

The Genie

Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association



It's a New Look

You may recall entering your local grocery store or other favorite commercial site where you see a familiar sign: "Pardon our mess. We are under construction and know that some of our activities may be inconvenient to you. We hope you like our new look as we strive to serve you better."

That is what we are all about in 2014. After much deliberation, the ALTGA Board accepted the resignation of 14-year editor Willie Griffin. There was no replacing his expertise, so the decision was made to "go digital." It is a learning process. Please bear with us.

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Necrology

Longtime ALTGA member and former president Victor Rose was buried Dec. 23, 2013 in Shreveport's Forest

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My Dear Cousin

Included is a 1926 letter from L. W. Stephens about the riots in Coshatta, LA during the days of

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Research Tips--Obits

Tips are provided for locating obituaries. While they contain much information, they are not considered

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It's a new world out there! No doubt there will be changes for a while. Let us know what you think. We need your input, your perseverance, and your patience. And be flexible!

We will be learning something new each time we publish. One thing we have learned is that we eventually should be able to give you color photos and maybe even a video or two. Be sure to keep your Adobe Acrobat updated.

While we expect some "growing pains" with the

transition to online publication, there are some decided advantages. Among them are cost, convenience, and practicality.

With the bulk of our dues money having been allocated to *Genie* publication, there should be substantial savings to the member. There are only a few members who do not have an email account. Almost everyone complains about clutter, so the reader can more easily manage the reading of the *Genie*. One can choose to print favorite

articles for leisurely reading.

Probably the greatest asset for online publishing is the fact that the *Genie* will now be fully searchable! "Control F" should allow the researcher/reader to determine names found within the pages.

One thing you should know is our email address: altgenassn@gmail.com. We encourage your feedback. This *eGenie* is a new venture, and we want to keep you happy.

Also in this Issue

Early Roy Stoner

Meet the Stoner family, whose roots in Caddo Parish run deep. Part I. Enjoy reading their story.

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DNA News

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution have announced a new policy concerning DMA. Read on....

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Bits and Pieces

Find some tidbits of information gleaned from various sources. Do you know what d.s.p.m.s. means?

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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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Ark-La-TexGenealogicalAssociation

Board of Directors For 2014

President	Philip B. Adderley, CG	phil@311research.com
First Vice President	Glenda E. Bernard	glenda646@gmail.com
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Trustee	Richard Tatum	rmtatum@suddenlink.net
Trustee	Sonja D. Webb	sdwebb@bellsouth.net
Past President	Jim Johnson	jjohnson747@suddenlink.net

Publication (The Genie)

Editor	Linda W. Lynn	ilynn48@att.net
Distribution	Philip B. Adderley	phil@311research.com
Distribution	Jim Johnson	jjohnson747@suddenlink.net
Exchange Reviewer	Glenda E. Bernard	glenda646@gmail.com
Exchange	June L. Scholes	jscholez@aol.com

ALTGA Committees

Refreshment Coordinator	Brenda Randall	custerbren@aol.com
Reception and Name Tags	Chris Stoll	(318) 746-0383
Programs	Jim Johnson	jjohnson747@suddenlink.net

Education Committee:

Chairperson	Philip B. Adderley	phil@311research.com
Vice Chairperson	Glenda E. Bernard	glenda646@gmail.com
Member	Marilyn B. Christian	mbcspirit@aol.com
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Member	Sonja Webb	sdwebb@bellsouth.net

Web Page	Jim Johnson	(318) 746-1851
Seminar	Jim Johnson	jjohnson747@suddenlink.net
Membership	June L. Scholes	jscholez@aol.com

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

Email us at altgenassn@gmail.com

MY RELATIVES: “TWO-FACE” DENT & “HAF-AND-HAF” TUZON?

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE, ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Whenever possible, genealogists prefer to reason from original records that reliable scribes carefully created soon after the reported events. They also prefer original records that competent authorities checked or vetted and that institutions maintained with protections from alteration, damage, and tampering. At the same time, genealogists understand that some preferred sources could be proved inaccurate, less desirable sources might be proved accurate, or less desirable sources may be the only extant relevant sources.¹

I immigrated as a young boy to the United States. Having never seen comic books, Dick Tracy and Batman were two hugely important discoveries. I remember the good guys battling Harvey “Two-Face” Dent and Tulza “Haf-and-Haf” Tuzon.

The two villains have remarkably similar characteristics. Was one created from or inspired by the other? When was each character “born” and who was (were) their “parent(s)” or creator(s)?

Which sources answer these questions? Will you inhale Wikipedia and stop there? Did Wikipedia contributors cite their sources, and if so, did you “drill down” and examine them? Did you vet the answers using some reliable sources created soon after the characters were reportedly born? Were you able to reach a conclusion of proof or perhaps just a theory, and what was your reasoning?

Each document or artifact we examine in our research pursuits is remarkably like “Two Face” and “Haf-and-Haf.” In many instances we see only one side or facet and stop there, perhaps not realizing the whole picture. How many times, for example, have you concluded, based solely upon the document, that the minors in an 1860 census household were sons and daughters of the apparent father and mother based upon their ages and identical surnames? Did you enter these minors into your genealogy software program as the parents and their children without using any other sources to support the relationships? If so, you just put Harvey and Tulza into your database.

The 50th Anniversary Edition of *Genealogy Standards* is now published and readily available—a steal at \$14.95. It is difficult to suggest any other work that should be at the top of your “Get List.” Use them and you will reduce the chances of adopting the wrong ancestors or descendants; ignore them and, though you may think otherwise, you will be guessing assertions rather than proving conclusions. The 38th Standard, “Source Preference,” is the first paragraph above. It is well written and spot-on.

Repeating part of my first 2013 message: teach me and others around you something old and something new. Express yourself. **How you think matters!**

Philip Burnett Adderley, CGSM, *President*.

¹ Board for Certification of Genealogists, *Genealogy Standards* (New York: Ancestry.com, 2014), 23-24, Standard 38 “Source Preference.”
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Vice President's Message

Brrrrrr! This winter has been one for the books! Were you able to stay warm inside and make great strides on your genealogy while it was so cold outside? Were you able to break down any of those brick walls that seem so impenetrable?

Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association has been striving to help its members along! The January general session meeting hosted Ms. Judy Thomas, Cemetery Director of the Rocky Mount Presbyterian Church and Cemetery of Bossier Parish. Ms. Thomas shared her love of the area, the church and the cemetery. She explained various monument styles present in the cemetery as well as its layout.

Ms. Gail Griffin, Library Media Specialist and Library Board Trustee, presented "African American Folklore and Tales" in February during African American History Month. Thank you, Ms. Griffin for providing insight into this significant area of research. "Origins of The Genevieve Orphanage of Shreveport" was the discussion topic for Ms. Peggy Suzanne La Cour's Hornbook session. She highlighted the history of the orphanage and its significance to the community to children in need beginning in the early 1900s.

