward to the 1940 census release on April 2, 2012?]*

When the 1940 U.S. census is released on April 2, 2012, there won't be any searchable indexes. Just millions of digitized pages of names (132.2 million names if you're wondering). Don't get me wrong - having them all released digitally and *free* by the National Archives is amazing! But to find my Granddad (aka Walter Henry Thomas) in the 1940 census, I'm going to need to do a little background research.

To locate your own ancestor or relative in the 1940 U.S. census you will first have to determine where they were living at the time. If they lived in a bigger city, then City Directories might be just the tool you need to pinpoint their 1940 address. If not, or city directories aren't available to you, then look for any records created by the family around that time for clues to their location. My grandfather, for example, applied for a copy of his birth certificate in May 1941, and received a letter from his local Representative William L. Shaffer (with details about the steps he would need to take to \*correct\* his birth certificate because his family had changed their name from Toman to Thomas in the intervening years) that included his address at the time - 606 Center Street, Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania.

Wilkinsburg is a borough located in Allegheny County, PA, just outside of Pittsburgh. Now just because he was living there in 1941 doesn't mean he was at the same address in 1940. It wouldn't be unusual for a single man alone in the big city to move around from year to year, but at least it is a place to start. Using Google Maps I can pinpoint the location of 606 Center Street in Wilkinsburg. By cross-checking with historic maps from that time available online at Historic Pittsburgh, I can confirm that the relevant street names have not changed since 1940. So I now have an address....but that still isn't enough. To locate individuals in the digitized 1940 census pages, you will need what is called an Enumeration District or ED. An Enumeration District, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, is a geographic area for which an individual enumerator could be expected to complete a count of the population within the allotted time for that particular census year. This could be an area as small as a single city block if that particular block was packed with duplexes and apartment buildings, or as large as several miles in width if the area was exceedingly rural. This might sound complicated, but it is actually really easy to learn what 1940 Enumeration District a particular address was located in thanks to the **1940 Census ED One-Step tools** developed by Stephen P. Morse, PhD and Joel D. Weintraub, PhD.

Using the 1940 Census ED Finder Obtaining Large City 1940 EDs in One Step (available for all U.S. cities of 25,000+ in 1940, as well as many smaller ones), I set out to learn which ED I will need to be looking through for my Granddad on April 2, 2012. I would like to stop and say thank you here to the many volunteers who helped add new 1940 cities to the website, especially Judy Caine who helped with Pittsburgh among many others. Using this tool I entered the state of Pennsylvania, the city of Wilkinsburg, and the main street of Center, followed by the cross streets of Rebecca and Franklin, and the back street of Mill (basically the four streets that make up that city block). This simple step resulted in just a single ED to search - ED 2-615 (Allegheny County, Pennsylvania). Can it really be that easy?

Selecting the ED, brings up information extracted from the relevant NARA ED microfilm, including a list of the streets in Wilkinsburg (Allegheny Co), PA Enumeration District 2-615. You can select the "View Microfilm" button if you want to view the actual microfilm image as well.

If this just seems too easy, you can also double-check the result by viewing the 1940 Enumeration District maps online from the National Archives. Using their free **Online Public Access** tool, I searched directly for the ED number in which I'm interested - "ED PA 2-615," which brought up the series of 1940 census ED maps for Allegheny County. Alternatively, if I hadn't had Steve Morse's handy tool to learn the ED I could have spent a lot of time browsing through these graphic (non-searchable) maps to find the correct city/neighborhood and street. There's a Viewing 1940 Enumeration District Maps in One Step tool as well, although Wilkinsburg is lumped in with the rest of Pittsburgh here, just as it is on NARA's website. No matter how you choose to get to the maps, I only completed this exercise to show you this map of Wilkinsburg with my Granddad's location pinpointed, so you can see that the 1940 Census ED Finder seems to do its job well!

The ED designation will likely not take me to the correct page (only to the first page of that ED), but it will get me to the right neighborhood, so all I will have left to do is spend a little time browsing through census pages to find him, while learning about his neighborhood and neighbors along the way. Sounds like a lot of fun to me!

## **Who Will You Look for First in the 1940 Census?**

**By Kimberly Powell, About.com Guide**

February 27, 2012

**<http://genealogy.about.com/>**

I have so many family members I want to find when the 1940 census is released on April 2, 2012. My maternal grandmother and my mother-in-law will have to wait until 1950 as they were in France and Germany, respectively, in 1940. But the rest of my relatives and ancestors living in the U.S. in 1940....there are hundreds.

As for the person I will look for first? That honor, I think, will go to my paternal grandfather, Walter Henry Thomas (1917-2002). The 1940 census, as best I can tell, should find him residing in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania - perhaps at 606 Center Street (Wilksburg) which he listed as his address in 1941. Pittsburgh, my home for the past 25 years, interestingly, played no part in my own family history...other than the 2-3 years that my grandfather lived here as a young man before heading south to Parris Island, South Carolina, following his enlistment in the U.S. Marine Corps on 21 July 1941. It was just enough history, however, for my grandfather to travel from Maryland to visit with me and regale me with stories of his time here when I first came to Pittsburgh as an undergraduate at Carnegie Mellon University. I grew up in the South - Virginia and South Carolina. Fate brought me to Pittsburgh, I guess.