As March winds blew throughout the Shreveport-Bossier area, Mr. Thad Pardue, local educator and Hays family genealogist, shared research of his family that has spanned for many years. He presented wonderful copies of photographs and shared very colorful adventures of his relatives. Mrs. Sonja Webb took photographic timetables to new heights by explaining ways to narrow the date of unknown pictures to within a ten year timeframe.

The association's new enewsletter will premiere with this edition and excitement is in the air for ease of access for members. Anyone without an email address can still receive a paper copy for a limited time by contacting Phil Adderley, president, or any board member.

Members will be participating in the annual Family History Assistance Day to be held April 12, 2014, at Broadmoor Library. This event will be aimed at intermediate and advanced level genealogists with one-on-one aid for brand new beginners during the session in the genealogy department of library. More information can be found throughout this enewsletter.

Happy Spring!

Glenda E. Bernard

To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root. Chinese proverb

In Memoriam - Victor Rose, Sr.

In December 2013, our Association lost a most loyal and devoted member who served tirelessly in various organizational positions during his over 25 years as a member. During his tenure, he served two terms as President, was on the Board of Directors over 15 years, and led or participated in each of the Association's committees. He was instrumental in organizing workshops, teaching beginner's classes, and planning the annual seminars. In addition, he played a leading role in publishing The Genie for many years.

Obituary



SHREVEPORT, LA. - Services celebrating the life of Victor Chambliss Rose, Sr. will be held at 2:00 pm on Monday, December 23, 2013, at Rose-Neath Funeral Home, 1815 Marshall Street, Shreveport, LA 71101. Officiating will be Pastor Jerrell Head. Interment will follow at Forest Park Cemetery on St. Vincent Avenue. The family will receive friends on Sunday, December 22, 2013 from 6:00 until 8:00 pm at Rose-Neath Funeral Home on Marshall Street.

Victor was born July 20, 1923 in Shreveport, LA and went to be with his Lord on December 20, 2013. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Rosalie Rose, Jr.; sisters, Laconia Shipp and Rosalie Loftin. Left to cherish his precious memory is his wife of 58 years, Vernelle Seefeldt Rose; daughters, Mary Ann McKinney and husband, Larry and Judy Spears; sons, Chris Rose and wife, JoAnn and Victor C. "Buddy" Rose, Jr. and wife, Diana;

grandchildren, Jenny Minton and husband, Mark; Jeff Spears, Mandy Metrejean and husband, Chris; Missy Heidelberg and husband, Mack; Andrew Rose, Natalie Hall and husband, Chris; Molly Kizzar and husband, Mike; 1st Lt. Victor Chambliss "Chip" Rose, III and wife, Erin; Lana Rose, Colleen Rose, Lilia Rose and Dakota Rose; brother, John H. Rose, III; 5 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Victor was a Veteran of World War II and flew numerous bombing runs in Martin B-26 bombers as a tail-gunner. Vic served faithfully in his church as deacon, Sunday school teacher and choir member. Scouting was among his many passions in life, and he served as a Scout Master. He also loved working with wood, genealogy and was an avid fisherman. Victor retired from Arkla Gas as a Communications Technician.

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff at the North West Louisiana War Veterans Home and caregivers Twyla and Tawanna at Emeritus @ Shreveport.

Leonard Waller Stephens Recollects the Coushatta Riot of 1874



L. W. and Sarah Stephens (Mineral Wells, Texas)

The following letter was transcribed and sent to us by Dr. Robert S. Hendrick, Jr., M.D. of Monroe, Louisiana who is a Great Great Grandson of it's author, Leonard Waller Stephens. In the letter, Stephens gives a first person account of the Coushatta Riot of 1874. Stephens was a leading citizen of Red River Parish at the time and wrote the letter in 1926 to his cousin Lucy Paxton Scarborough (Mrs. D.C. Scarborough) of Natchitoches, Louisiana, who inquired about his memories of the riot.

June 25, 1926

My Dear Cousin Lucy*,

Sometimes on her return from Natchitoches, Shirley** told me you had written me sometime last year asking to be informed of the date of the Coushatta Riot of Reconstruction days. For some reason, your letter never reached me. And since I have known of your desire for this information I have been further

delayed in writing you because an attack of my old trouble which necessitated my going to a Sanatorium for treatment, but I am now better and back at home and am now writing you with much pleasure.

Since you have shown enough interest to know the date, I have thought it might prove interesting to you know something of the immediate causes leading up to the tragedy known as the Coushatta Riot.

The Parish of Red River was organized in 1871. Capt. W. H. Twitchell who was the leading Republican in this part of the state at the time, sent home to Vermont and brought here members of his family together with other friends from there to fill all the offices both ward and parochial and started on such a course of spoliation in the affairs of the Parish as stirred up the people to the bitterness, resentment and opposition.

This condition continued, with here and there small outbreaks on the part of the people until the Summer of 1874. There was to be an election that Fall as early as July, the Democrats (native whites) had organized a bold and aggressive campaign against the Republicans and so determined had they become that the Republican leaders wrote Capt. Twitchell, then a Senator from the district and who at that time was in New Orleans attending a session of the Legislature, that unless he could procure some troops and send up here, the Democrats were going to run over them and carry the election. Twitchell replied that the last elections in the North had gone against the Republicans, showing the people up there were dissatisfied with the policy of the Enaut (??) administration in sending troops into the Legislative halls of Louisiana and Arkansas and overturning the Democratic majorities and establishing Republican control. And that in order to have troops sent to Coushatta, the whites would have to commit some overt act.

At this or about this time the firm of Abney and Love were finishing a new brick store, and the young people of the town and community begged the privilege of having a dance there before their occupation, and the night of the 31st of August the ball was to be given. The Republicans leaders, in order to try to hold the demonstrations in check, had organized the negroes into some semblance of military organization and decided that on the night of this ball while the town was full of young men they would bring one company of their negroes to town and shoot it up and this precipitated a clash- a few negroes would be killed and perhaps a few whites, but the overt act would be committed and they would get the troops. This was done.

On the late evening of the ball, two young sons of Col. Robieau (??) were coming up the river on the Coushatta side, they discovered on the other side a company of negroes marching in military order up the river. When the negroes discovered the young men they opened fire on them, and when the boys fled out of range of their guns they shouted across we will meet you in Coushatta. The boys as soon as they reached town reported what they had seen. There was at the time an organization in the parish known as the Knights of the White Camellia, on the order of the Ku Klux Klan and your uncle Thomas Paxton was its chief. He was notified at once and took command. The boys were organized to take the girls home and get their guns and report back at once. He sent two and two out on each road heading into town as scouts under the belief that that the negroes had not yet arrived, but they had, and been placed by Homer Twitchell under his house and along the fence lining the street in front of his house, and as the two scouts passed along their way to their outpost they were fired on by two of the negroes, one of them escaped (??) but young Dickson had both arms broken. Twitchell's heart failed him after this occurrence and he sent the negroes out of town without further demonstration. Messengers were sent out to various towns for help and by next morning the town was filled with armed and angry men anxious to wreck a frightful vengeance on the negroes and their white leaders. The negroes made no effort at resistance but many fled the country, others to their swamps or where ever they could find hiding places. Armed bodies of men scoured the country up and down the river and wherever the negroes were found they were killed.

The Republican officials when they said what a fearful retribution they had brought upon themselves went to the leading citizens of the town and begged for protection promising that if sent out of the country they would not return. An armed guard was furnished them, and sent to Shreveport, and when about twenty miles of that place they were overtaken and killed, and then these people who "had sowed to the wind reaped the whirlwind". This practically broke the backbone of Republican control here. Two years afterwards Capt. W. H. Twitchell who was absent in New Orleans at the time of the riot, and who had been holding on with the aid of the troops, while crossing the river afterwards was met at the ferry by a man and shot. He saved his life by jumping in the river, but lost both his arms, after which he left here and after which the last vestige of Republican rule was wiped out in this parish.

I fear I have made this too long but it will give you some insight to some of the wild scenes and stirring days of the reconstruction period.

I want to go see Aunt Louisa^{***} within the next few days. She is yet living at the age of 88 years. I have not seen her for nearly two years, but when I last saw her she seemed bright and observeful (??) and very happy to see me. Paxton^{****} has recently been operated on for appendicitis. He had a very bad appendix and came near waiting too late, but he has at home now and I think if we can keep him from stirring around too soon he will soon be well.

With affectionate regards I am sincerely yours,

L W Stephens

* Lucy Paxton Scarborough (1857 – 1951) was his maternal first cousin

** Shirley Estelle Stephens Smart (1910-1986) was his granddaughter

*** Louisa Wardlaw Neal 1838 – 1926 was his maternal and her paternal aunt

**** Thomas Paxton Stephens 1881 – 1948 was Leonard's son

Biographical Information about Leonard Waller Stephens 1848 - 1940

Leonard W. Stephens was born on March 19, 1848 in Arcadia in Bienville Parish, the son of John F. and Elizabeth (Wardlaw) Stephens. Leonard attended school in Sparta until age 16, and then attended Mount Lebanon University for two years. In January 1865, he joined the Company E, 27th Louisiana Infantry and served until the close of the Civil War. After the war, he returned to his home in Bienville Parish and became a clerk in a dry goods store. Later he moved to Coushatta becoming a merchant, and in 1869 he married Sarah Mariah Means Sweat. In 1889, he was elected President of the Red River Police Jury. Also, he was a member of the Silent Brotherhood Lodge No. 146 of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Louisiana. In 1930 he was elected as Commander-in-Chief of the United Confederate Veterans and was given the title 'General'. He died on January 26, 1940 and is buried in the Springville Cemetery in Coushatta, Red River Parish.

The Stephens family in Red River Parish is traced back to Benjamin Stephens, born April 15, 1753 in Orange County, Virginia. He died September 7, 1839 in Kenton County, Kentucky. He married Dorothy Jemima Waller of Spotsylvania Courthouse, Virginia in 1775. Of their nine children, Edmund Stephens (1777-1864) is forebear of the Stephens descendants who settled in Bienville and Red River Parishes. He was married twice; first to

Agnes Robinson in Virginia, and the second time to Jane Griffin of Edgefield, South Carolina. Of their five children, John Franklin Stephens (1813-1884) was the oldest. He married Elizabeth Susan Wardlaw in 1837 and they traveled to Louisiana and settled in Sparta in Bienville Parish. Their children are: Mary Jane (1839-1922); Edmund Lewis (1841-1864); William Zachariah (1845-1907); Leonard Waller; Lucy Wright (1850-1906); and Annie (1852-1883).

Sources:

1. Red River Parish Heritage Society, *Red River Parish, Our Heritage*, Everett Companies, 1989, 475-476.
2. *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Louisiana*, Southern Publishing Company, 1890, 231-232.
3. Andrew B. Booth, *Records of Louisiana Confederate Soldiers and Louisiana Confederate Commands*, V 3, 1920, 691
4. Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, digital image (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed Feb 16, 2014), photograph, "gravestone for Leonard Waller Stephens (1848 - 1940), [Memorial No. 14047019](#), Records of the Springville Cemetery, Red River Parish, Louisiana," photographs © David Hill, Mike Gahagan, and Michelle Woodham
5. Leonard Waller Stephens, "undated clippings from unidentified newspapers in the family papers of the late Norma McCook Hendrick Hardy and in the possession of Dr. Robert S. Hendrick, Jr., Monroe, Louisiana in February 2014



COUSHATTA CROWDS WELCOME STEPHENS

New Commander of United
Confederate Veterans Given
Hearty Greeting.

COUSHATTA, La., June 9.—Flanked on each side by Shreveport Boy Scouts, in full uniform, Gen. L. W. Stephens, newly-elected commander of the United Confederate veterans, in the sombre gray of the Confederacy, with gold stars of his elevated rank glittering in the afternoon sun, made his triumphant return to Coushatta yesterday. He was met by Mayor Milton Brown, Henry W. Bethard, Jr., representing the American Legion, and A. M. Perry of the Spanish-American war veterans, and escorted to the public square, adjoining the First Baptist church, where he was received by the citizens of Coushatta with a program strictly military in character.

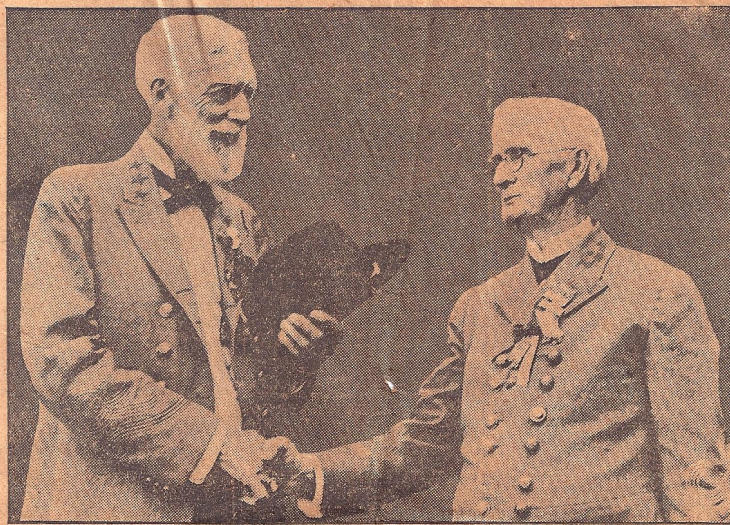
While the scouts stood at attention with the emblem of the Confederacy floating with the Stars and Stripes, Mayor Brown officially welcomed General Stephens, congratulated him for the national honor that he had brought to the town of Coushatta. The mayor's address was followed by one made by Henry W. Bethard, Jr., on behalf of the American Legion, in which it was pointed out that the war between the states had made America a nation of ideals, where principles of right and not of material gain were the guiding factors in its intercourse with other nations. Flowers were then presented to the general on behalf of the various veteran organizations. The general responded by thanking the city officials for their reception, given him, and stating that he considered his election as commander of the veterans an especial honor, for the reason that it had come to him voluntarily, without the solicitation of a single vote. The general was then escorted in military style to his residence.