Back to 1940. As with so many men and women of "The Greatest Generation," my grandfather's 1940 census record should provide an interesting snapshot of his life before its course was changed forever by his enlistment in the military and service in World War II. As my father put it so eloquently, in 1940 my grandfather was probably living in Pittsburgh and either ushering at a local theater, or getting emphysema from his time in the coke ovens. Just over a year later, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, in which he would serve 21 years of active duty, including service in both World War II and Korea. That trip south to Parris Island, South Carolina, for basic training, is the reason he met my grandmother in a Western Union Telegraph Office. When they later married in 1943, my branch of the family tree was born.

Pittsburgh was the "big city" where jobs could be found for my grandfather, as a single young man looking to escape work in the coal mines of his rural home town in Cambria County, Pennsylvania. The place where he hoped to start a new life... I look forward to finding him here.



# Historic Shreveport

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BAILEY THOMSON

## Louisiana and Milam

Around 1900, an active intersection of the city was Louisiana and Milam. On the west corner stood City Hall, and near it were important commercial buildings.

The Romanesque Revival style is seen above in the ornate Justin Gras Building on the left, and in the Turner Hotel at the far right. The light-colored building was Saenger Brothers drugstore, a Shreveport landmark. All three buildings bear the date 1900.

Saenger's was a favorite gathering place for young people, who crowded around its soda fountain. In the offices upstairs was formed the Saenger chain of more than 300 movie and vaudeville theaters, including the nearby Strand Theatre.





# Historic Shreveport

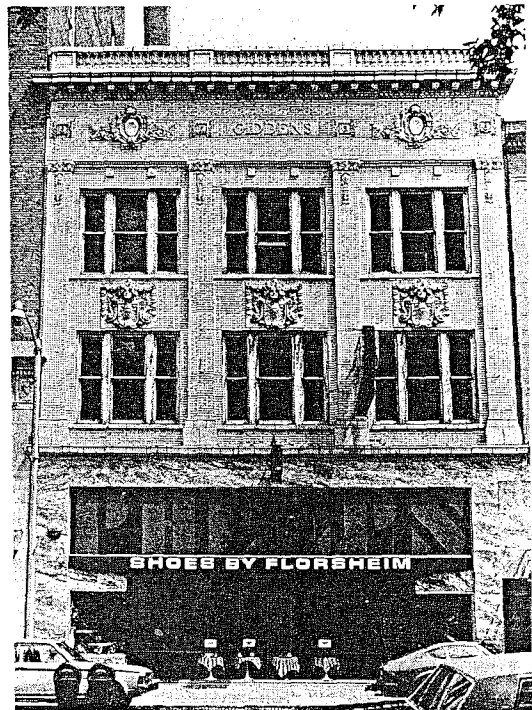


## 500 Block of Milam

Large residences stood on the southeast portion of this block as late as 1913. Gradually they yielded to businesses, and by the 1920s Milam Street was a prime commercial area. First streetcars and later automobiles dispersed the city's population to outlying suburbs, and the downtown, with its rows of multi-storied buildings, became more distinct from residential areas.

Milam was the first street to be paved in an ambitious program begun in 1896 to take Shreveport out of the mud and dust. By the 1920s, automobiles had helped bring on the golden age of the downtown, and traffic congestion became part of urban life.

Shoppers were not the only ones clogging Milam Street. Oil men congregated along the thoroughfare, particularly in front of the nearby Gardner Hotel (now the Royal Royce Motor Hotel) at 411 Milam. Deals were struck on the spot, and many prominent oil fortunes traced their beginning to Milam Street.



Among businesses in the 500 block today is the Phelps Shoe Store, which occupies the Giddens Building. The firm was founded in 1869 by Emanuel Phelps, and is one of Shreveport's oldest.

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## Decedents of Ann McCarty

Found nesting in the household of **Richard Cole** and family on the **1870** U.S. Census, Winn Parish, LA; p. 485, family 43, dwelling 43, line 40; was **Ann McCarty** and her three children. **Ann's** occupation was listed as "house work" for **Richard Cole**, a white farmer, 66 years old, born in South Carolina. During this time **Ann** was 35 years old, Black Female, born in Virginia.

Along with **Ann** was her three children; living in this household. They were:

**John McCarty**, age: 8; born: [abt. 1862];

**Nelson McCarty**, age: 5; born: [abt. 1865] and

**Lizzy McCarty**, age: 2; born: [abt. 1868].

**John** was working as a child, about the house; **Nelson** and **Lizzy** was just at the house.

The **1880** U.S. Census identifies **Ann [McCarty]** as the wife of **Stephen Cole**. She is now living with Stephen Cole, 26 years old, born: [abt. 1854], a farmer, born in Louisiana. **Ann** was born: [abt. 1844], keeping house.

The family has increased to include two set of children:

**Eddie Cole**, age: 5; born: [abt. 1875];

**Mary Cole**, age 4; born: [abt. 1876];

**Lena Cole**, age 3; born: [abt. 1877];

**Willie Cole**, age 9M; born: [Sep 1879];

**John McCarty**, age 18; born: [abt. 1862];

**Nelson McCarty**, age 15; born: [abt. 1865];

**Mary E. McCarty**, age 12; born: [abt. 1868];

**William L. McCarty**, age 8; born: [abt. 1872].

Once again we locate **Stephen Cole** and his wife **Ann Cole**, on the **1900** U.S. Census living in Ward 3, Winn Parish, LA; they have been married for 15 years [abt. 1885]; **Stephen** was born: Aug 1847; and **Ann** was born: Dec 1844.