General Stephens arrived by automobile from Biloxi yesterday afternoon at 1 o'clock. He was considerably worn by his attendance at the convention, but stated that he felt well. The general is 82 years of age and a native of Louisiana.

Mrs. Walter McCook of this city was privileged to see her grandfather, General L. W. Stephens of Coushatta, La., made commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans at their recent reunion in Biloxi, Miss.

This courtley, gallant gentleman—reminiscent of the old school—when interviewed recently disclosed the fact that his chief interest in life was centered in his ten splendid grandchildren, and his six great-grandchildren. Among the great-grandchildren is Mrs. McCook's beautiful little daughter, Norma Ann, who is perfectly devoted to her great-grandfather. It is well that she is devoted to him as there are few little girls who can boast of such a courageous great-grandfather—one who has had great honors bestowed upon him and was active in the work of reconstruction of the south during that trying period, long ago. General Stephens joined the army of the trans-Mississippi in 1864. His outfit was Company E of the 27th Louisiana Regiment. Stories of his courage and his splendid leadership have come down to us through the years and those who are familiar with his life as a soldier and his life since, are rejoicing over the greatest honor the South can confer upon her loyal citizens—commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans.

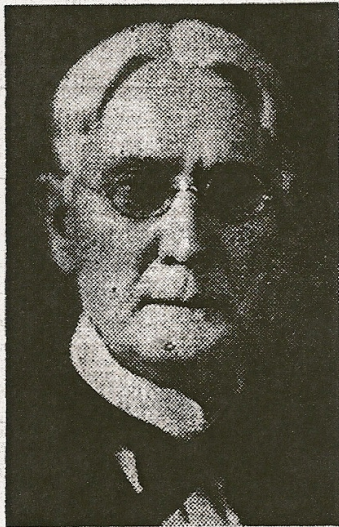
Louisianian Heads Veterans



—Photo by The Times-Picayune.
General R. A. Sneed of Oklahoma, left, retiring commander, is shown shaking hands with General L. W. Stephens of Coushatta, La., who was elected new commander-in-chief of United Confederate Veterans in reunion sessions at Biloxi Thursday.

'General' Leonard Waller Stephens elected as Commander of United Confederate Veterans

VETERAN DIES



General Leonard Waller Stephens, 91, of Coushatta, former commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans and a former state commander, who died Friday afternoon at a local sanitarium.

GEN. STEPHENS, FORMER U. C. V. LEADER, DIES

Coushatta Veteran Served as National and State Commander

General Leonard Waller Stephens, 91, one of the last of the scattered survivors of the Army of the Confederacy, a resident of Coushatta since 1900, died at a local sanitarium late Friday afternoon after a short illness.

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at the First Baptist church at Coushatta with the Rev. J. D. Cheatham, pastor, officiating. The body will be at McCook Brothers funeral home until this afternoon. Burial will be at the Springville cemetery near Coushatta with McCook Brothers funeral home in charge.

During the War for Southern Independence he served in Company "E," 27th Louisiana Infantry, in the Army of the Trans-Mississippi.

General Stephens was elected head of the Louisiana division of the United Confederate Veterans in 1926. The following year he was elected commander of the Army of Tennessee

(Continued On Page Thirteen.)

GEN. STEPHENS, FORMER U. C. V. LEADER, DIES

(Continued From Page One.)

and in 1929 he was elected commander-in-chief of the United Veterans at the reunion at Biloxi, Miss. He served in that capacity at the reunion at Montgomery, Ala., the following year.

He was born March 19, 1848, at Arcadia, La., the son of John Franklin Stephens and the former Elizabeth Wardlaw. He was educated at Mt. Lebanon, La., and taught school as a young man. While living in Old Sparta, La., in Bienville parish in 1868, he was married to the former Miss Sallie Sweatt. Mrs. Stephens died in 1909.

From Old Sparta, then the parish seat, he moved to Coushatta, where he lived for five years, moving from there to Lake Village. He moved back to Coushatta in 1882 and lived there until 1894, when he moved to Minden. He returned to Coushatta in 1900 and spent the remainder of his life there.

During adulthood General Stephens was a merchant, retiring 22 years ago. He was a member and senior deacon of the First Baptist church of Coushatta and a member of the Masonic Order.

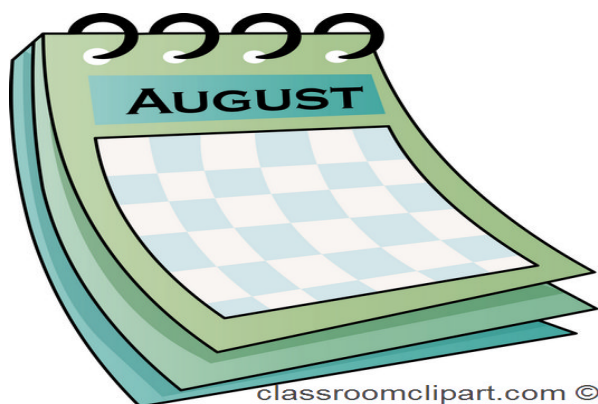
Preceding him in death, in addition to his wife, were one daughter, Bessie, who was married to Samuel Harper of Shreveport, and two sons, L. P. Stephens and Judge J. P. Stephens.

Surviving are two sons, Ben S. and T. P. Stephens, both of Coushatta, 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers at the funeral will be A. L. Stephens, L. P. Stephens, Harry S. Stephens, T. P. Stephens, Jr., and L. W. Stephens, all grandchildren, and Walter T. McCook, who married one of his granddaughters.

According to Gen. O. R. Gillette of Bossier City, former state commander of the U. C. V., General Stephens and Gen. P. T. G. Beauregard were the only Louisianans ever to head Confederate veterans.

Obituary for Leonard Waller Stephens (Shreveport Times - January 27, 1940)



MARK YOUR SUMMER CALENDAR

Kelvin Meyers will be presenting the following lectures in August at our annual day-long summer seminar. Details will be in the next quarterly. Make your plans now.

1. Plowing Through the Land Records to Find Your Ancestor

Because Americans were so "land minded" over $\frac{3}{4}$ of all males who lived to maturity, well into the 19th century, owned land. Because this is true, land records exist from the beginning of the first permanent settlements in America—frequently on of the few identifying records from this early period. A quality unique to land records is that the older they are the more genealogical data there may be to obtain from that record. This lecture will focus on using these records, combined with other records to identify ancestors.

2. Tax Records or Why did Scarlett Make A Dress of Her Mother's Drapes?

For most genealogists a tax list is merely a substitute for a missing census, but there are many other uses for a tax list. You can determine when an ancestor comes of age, estimate the time of death of an ancestor, or maybe identify a nameless wife. Learn what your ancestor's social standing was in the community. Maybe you can determine the short stay of a family in a county between decennial censuses, as well as give positive clues to the location of land owned in that county. Also learn where to find these tax lists and how to access them.

3. Probate: More Than A Will

Most persons in America, who lived to adulthood, left some type of an estate to be administered. Some left wills, some did not, either way if there was land or large amounts of personal property, this estate had to be disposed of. The records of probate can be some of the most fruitful for the genealogist. Wills, distributions, administrations, inventories, are all vital parts of the probate process and full of genealogical information, these are the things that will be discussed in this lecture.

4. How Great Thou Art! How Great They Are! Church Records

Underused and underutilized this vast group of records can be a challenge to the "un-churched". Determining the denomination, in which your ancestor was a part, can be the biggest challenge. The second challenge is to *find* those records. With these two things accomplished, many genealogical questions can be answered.

RESEARCH TIPS – OBITUARIES

By Janine Johnson Dunlap
Friends of Genealogy, Inc.

Obituaries contain a wealth of information, not only that related to the deceased such as funeral and burial information, places of residence, occupation, military service, and hobbies, but also information about his/her parents, spouse, siblings, children, grandchildren, and so on.

Please remember that obituaries are not considered a primary source of information. They are only as good as the knowledge of the person writing it. However, armed with the information found in an obituary, you can locate other sources to help verify the facts about this person or his/her relatives and other information.

Obituaries can be found online as well as on microfilm and in books and other publications. Generally, you will need to know the deceased's name, general location, and approximate death date to locate an obituary.

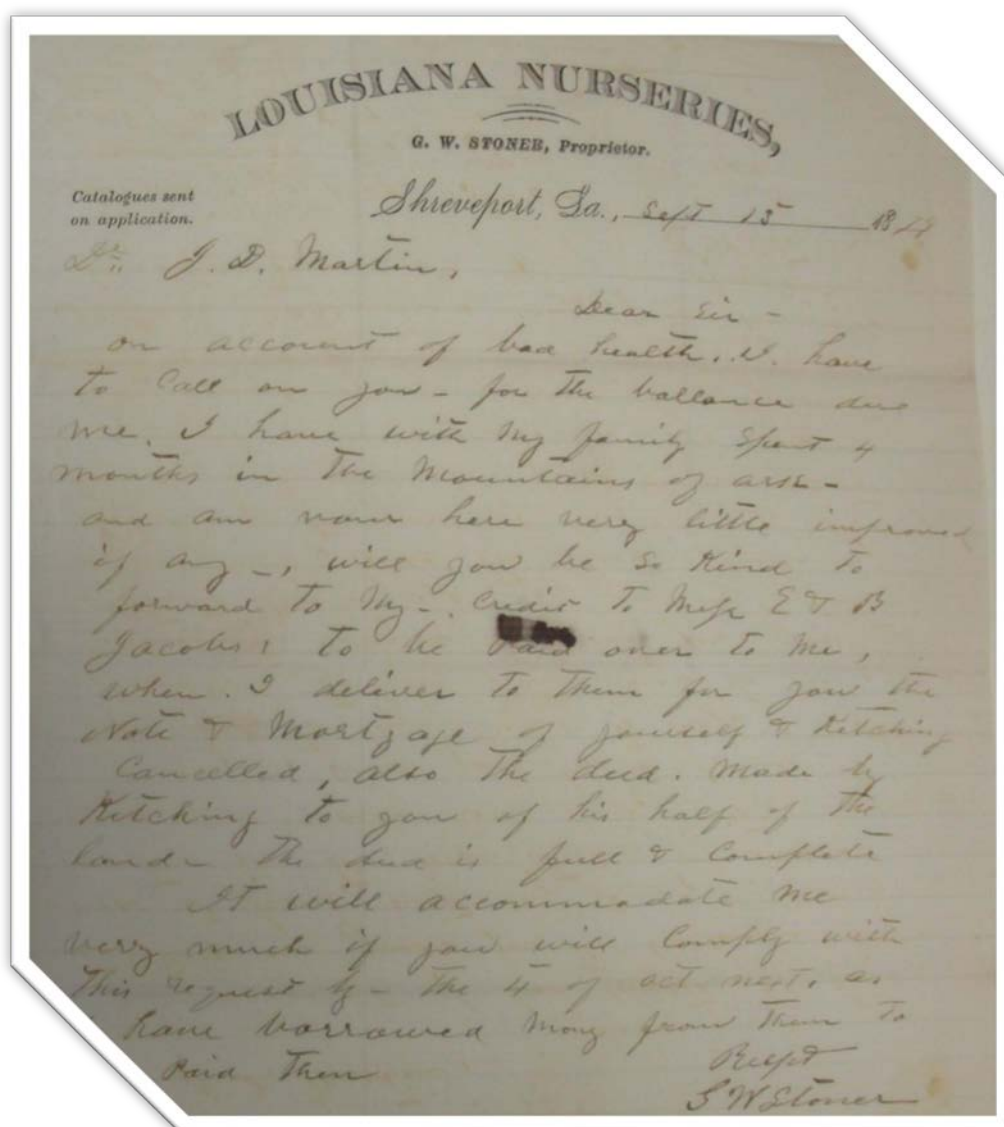
Suggestions for locating an obituary:

- • Online genealogy websites such as Ancestry.com, USGenWeb, and others
- • Search engines such as Google, Yahoo, Ask, Bing and others
- • Online newspapers & funeral homes for the deceased's local area
- • The local library for the deceased's residence

Our Genealogy Department at the Shreve Memorial Library contains a large special collection of obituaries donated over the years by patrons and researchers for the Northwest Louisiana area. This collection began as a card file and is now being digitized and placed in Adobe searchable files on CDs. These files can be searched not only for the name of the deceased person, but also for other criteria such as any name (such as maiden name), cemetery, locality, occupation, military service, religion, and more. For example, this file searching feature can help you if you are a FindAGrave enthusiast looking for people buried in an area cemetery, or you are doing family research and would like to locate people with your family surname. Contact Lisè Taylor, our Genealogy Librarian, for more information on this large collection.

The Paternal Lineage, Ascending, of Early Roy Stoner (1891-1958)

2nd edition © 5 April 2013, Philip Burnett Adderley, CG, 311 Research



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Author's Notes

1. The research reported in this document was commissioned by Mr. Talman Stoner of Beaverton, Oregon, who gave permission for its use and permitted his commissioning of the effort to be acknowledged.
2. The author permits reproduction of the lineage solely for educational, genealogical and historical use; and then only on a non-profit basis.
3. The original version of this document was privately prepared in July 2012 for Mr. Talman Stoner and contained references to living persons that Mr. Stoner identified to the author with respect to the Stoner Family Bible records. The author revised the document primarily to remove references to those persons in respect of their privacy, to add contact information for the author, to acknowledge Mr. Stoner's research commission, and to correct minor or typographical errors.
4. The lineage's numbering system and typographic style follow the *NGSQ* System for a **Compiled Lineage, Ascending**. *NGSQ* is the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*. The system and an ascending example can be found in Board for Certification of Genealogists, *The BCG Genealogical Standards Manual* (Orem, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 2000), Appendix E, 65–72.
5. Footnotes follow Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*, 2nd ed. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2009).
6. When original documents were deposited with Louisiana parish recorders, Clerks of Court usually registered them, giving them a number alternately called instrument or registration numbers. Although clerk-recorded versions are considered true and legal copies of the originals under law, in fact there are occasionally differences with the original. The author preferred to use original documents where they survived, in lieu of clerk-recorded derivatives, citing the instrument number. If an original document was not deposited, or deposited but not successfully located by the staff, or substantially illegible, the clerk-recorded material was used and cited.
7. The research for this effort focused upon the Caddo Parish, Louisiana, region due to the unusually large numbers of findings therein, their complexity, and the budget and time constraints imposed on the project. Research for events that reportedly occurred outside of Louisiana is not exhaustive, and as a result, the author has taken care to express findings using qualifiers such as “probably,” “possibly,” and the like, until such time as more exhaustive research can be conducted for each. Researchers citing the author's tentative results without further research findings of their own are strongly encouraged to include the author's qualifiers.