Living in the household at this time to were the following members:

**Magnolia Cole**, a daughter, age 14, born: [June 1885];

**Franklin E. Cole**, a son, age 12, born: [June 1887];

**Beulah A. Cole**, a daughter, age 9, born: [Jun 1890];

**Edward E. Cole**, a grandchild, age 2, born: [Aug 1897];

**Living in the household with their Brother.** Nelson McCarty on the **1900** U.S. Census was two additional children of **Stephen** and **Ann Cole**:

**Houston Cole**, a son, age 17, born: [Apr 1883];

**Mary Cole**, a daughter, age 24, born: [Apr 1876].



On the **1910** U.S. Census, **Stephens COLE** is now living along in Police Jury Ward 1, Winn Parish, LA. He is widowed, implying that his wife, **Ann COLE** might be deceased. **Stephen's** age of 50 is questionable.

*The 1920 U.S. Census records Stephen COLE living with his Son, Houston COLE.* And his family. **Stephen** age is 74, again he is listed as widowed.

## **Decedents of John MCCARTY**

We will begin this generation of **John MCCARTY** from the **1900** U.S. Census where we found him living in Police Jury Ward 8, Winn Parish, LA. John is 39 yrs old, born abt. May 1861 in LA. John is married to Harriet Henderson, age 35 yrs old, born abt. 1865. She was the mother of 8 children. Her Father's Name was Henry Henderson; Her Mother's Name was Ca??inda Holloway. John and Harriet had been married for 19 yrs.

Their children and relatives in the household are: (Spelling as recorded.)

**Loney MCCARTY, Daughter**, age: 15, born abt. Aug 1885

**Eleetrus MCCARTY, Son**, age: 14, born abt. 1886

**Troy MCCARTY, Son**, age: 12, born abt. 1888

**Elizabeth MCCARTY, Daughter**, age: 9, born abt. 1891

**Purley MCCARTY, Daughter**, age: 7, born abt. 1893

**Milton MCCARTY, Son**, age: 5, born abt. 1895

**Ony MCCARTY, Daughter**, age: 2, born abt. 1898

**Mary MCCARTY, Daughter**, age: 6mts, born abt. 1899

**John MCCARTY**, as he was recorded on the **1910** Census was living in Ward 1, Winn Parish, LA with his wife, Harriett and family. **John** was 54 yrs old, born abt. 1856, **Harriett** was 43 yrs old, born abt. 1867; mother of 12 children with only 9 living. They were married about 1881 in Winn Parish, LA.

Their children in the household are: (Spelling as recorded.)

**Lizzie MCCARTY, Daughter**, age: 19, born abt. Aug 1891

**Toby MCCARTY, Son**, age: 20, born abt. Aug 1890

**Pearl MCCARTY, Daughter**, age; 17, born abt. Aug 1893

**Milbert MCCARTY, Son**, age: 15, born abt. Aug 1895

**Noma MCCARTY, Daughter**, age: 10, born abt. Aug 1900

**John MCCARTY, Son**, age: 7, born abt. Aug 1903

**Willie C. MCCARTY, Son**, age: 3, born abt. Aug 1907

The **1930 U.S. Census** records that **JOHN MCCARTY** was living in Winnfield, Winn Parish, LA. He was living with his wife **Harriett**, age 49 yrs born abt. 1871 in LA. **John** was 62 yrs old, born abt. 1858 in LA.

Their children and relatives in the household are: (Spelling as recorded.)

**John MCCARTY, Son**, age: 16, born abt. Aug 1904

**Erse MCCARTY, Son**, age: 11, born abt. Aug 1909

**Cellie HOWELL, Grand Son**, age: 12, born abt. Aug 1908

**R. D. HOWELL, Grand Son**, age: 6, born abt. Aug 1914

**J. D. HOWELL, Grand Son**, age: 7, born abt. Aug 1913

**Ida HOBODY, Grand Daughter**, age: 15, born abt. Aug 1905

The **1930 U.S. Census** records that **John MCCURTY [MCCARTY]**, age: **70 yrs**, [born abt. 1860] in LA, was living in Winnfield (Ward 1), Winn Parish, LA. John was living with his wife: **Harriet H. McCurdy [MCCARTY]**, age **62 yrs** [abt. 1868] in LA; and relatives. John age was 22 yrs and Harriet age was 15 yrs at marriage.

Their children and relatives in the household are: (Spelling as recorded.)

**John MCCURTY, Son**, age: 26, born abt. Aug 1904

**Steve T. MCCURTY, Son**, age: 23, born abt. Aug 1907

**Charlie T. FIELDS, Grand Son**, age: 15, born abt. Aug 1915

### **Decedents of Nelson MCCARTY**

We begin this generation of Nelson MCCARTY from the **1900 U.S. Census** where we found him living with his wife Geneva, in Ward 8, Winn Parish, LA. **Nelson** was 35 yrs old, born: Feb 1865 in LA. **Geneva** was 33 yrs old, born: Aug 1863 in LA.