Philip B. Adderley, CG, 5 April 2013.

PATERNAL LINEAGE, ASCENDING, OF EARLY ROY STONER (1891–1958)

Early Roy Stoner, his father Samuel Michael Stoner, and his grandfather George Washington Stoner collectively spanned one hundred and fifty years of family life and history in the United States. Although they separately could claim ties to Kentucky, Texas, California, or Oregon, Louisiana dominated their combined lives and livelihoods. Their family line established homesteads in Caddo Parish after the War of the Rebellion, in the late 1860s, and there they more or less remained until the Great Depression of the 1930s. Their presence in Louisiana records persisted two more decades.

1st Generation, Ascending: Early Roy Stoner

1. **Early Roy Stoner**, son of Samuel Michael Stoner and Frances Elizabeth Vines, was born 11 June 1891 in San Bernardino County, California, probably in one of the towns Moreno or Alessandro,¹ and died 20 August 1958 in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. His interment occurred in Riverview Abbey Mausoleum, Portland.² Early married 30 April 1912 in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, **Mary Caroline Roach**,³ born ca. May 1891 probably in Desoto or Caddo Parish, Louisiana,⁴ died 16 June 1983, in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, daughter of Sidney Roach and Annie Bickham. At the time of her death Mary resided in Clackamas County, Oregon. Mary's interment also took place in the Riverview Abbey Mausoleum.⁵

Early's Birthplace

Three records touch on Early Roy Stoner's birthplace. None were firsthand accounts recorded at or shortly after the time of birth. The slight name variations suggest that all three meant to describe the same location, but none named the county of birth.

¹ George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828–1901, two loose "Family Register" pages from unknown Bible; original pages held by a living descendant whose identity is withheld in respect of privacy; digital images held by Talman Stoner, Beaverton, Oregon, supplied to him, January 2012, by another living descendant of George W. Stoner. The first page preprinted with subheading "Deaths" is overwritten in cursive handwriting "Births." A presumed section preprinted "Births" was not supplied. Forensic analysis of handwriting characteristics and penmanship correlate strongly with those of George W. Stoner, his son Ernest Stoner, and a third unknown author. George's entries may have been made in two or three time-periods: births 1828–1866 appear written in a narrow time frame, possibly between 1866 and 1869; two births 1869–1872 in a second time frame, possibly 1872 to 1874; and Early's 1874 birth sometime between then and George's death in 1907. The handwriting for births of Early (1891) and Ethel (1893) correlate with that of uncle Ernest Stoner in perhaps one sitting, possibly after father Sam's death in 1896, but before sister Mary Ray's birth later that year. The handwriting for the birth and death of Lizzie H. Stoner—the last entry—has not been correlated with the handwriting of a known author. According to Ms. Wainwright, the Bible passed from George and Lizzie Stoner to daughter-in-law Francis Elizabeth (Vines) Stoner Leopard. The family salvaged the two pages when the Bible was flood-damaged and these passed to Francis's daughter Mary Ray (Stoner) Holmes, and then to the living descendant who owns and holds the original, torn-out leaves.

² Oregon State Health Division, Center for Health Statistics, death certificate no. 9642 (1958), Early Roy Stoner, 20 August 1958; image copy certified as a true copy by the state registrar, 12 April 1993, supplied by Talman Stoner, Beaverton, Oregon, 2008.

³ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Marriage Book 38: 593, Early Roy Stoner and Mary Roach, 1912, recorded bond with original signature, license, and return; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁴ The record located closest in time to Mary's birth is 1900 U.S. census, DeSoto Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Ward 2, p. 65 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 51, sheet 7-A, dwelling 123, family 127, Sidney Roach household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 October 2011); citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 562; wife Annie, daughter May [*Mary*] born in May 1891, sister Eava [*Eve*] born October 1893, and two other sisters Theo and Selney [*sic*] appear; the informant was likely one of Mary's parents Sydney or Annie. Mary may also have been born in Caddo Parish, where her parents H. S. Roach and Miss Annie Bickham [*sic*] married on 2 November 1890: Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Marriage Book 18: 594, H. S. Roach and Annie Bickham, 1890, recorded bond, license and return; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁵ Oregon State Health Division, Center for Health Statistics, death certificate no. 83-010112 (1983), Mary Caroline Stoner, 16 June 1983; image copy certified as a true copy by the state registrar, 12 April 1993, supplied by Talman Stoner, Beaverton, Oregon, 2008; informant Sam Stoner, deceased's son, identified Mary's parents as Sydney Roach and Annie Bickam [*sic*] with a 2 November 1891 birth; however, Sam could not have been a firsthand witness to his mother's birth, and the 2 November date matches the parent's marriage date a year earlier. Sam identified his deceased mother as Early Roy Stoner's widow.

- Variant 1. The family bible entry for Early Roy Stoner's birth on 11 June 1891 reads that he was born at "Moreno, Alesandro[sic] Valley, California." Ernest Stoner probably penned the information in 1896.⁶
- Variant 2. Early's World War I draft registration card, signed by him about June 1917 in Caddo Parish, repeated the date but spelled his birthplace "Morano" [sic] California.⁷
- Variant 3. Early's 1958 death record corroborated the birth date but gave "Marino" [sic], California as the birthplace, the 1958 informant being his widow Mary.⁸

Firsthand witnesses to an event and timeliness of the record's creation relevant to the event are important evaluation criteria.

No evidence places informant Ernest in California in June 1891, but two records placing him in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, bracket the date. He worked as an Express Agent at the Jewella Station on the Texas & Pacific Railroad line in 1889, and he was "at home" when a fire broke out in his mother Lizzie's orchards on 19 September 1891 in Jewella.⁹ It is unlikely that Ernest witnessed firsthand his nephew's California birth.

With respect to the second and third variants, the informants Early and Early's widow Mary could not have been cognizant, firsthand witnesses of Early's birth, so his birth information was at least secondhand, given to them by someone else. The record entries also occurred twenty-six and sixty-seven years, respectively, after the birth event.