**Nelson MCCARTY** was married to Geneva WALKER, 30 Dec 1886, Winn Parish, LA. They had been married for about 12 years and Geneva was the mother of 7 children; with 8 children listed for this census year.

Their children at this time in the household are: (Spelling as recorded.)

**Leanders MCCARTY, Son**, 14 yrs, [born: Mar 1886]

**Missouri MCCARTY, Daughter**, 12 yrs, [born: Sep 1887]

**Louis MCCARTY, Son**, 11 yrs, [born: Jan 1889]

**Ura A. MCCARTY, Daughter**, 6mts, [born: Nov 1899]

**Huey MCCARTY, Son**, 7 yrs, [born: Jan 1893]

**Atarnion MCCARTY, Son**, 5 yrs, [born: Apr 1895]

**Odell MCCARTY, Daughter**, 3 yrs, [born: Jun 1896]  
**John MCCARTY, Son**, 6mts, [born: Dec 1899]  
**Houston COLE, Brother**, 17 yrs, [born: Apr 1883]  
**Mary COLE, Sister**, 24 yrs, [born: Apr 1876]

Nelson H. MCCARTY, as he was recorded on the **1910** Census was living in Ward 1, Winn Parish, LA with his wife, Geneva and family. **Nelson** was 44 yrs old, born abt. 1866, **Geneva** was 43 yrs old, born abt. 1867; mother of 12 children with only 10 living.

Their children at this time in the household are: (Spelling as recorded.)

**Zeolin A. MCCARTY, Daughter**, age: 22, [Born: abt. 1888]  
**Harlow S. MCCARTY, Son**, age: 21, [Born: abt. 1889]  
**Hines T, MCCARTY, Son, age: 17, [Born: abt. 1893]**  
**Harmon MCCARTY, Son**, age: 15, [Born: abt. 1895] O  
**Odell MCCARTY, Daughter**, age: 12, [Born: abt. 1898]  
**Hunley B. MCCARTY, Son**, age: 10, [Born: abt. 1900]  
**Ardbilk MCCARTY, Daughter**, age: 8, [Born: abt. 1902]  
**Matrise C. MCCARTY, Daughter**, age: 4, [Born: abt. 1906]  
**Osie E. MCCARTY, Daughter**, age: amts, [Born: abt. 1910]

The 1920 census records **Nelson MCCARTY** and his wife **Geneva MCCARTY** living in Police Jury Ward 1, Winn Parish, LA. Nelson age is now recorded as 55 yrs [born: abt. 1865] and Geneva age is recorded as 53 yrs [born: abt. 1867]. They were living in a home they owned.

Their children at this time in the household are: (Spelling as recorded.)

**Hannon MCCARTY, Son**, age: 24, [born: abt. 1896]  
**Odelle MCCARTY, Daughter**, age: 22, [born: abt. 1898]  
**Artivolt MCCARTY, Daughter**, age: 18, [born: abt. 1902]  
**Hundley MCCARTY, Son**, age: 20, [born: abt. 1900]  
**Matrice MCCARTY, Daughter**, age: 14, [born: abt. 1906]  
**Ora C. MCCARTY, Son**, age: 10, [born: abt. 1910]  
**Lottrice MCCARTY, Foster Son**, age: 8, [born: abt. 1912]

The Louisiana Statewide Death Index, 1900-1929 reported that **Nelson MCCARTY** died as **Henry Nelson MCCARTY**, on 1 May 1925 in Winn Parish, LA at the age of 60 yrs. Certificate No. 8712, Volume: 20.

## Decedents of Houston COLE

We will begin this generation of **Houston COLE** from the **1910 U.S. Census** where we found him living in Police Jury Ward 8, Winn Parish, LA. **Houston** is 26 yrs old, born abt. 1884 in LA; his wife **Medoria** was 27 yrs old, born abt. 1883 in LA. This is their 1st marriage, for 7 yrs; MARRIED: 17 Aug 1902, **Medona HOLLINGSWORTH (name on marriage certificate)**; Medoria has given birth to 3 children with 3 living.

Their children and relatives in the household are: (Spelling as recorded.)

**Percell COLE, Son**, age: 7 yrs, born abt. 1903

**Lucille COLE, Daughter**, age: 5 yrs, born abt. 1905

**Essell COLE, Son**, age: 4 yrs, born abt. 1906

**Ellice STEWARD, Nephew**, age: 11 yrs, born abt. 1899

**Julies STEWARD, Niece**, age: 10 yrs, born abt. 1900. . . . .

The **1920 U.S. Census** records that **Houston COLE** was living in Winn Parish, LA. Living with a new wife: **Tessie**, age 28 yrs; and his **father**: Steve COLE, age 74 yrs.

Their children and relatives in the household are: (Spelling as recorded.)