The timeliness of Variant 1 gives it somewhat greater weight, occurring just five to six years after the event. The bible entry includes places in California which, at that time, correlate well with San Bernardino and Riverside counties' histories in the late 1800s. Furthermore, Variant 2 phonetically reflects the Spanish pronunciation of Moreno, with the "e" pronounced like a long "a" in English.

The Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) of the U. S. Geological Survey is a useful compilation of present-day and historical place names in the United States. Of the second and third variants, no populated place uniquely spelled "Morano" has been located, and the only populated place in California that includes "Marino" in its name is the city of San Marino in Los Angeles County.¹⁰ An 1894 gazetteer covering 290 towns and cities in the lower, then-seven counties of California shows no towns or cities named Morano or Marino.¹¹

⁶ George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828–1901; the handwriting for the births of Samuel Michael Stoner's children Early (1891) and Ethel (1893) correlate with that of Ernest Stoner in perhaps one sitting, possibly after their father's death in 1896, but before sister Mary Ray's birth later that year. Ernest's relationship can be deduced from his own entry in the same records, the son of George and Lizzie Stoner, born 8 April 1869.

⁷ "World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918," digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 April 2012), Erley [sic] Roy Stoner, serial no. 2790, order no. 79, Precinct 10, Caddo Parish, Louisiana; citing *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*, NARA microfilm publication M1509; no specific roll cited; the signature "Early Roy Stoner," is consistent with that of the stepson of George Leopard, who attested his signature and also signed as draft board registrar for the precinct. Only the signature was Early's; the card entries appeared to be in the registrar's hand.

⁸ Oregon State Health Division, Center for Health Statistics, death certificate no. 9642 (1958), Early Roy Stoner, 20 August 1958.

⁹ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Mrs. E. H. Stoner and Husband v. Texas and Pacific R. R. Co., October, 1892, bound transcript of lower court files and evidence, 211–213, Ernest Stoner testimony, 2nd trial; Clerk of Supreme Court's minutes dated 20 October 1892, Shreveport docket no 348; MSS no. 106, Series I.K, Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Archives, Earl K. Long Library, University of New Orleans. [Note: The Louisiana Supreme Court's docket number series are unique only to the location where the court held its session. So Docket no. 348 may be redundant with Louisiana Supreme Court trials held in other locations. When the trial was removed to New Orleans, apparently the court entered the case under a docket number unique to the New Orleans series (hence 11096 versus 348). This bound transcript consists of the proceedings of the two lower court trials of the 1st Judicial District Court for Caddo Parish. The 2nd case was a re-trial under the original district court's docket number 3668.]

¹⁰ Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), U. S. Geological Survey, U. S. Department of the Interior (<http://nhd.usgs.gov/gnis.html> : accessed 27 April 2012).

¹¹ Maxwell's *Los Angeles City Directory and Gazetteer of Southern California, 1894, Embracing a Directory of the Residents of Los Angeles City and Suburbs, a Classified Business Directory of the City, a Miscellaneous Directory of the Municipal and County Officials, Societies, Churches, etc., etc., Also a Gazetteer of the Seven Counties of Southern California, comprising an Alphabetically arranged list of Every Town in Southern California, with a list of the Business and Professional Men, Description, Population of each,....* (Los Angeles: George W. Maxwell, 1894), vi ("Publisher's Advertisement") describes the gazetteer's coverage, 1250 for absence of "Marino," 1255 for absence of "Morano," digital images, "U. S. City Directories, 1821–1989 (Beta)," *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 May 2012).

Variant 1's "Moreno" and "Alessandro" appear in GNIS associated with *Riverside* County, both collocated with the present-day city of Moreno Valley. An 1894 gazetteer for southern California also described them in *Riverside* County. Moreno and Alessandro were then towns with populations of 300 and 75, and located within 16 and 17 miles of the city of *Riverside*, respectively.¹² The California towns indexed in an 1895 Rand McNally Atlas of the United States give what appears to be conflicting information, listing each with its own post office, but in *San Bernardino* County.¹³ The apparent conflict is resolved if the information published in 1895 was actually gathered before May 1893, when a southern segment of *San Bernardino* County was severed to help form *Riverside* County.

The towns do not survive as separate identities today. The official web site for the City of Moreno Valley in *Riverside* County offers an explanation: "the tiny, and new communities of Moreno and Alessandro," both in Moreno Valley, had contracts for water delivery in 1883. These two communities eventually were included as part of the City of Moreno Valley's incorporation in 1984.¹⁴

Uncle Ernest's bible record entry was closest to the truth. The sum and analysis of the evidence places Early's 1891 birthplace in what was then *San Bernardino* County, California, probably in one of two early towns Moreno or Alessandro, which today partially comprise the incorporated city Moreno Valley, *Riverside* County, California.¹⁵

Getting Started, the Girl Next Door, and a Memorable 1912

Early began working on his own account soon after his mother and stepfather relocated their family from *Caddo* Parish to *Los Angeles* County, California, sometime between 2 December 1909 and 15 April 1910.¹⁶ Early apparently did not reside with the rest of his family at their rented home on East Montera Avenue in *San José* Township on the 15th of April. The G. W. Leopard household then numbered nine persons. Instead, the 1910 census enumerator probably captured him as 18-year-old lodger Roy Stoner in the Joseph Wollos' household, employed as a clerk in the "pipe works" industry. His business relationship with Wollos may have been mutually beneficial—Joseph Wollos and his wife reportedly were Russian immigrants who arrived in county about 1880, and by 1910 Joseph owned his own restaurant, employing others.¹⁷

Mary Caroline Roach grew up in her parents' household. Her father Sidney Roach had married Annie Bickham in *Caddo* Parish on 2 November 1890.¹⁸ They were married by E. R. Fortson,¹⁹ a Minister of the Gospel, and the witnesses were B. H. Roach (also Henry's bond surety), Jas. Roc [sic], and C. C. Snell. Sidney and Annie appeared with daughter Mary and her closest siblings on a *DeSoto* Parish farm in 1900,²⁰ but by 1904 they appeared in *Caddo* Parish again. Sidney surfaced as H. S. Roach on the parish's real estate tax records

¹² Ibid., 1201 for Alessandro, 1255 for Moreno.

¹³ Pam Mardos Rietsch, "California Index of Towns," entries for Moreno and Alessandro; digital database, "1895 U. S. Atlas," *Livingston County Michigan Historical & Genealogical Project* (<http://www.livgenmi.com/1895> : accessed 25 April 2012); citing *The New 11 x 14 Atlas of the World* (Chicago: Rand McNally and Company, 1895).

¹⁴ City of Moreno Valley, *Riverside* County, California, "The History of Moreno Valley," *Moreno Valley, Where Dreams Soar* (<http://www.moreno-valley.ca.us/community/about/city-history.shtml> : accessed 26 April 2012), the City of Moreno Valley was officially incorporated in 1984. The two 1883 communities comprised part of the incorporation.

¹⁵ Researchers desiring to confirm Early's date and place of birth with evidence based upon firsthand accounts recorded close in time to the event should consider records associated with *San Bernardino* County first, with *Riverside* County and state archival holdings as alternatives.