**Purcell COLE, Son**, Age: 16, born abt. 1904,

**Lucile COLE, Daughter**, Age: 15, born abt. 1905,

**S. L. COLE, Son**, Age: 13, born abt. 1907,

**Annetta COLE, Daughter**, Age: 5, born abt. 1915,

**Steave COLE, Father**, Age: 16, born abt. 1846

The **1930 U.S. Census** records that **Houston COLE, age: 45, [abt. 1885]** was living in Police Jury Ward 1, Winn Parish, LA. Living with his wife: **Lessie Armeta COLE**, age 37 [abt. 1893] yrs; and relatives. Houston was 45 yrs old.

Their children and relatives in the household are: (Spelling as recorded.)

**Armeta COLE, Daughter**, age: 16, born abt. 1914

**Arze COLE, Daughter**, age: 10, born abt. 1920

**H.C. COLE, Relative**, age: 9, born abt. 1921

**Zeola COLE, Relative**, age: 7, born abt. 1923

**G.C. COLE, Relative**, age: 6, born abt. 1924

**S.L. COLEL, Relative**, age: 23, born abt. 1907

**Selarstine COLE, Relative**, age: 4, born abt. 1926

**Registration Card:** For Houston COLE records at the time of his registration he was 37 yrs old, born: May 30, 1881; Lessie COLE will always know his address. He was medium height and medium build.

**Louisiana Statewide Death Index, 1900-1949:** For Houston COLE records that his death date was 23 May 1934 in Winn Parish, LA; age at death was 52 years. Certificate No. 06082, Volume: 15. Spouse's Name: Lessie COLE; Father's Name: Steve COLE.

### **Decedents of Odell MCCARTY**

The **1930** census records **Odell MCCARTY** and her husband Andrew J. PERRY living in Jonesboro, Jackson Parish, LA. **Andrew J. PERRY** age was recorded as 38 yrs [born: abt. 1892] and Odell age is recorded as 32 yrs [born: abt. 1898].

Their children at this time in the household are: (Spelling as recorded.)

**Eva M. PERRY, Daughter**, age: 6, [born: abt. 1924]

**Andrew J. PERRY, Son**, age: 4, [born: abt. 1926]

**Vonzella E. PERRY, Daughter**, age: 2, [born: abt. 1928]. Also living in the household was **Geneva MCCARTY**, his **Mother**, age: 64, [born: abt. 1866].

\*\*\*\*\*

1. Source: Heritage Quest. com

Ann MCCARTY (1870 U.S. Census) LOUISIANA, WINN, WARD THREE

Age: 35, Female, Race: BLACK, Born: VA Series: M593 Roll: 535 Page: 485

2. Source: HeritageQuest.com

COLE, Si EPHEN (1880 U. S. Census) LOUISIANA, WINN, 3-WD

Age: 26, Male, Race: BLACK, Born: LA Series: T9 Roll: 474 Page: 603

3. Source: HeritageQuest.com

COLE, STEPHEN (1900 U.S. Census) LOUISIANA , WINN, WARD 3

Age: 53, Male, Race: BLACK, Born: LA Series: T623 Roll: 586 Page: 255

4. Source: HeritageQuest. com

COLE, SIEPTIEN (1910 U S. Census) LOUISIANA, WINN, 1-WD

Age: 50, Male, Race: BLACK, Born: LA Series: T624 Roll: 535 Page: 35

5. Source: HeritageQuest. com

COLE, STEPHEN (1920 U.S. Census)

LOUISIANA, WINN, 1-WD

Age: 74, Male, Race: BLACK, Born: LA

6. Source: HeritageQuest. corn  
MCCARTY, JOHN (1900 U.S. Census)  
LOUISIANA, WINN, WARD 8, SD 4, ED120 Age: 39, Male, Race: BLACK, Born: LA  
Series: T623 Roll: 586 Page: 307, Sheet No. 5B
7. Source: HeritageQuest.corn  
MCCARTY, JOHN (1910 U.S. Census) LOUISIANA, WINN, 1-WD  
Age: 54, Male, Race: BLACK, Born: LA Series: T624 Roll: 535 Page: 25
8. Source: HeritageQuestcorn  
MCCARTY, JOHN (1920 U.S. Census)  
LOUISIANA, WINN, 1-WD, WINNFIELD  
Age: 62, Male, Race: BLACK, Born: LA  
Series: T625 Roll: 636 Page: 134
9. Source: HeritageQuest.corn  
MCCURTY IMCCARTY], JOHN (1930 US. Census)  
LOUISIANA, WINN, 1-WD, WINNFIELD (WEST PART)  
Age: 70, Male, Race: BLACK, Born: LA  
Series: T626 Roll: 826 Page: 155
10. Source: HeritageQuest.corn  
MCCARTY, NELSON (1900 U.S. Census) LOUISIANA , WINN, WARD 8  
Age: 35, Male, Race: BLACK, Born: LA Series: T623 Roll: 586 Page: 308
11. Source: HeritageQuest. corn  
MCCARTY, NEBIN [NELSON] (1900 U.S. Census) LOUISIANA, WINN, WARD 1  
Age: 44, Male, Race: BLACK, Born: LA  
Series: T624 Roll: 535 Page: 35
12. Source: HeritageQuest.corn  
MCCARTY, NELSON (1920 U.S. Census) LOUISIANA, WINN, 1-WD  
Age: 55, Male, Race: BLACK, Born: LA Series: T625 Roll: 636 Page: 158
13. Source: FleritageQuest.corn  
COLE, HOUSTON (1910 U.S. Census) LOUISIANA, WINN, 8-WD  
Age: 26, Male, Race: BLACK, Born: LA Series: T624 Roll: 535 Page: 175
14. Source: HeritageQuest. corn  
COLE, HOUSTON (1920 U.S. Census) LOUISIANA, WINN, 1-WD  
Age: 40, Male, Race: BLACK, Born: LA Series: T625 Roll: 636 Page: 158
15. Source: HeritageQuest.coin  
COLE, HOUSTON (1930 U.S. Census) LOUISIANA, WINN, 1-WD  
Age: 45, Male, Race: BLACK, Born: LA Series: T626 Roll: 826 Page: 158

***Recorded by Willie Griffin, 11 March 2012***



Family Group Sheet

**Husband: Davis**

**Wife: Ann McCarty**

Born 1: ~~1844~~

Born 2: Dec 1844

in: Winn Parish, LA

Other Spouses: Stephen Cole

**CHILDREN**

1 M	Name: John McCarty Born: May 1861 Married: Spouse: Harriett Henderson	in: Winn Parish, LA
2 M	Name: Nelson "Henry" McCarty Born 1: 02 Feb 1865 Born 2: 02 Feb 1865 Died: 01 May 1925 Married: 27 Dec 1886 Spouse: Geneva Walker	in: Winn Parish, LA in: Winn Parish, LA in: Winn Parish, LA in: Winn Parish, LA
3 F	Name: Mary E. McCarty Born: Abt. 1868	in: Winn Parish, LA
4 M	Name: William L. McCarty Born: Abt. 1872 Married: 12 Mar 1891 Spouse: Narcis Riser	in: Winn Parish, LA in: Winn Parish, LA



Family Group Sheet

**Husband: Stephen Cole**

Born 1:

Born 2: Aug 1847

in: Winn Parish, LA

**Wife: Ann McCarty**

Born 1:

Born 2: Dec 1844

in: Winn Parish, LA

Other Spouses: Davis

**CHILDREN**

1 F	Name: Lula Cole Born: Apr 1871 Married: 25 Dec 1902 Spouse: Johnnie Lourels/Lowiel, Sr.	in: Winn Parish, LA in: Winn Parish, LA
2 M	Name: Eddie Cole Born: Abt. 1875	in: Winn Parish, LA
3 F	Name: Mary Cole Born: Abt. 1876 Married: 20 Dec 1900 Spouse: Joseph "Joe" Blackwood, Sr.	in: Winn Parish, LA in: Winn Parish, LA
4 F	Name: Lena Cole Born 1: Jan 1879 Married: 12 Mar 1891 Spouse: William M. Riser	in: Winn Parish, LA in: Winn Parish, LA
5 M	Name: Willie Cole Born: Sep 1879 Married: 18 Feb 1904 Spouse: Dicle Lourels	in: Winn Parish, LA in: Winn Parish, LA
6 M	Name: Houston Cole Born: Apr 1883 Died: 23 May 1934 Married: Spouse: Lessie Armeta (?) Married: 17 Aug 1902 Spouse: Medona Hollingsworth	in: Winn Parish, LA in: Winn Parish, LA in: Winn Parish, LA
7 F	Name: Magnolia Cole Born: Jun 1885	in: Winn Parish, LA
8 M	Name: Franklin E. Cole Born: Jun 1887	in: Winn Parish, LA
9 F	Name: Beulah A. Cole Born: Jun 1890	in: Winn Parish, LA

## **Centenary Art Professor Dies Rites Saturday In Marshall, Texas, For Don Brown**

**Submitted by Willie Griffin**

Funeral rites will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday for Don Brown, head of the art department at Centenary College, who died unexpectedly about 1:30 p.m. Thursday on his houseboat, moored on Caddo Lake.

Brown's death was apparently due to a heart attack. He had been ill, reportedly with a heart ailment, last week and had been under medical care in a Marshall, TX, clinic. However, he had returned to his duties at Centenary College earlier in the week.

The services will be conducted at the Rains and Talley Funeral Home in Marshall with the Rev. Henry F. Selcer officiating. Burial will be in the Greenwood Cemetery in Marshall. Faculty members and students of Centenary College will serve as pallbearers.

### **Well Know Artist, Writer**

Brown, well known as an artist and writer, did much of his painting from the houseboat he had built and kept anchored on Caddo Lake, near his home in Karnack, TX. He was noted for his Caddo Lake scenes and for his stories about the Caddo Indians who inhabited the area many years ago. He frequently took his art students to the lake to sketch from his houseboat.

Survivors, in addition to his widow, are one daughter, Mrs. Don Johnson, Dallas, TX; his mother, Mrs. Harry A. Brown, Dallas, TX; a step-daughter, Mrs. Rex Bramlett of Vim, Germany; two brothers, H. Alvin Brown, on the coaching staff of Northwestern State College in Natchitoches, and Robert A. Brown, a Marshall printer and a number of other relatives.

Brown was born Donnell Adair Brown in Taylor, TX, on April 5, 1899, and was educated in the public schools of Marshall. He studied art for one year at the Art Institute of Chicago and four years at the Art Students League in New York. He also studied in Paris for a period of five years at the Academie de la Grand Chaumiere and at the Academic Andre l'Hote.

The Centenary professor taught for two years at the College of Marshall, now East Texas Baptist College in Marshall. He joined the Centenary College faculty in 1934, and in 1943 he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Centenary.

Brown was a veteran of World War I, having served in 1918-19 as a corporal in the 54<sup>th</sup> Ammunition Train in the American Expeditionary Force in France.

### **Former Newspaperman**

He was a former city editor of the Marshall Morning News and a former member of the staff of The Shreveport Times. At one time he served as aviation columnist for the North American Newspaper Alliance in New York. He also was managing editor of the Staten Island, NY. Advance earlier in his career, and while in Paris, he served at various times as a reporter and cartoonist for the Parish Times and the Parish edition of the Chicago Tribune.

Brown was a past president of the Shreveport Art Club and a past president of the Artists and Writers Guild of Shreveport. He had served at one time as an adviser or art to the Boy Scout organization.

Some of Brown's paintings of Mississippi scenes hang in the Mark Twain Museum in Hannibal, MO, and his murals are in the University of Texas, the East Texas Baptist College, the new Medical Center at Marshall and a number of other Ark-La-Tex buildings.

Brown has held one-man art shows in Paris, New York, Dallas and Denver, including first prize in oil paintings at the Southern States Art League show, first prize in oils at the Louisiana Artists annual competition, first prize in etchings at the Southern States Art League show and numerous other awards and prizes.

His writing, much of which he illustrated, has appeared in the Southwestern Review, Holland's Magazine, Ford Times and other publications. His essay entitled, "Flying as an Art," is included in the College textbook, "Essays of Today," and several of his writings are included in regional anthologies.

Pallbearers will be Professor Bryant Davidson, Dr. E.L. Ford, Dr. Lothar Kleinhans, Dr. W.D. Overdyke, Dr. Ralph E. White, all members of the Centenary faculty. Charles Wilder, Bill Bryant, and Charles Cole, three art students of Brown.

Honorary pallbearers will be Dr. Joe J. Mickle, president of Centenary College and Dean Leroy Vogel.

Jean Despujols, Frankine Jones, Sr., and Dr. Richard Grandberry.

**Source: *The Shreveport Journal*, May 2, 1958, Volume 64, Page 1 & 8, Column 1.**

**Potato Drying Plant Founded**  
***"Four Season Potato Co. Is Interesting Dubach Industry"***

Submitted by James G. (Jim) Jones

Transcribed from:

Potato Drying Plant Founded, *The Shreveport Times*, 11 November 1917, p. 10, cols. 4-5.

Now who, I ask to know, would have been prepared to find, here in Dubach an industry as new to the state, as unique and adventurous as a sweet potato kiln or drying plant?

It is most interesting as well as the most ambitious and progressing undertaking in Lincoln parish, or any other parish. I went through the plant with its manager and treasurer, L. L. James, the man who conceived the idea and put it over. He's just about as interesting and progressive as the Four Season Potato Plant. I wouldn't go so far as to say he is the handsomest man in Dubach – safety first – but I will say that he is easy to look at and one of the kind of men that you don't forget as easily as you do others. And modest? If the Four Season Potato Company or the Dubach Lumber Company for that matter, of which he is also manager gets any boosting it will not be that he was out seeking its glorification.

Mr. James got the idea in Longview, Texas, and proceeded to elaborate it. There is a plant at Dubach, one at Athens and Vienna operating successfully. They began operations in 1915, meeting with instant success. Fifteen thousand bushels of the famous Dooley yams were dried and shipped the next season and 38,000 the next.

There are four houses built of brick, with a capacity of 60,000 bushels.

It is estimated that after this drying or curing process that sweet potatoes, too delicate for much handling as everyone knows, for successful shipment, will last three years, and be shipped as they ship, in hampers, any distance with little or no loss. The potato house is kept heated and four great circular fans keep the hot air in motion continuously, drying the potatoes out thoroughly and uniformly. The four houses represent an investment of about \$20,000. Mr. James said that the drought this year had put a crimp in the potato yield in this section, but I never saw as many in my life before, all at one time, choice looking yams that will stand between many a consumer and starvation these strenuous times.

E. T. Burks, expert agriculturist, graduate from L. I. I. is just back from a trip to the Minnesota potato fields, where he purchased seed to plant 500 acres in Irish potatoes, to follow up the sweet potato crop. The plant has put out sweet potato slips and will have them for sale in the spring in vast quantities. Five thousand bushels of seed potatoes were purchased by Mr. Burke while away. This enterprise alone is enough to put Dubach on the map big.

## Dubach Lumber Company

"It got here first," the Dubach Lumber Company blazing the way for the Dubach of today that is now so much in the public eye. A foot bridge spans the distance between Dubach Lumber Company and the town, it, no doubt, presented to Lincoln parish. Both sail under the same flag, however, and are equally friendly and proud one of the other.

It appeared on the scene, this Dubach Lumber Company way back in 1899, and planted its flag right in the center of things in a section rich beyond all seeming in pine and hardwood.

Just ten years ago the present company took the big mill over with T. L. James as manager. It's a big mill of 100,000 capacity, carrying 5,000,000 feet of lumber, has 30 miles of railroad and a mill pond covering 50 acres. It employs 250 men, all told, and owns 40,000 acres of timber. There is a sawmill with circular and hand saws and a modern planning mill of proportions. There is a commissary with a \$20,000 stock, employing five men and a saleslady, Miss Lois Gray, a bright and clever Lincoln parish girl. The payroll is something like \$20,000 a month.

Just now lumber is in demand and the Dubach mill is a busy scene. Conditions are prosperous, and everything is lovely with the lumber man. Vast quantities of short leaf pine and hardwood are constantly being shipped away. The name Dubach is a household word all over.

T. L. James has been manager of the mill ever since the company was reorganized 10 years ago. He has measured up to a mighty big job. Incidentally he is popular with everyone and is a booster for the town of Dubach that holds him in highest confidence and esteem.

In B. H. Rainwater, manager of the mill commissary, member of the town council and progressive citizen, Dubach has another citizen of whom she is most proud. He is a man of polish and courtly bearing. Assisting him in the commissary are Dayton Caldwell, Ben Miller, Alfred Ralley and Miss Lois Gray. Lonnie Smith has charge of the camp store.

V. A. Davidson, vice president, sales manager is assistant manager.

C. M. Dorman is foreman of the sawmill with C. E. Miller, shipping clerk, and H. G. Brown is foreman of the planning mill. The road superintendent, R. S. LeGuin is an important man and official.



**Mrs. Emma Smith, Milliner and Ladies' Furnishings**  
*Submitted by James G. (Jim) Jones*

*Transcribed from:*

Mrs. Emma Smith, Milliner and Ladies' Furnishings, *The Shreveport Times*, 11 November 1917, p. 10, col. 5.

I have never seen a little store as full of suitable and carefully selected gifts for Christmas as Mrs. Emma Smith has surrounded herself with. I would like to hurriedly make a few suggestions to the holiday shoppers. There are handsome wraps, modish tailors in all the new shades, chick serge one-piece gowns beautifully braided; silk, satin and serge dress skirts, the pretty new peg-top styles; rustling, gay-hued petticoats in silk and messaline; the lovely Fern waists, new styles of which come in weekly. The hats are the last word in style and are sold at absurdly low figures, the gold medal hat being a feature. Mrs. Smith carries a large stock of the loveliest piece silks and satins for your Christmas gowns. She will have gift boxes of georgette and crepe de chine waists; wonderful boxes of stationery, hand-painted china tea sets of 80 pieces, cut glass, handbags, toilet articles; a lovely line of the newest things in sweaters, silk hosiery, and the famous Gossard and Madame Grace corsets. Everything mentioned is a gift suggestion for Christmas. Shop early and avoid the rush.



## **C. C. Barham Has Large Business**

**Submitted by James G. (Jim) Jones**

***"Buy Everything; Sell Everything," Slogan of a Hustler***

Thrown upon his own resources, C. C. Barham struck out for himself at 14 years of age and has fought his way to a name and place in the business life of Dubach. Indeed, he is one of its prominent and progressive merchants today. He was born in Claiborne parish, went into the mercantile business in Bernice and came from there to Dubach. Three years ago he went into business with S. J. Colvin, one of the first merchants of Dubach. Last year he bought Mr. Colvin out and went it alone.

The business has about doubled itself and is still increasing. At present he is building a new brick warehouse and preparing for an additional increase in business that is already foreshadowed.

He is surrounded with a strong working force. Mr. C. E. Colvin, councilman, is head salesman and very popular with the trade. Mrs. C. C. Barham and Mrs. C. E. Colvin, who have been with him from the first, are experts.

Messrs. DeWitt Barham, Floyd Barham and Lassie Colvin complete an able staff of co-workers, absolutely loyal to the institution.

Wagons, buggies, hardware and furniture, are to be found in large quantities in the warerooms and everything in dry goods, clothing, ready-to-wear for men and women, millinery and shoes in the general store, where a large stock is displayed.

"I want it known," said Mr. Barham, "that I buy cotton and all country produces and that my slogan is 'Buy everything; sell everything.' If I haven't got it, I'll get it, all right."

Mr. Barham is the mayor of Dubach, now serving his third term. He couldn't help being popular if he tried; he has the quick smile, the friendly spirit and the temperament that go to make up the man of success. Personality counts. The mayor of Dubach has that to a degree, and he's a booster along with it and loves the town he serves.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Colvin are charter members of the Baptist Church.

### ***Transcribed from:***

*"C. C. Barham Has Large Business," The Shreveport Times, 11 November 1917, p. 10, col. 7.*

By:

James G. (Jim) Jones  
2066 Lovers Lane  
Shreveport, LA 71105

# **QUERIES SOLICITED!**

**While the Ark-La-Tex Association has neither the facilities nor personnel to answer queries, however we encourage members and non members alike to send queries to be published in their quarterly publication, The Genie at no cost. Send your queries to ALTGA-Query, P.O. Box 4463, Shreveport, LA 71134-0463.**



**The queries are subject to editing, and will be printed as room is available. Only those mentioning Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas or a location within the parish/county can be used. Please make sure that your correct email address is in the query and that you state that the query is to be printed in The Genie. The Genie reaches an audience which is largely not on the internet, and so provides another group to help you with your research.**

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