¹⁶ *Caddo* Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 49:594, Mrs. Francis E. Leopard to L. R. Bloxom, warranty deed, 2 December 1909; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport; this was the last item of record before the family subsequently appeared in the 1910 U.S. census, *Los Angeles* County, California, population schedule, *San Jose* Township, Precinct 5, folio 130 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 333, sheet 11-A, dwelling 7, family 7, Geo. W. Leopard household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 16 April 2009); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 80.

¹⁷ 1910 U.S. census, *Los Angeles* County, California, population schedule, *Los Angeles* City, folio 121 (stamped, reverse), enumeration district (ED) 123, sheet 20-A, dwelling 372, family 380, Roy Stoner in household of Joseph Wollos; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 16 April 2009); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 80. Roy's state of birth and age are consistent with expectations; he does not appear in the 1910 Leopard household, previously cited; and he has not surfaced in Louisiana in any 1910 federal census household.

¹⁸ *Caddo* Parish, Louisiana, Marriage Book 18: 594.

¹⁹ Roach and/or Bickham descendants very likely have kinship connections with the Fortson surname.: Mary Caroline Roach and her siblings inherited from a Patience Gerrold Fortson: *Caddo* Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Mary Roach Stoner, et al., and Gulf Refining Company, agreement & release, 1 June 1946, multiple acknowledgments extending to at least 18 February 1950, original private act no. 69567; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

²⁰ 1900 U.S. census, *DeSoto* Par., La., Ward 2, ED 51, sheet 7-A, dwell. 123, fam. 127, Sidney Roach household.

owning ninety acres, eighty acres in Section 7, and ten adjoining acres in Section 8, both in Township 17 North–Range 14 West. This location was in the Jewella precinct of Ward 4 in Caddo Parish.²¹

Coincidentally, ninety acres of Section 7 had become home to the G. W. Leopard household in 1899,²² land which he held more or less until March of 1920.²³ Early's mother Mrs. Frances (Vines) Leopard added an additional 25 acres in Section 8.²⁴ Platted land descriptions for the Leopard and Roach properties in Sections 7 and 8 indicate a shared, half-mile-long property line, with access to the Texas-Shreveport Public Wagon Road. Tax records indicate that the Leopards and Roaches remained adjacent property owners from 1904 through 1910.²⁵ Less than two miles east, also with property on the public road, was George W. Stoner's homestead in Section 10, which he had acquired in 1870.²⁶

In April 1910, a census enumerator confirmed the Roach household's Jewella presence. Their oldest daughter Mary had reached the age of eighteen, and her four sisters and two brothers appeared with her in the household. H. Sidney Roach was a dairy and truck farmer who owned a farm and employed others in his business.²⁷ As his dairy farm was adjacent to George Leopard's farm, it is likely that their two families knew each other well.

When did Early and Mary become fond of each? Mary literally became the girl “next door” by 1904; they were then thirteen years old. Five years later, the Leopards left with Early for California between December 1909 and April 1910. Although Early was eighteen years old, he was still legally a minor under Louisiana Civil Code.²⁸ The timing of a subsequent chain of events suggests that their courtship had a foundation before Early's departure:

- On 2 September 1911 Early and his sister Miss Ethel Bell Stoner signed a petition before San Bernardino County, California authorities, directed to the District Court in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, to be declared fully emancipated. Each claimed having reached age eighteen and owned property in Caddo Parish, and that their mother and step-father had given their consent as their Tutrix and Co-Tutor. The court granted their petition and ordered them emancipated.²⁹
- On 13 March 1912 Early, his then-married sister Ethel Bell (Stoner) Pike, and the trustees for his unmarried sister Mary Ray Stoner sold the land that they had inherited from their grandfather George W. Stoner for \$19,148 cash. The sellers executed this deed before a notary in Chino, San Bernardino County, California, they still being residents of that county. They had

²¹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Tax Assessment Rolls, 1904, folio 136 for H. S. Roach; microfilm, Assessment Rolls Caddo Parish, Louisiana State Archives and Records Commission, reels 6.196–6.197; copies held by Broadmoor Branch of the Shreve Memorial Library System, Shreveport, Louisiana. Hereinafter, future footnote references to these tax assessment rolls (a) will not include specific reel numbers unless warranted, (b) will give the tax year preceding the page or folio number.

²² Leopard bought the land from George W. Stoner, who repurchased it and in 1902 resold it to Leopard: Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, George W. Stoner to George W. Leopard, warranty deed, 20 October 1899, original authentic act no. 44919; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, George W. Leopard to George W. Stoner, warranty deed, 2 December 1899, original authentic act no. 45106; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, George W. Stoner to George W. Leopard, warranty deed, 23 December 1902, original authentic act no. 52572; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

²³ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 143:469, George W. Leopard to W. L. Dickinson, warranty deed, 15 March 1920; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

²⁴ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 34:549, Emma and Victor Fulton to Mrs. Francis E. Leopard, warranty deed, 15 February 1904; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport; Frances purchased 25 acres in Section 8, T17N-R14W.

²⁵ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1904: folios 115, 136; 1905: 127, 150; 1906: 131, 155; 1907: 166, 197; 1908: 263–4, 323; 1910: 284, 352. First folios for each year identifies Leopard entries; the second folio identifies Roach entries.

²⁶ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Matilda P. G. Allen, Henry E. Allen, and James S. Allen to John J. Hope and George W. Stoner, warranty deed, 16 November 1870, original authentic act no. 16196; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

²⁷ 1910 U.S. census, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Ward 4, Jewella Precinct, folio 74 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 34, sheet 5-A, dwelling 97, family 98, H. Sidney Roach household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 October 2011); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 510; the original entry “OA” or working on his own account was overwritten with “Emp” or employer.

²⁸ Joseph Dainow, editor, *1972 Compiled Edition of the Civil Codes of Louisiana*, in *West's Louisiana Statutes Annotated*, Volumes 16-17 (St. Paul, Minnesota: West Publishing Company, 1973), 16: 19, 136, Articles 37 and 216, respectively, Louisiana Revised Civil Code of 1870. Age of majority was then 21. Unless emancipated Early “remains under the authority of his father and mother.”

²⁹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st District Court case file no. 15461 (1911), Petition, Affidavit, and Judgment for Emancipation [of *Early R. Stoner and Ethel B. Stoner*], 2 September 1911; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

inherited their deceased father's share of their grandfather George W. Stoner's estate in 1907.³⁰ Figure 1 shows the real estate portion of their share, shaded yellow. Within two months, the tract became Magnolia Addition Subdivision.³¹

- Early returned to Caddo Parish, Louisiana, in 1912. Of the several records that confirm his return to the parish, the first occurred just six weeks after the 13 March sale executed in California—he married Mary 30 April 1912 in Caddo Parish. Two of Mary's possible relatives, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Roach witnessed the marriage event officiated by Rev. A. D. Kendrick. The surety on Early's marriage bond was C. L. Bland,³² who probably purchased Early's inheritance on the 13th of March previously.

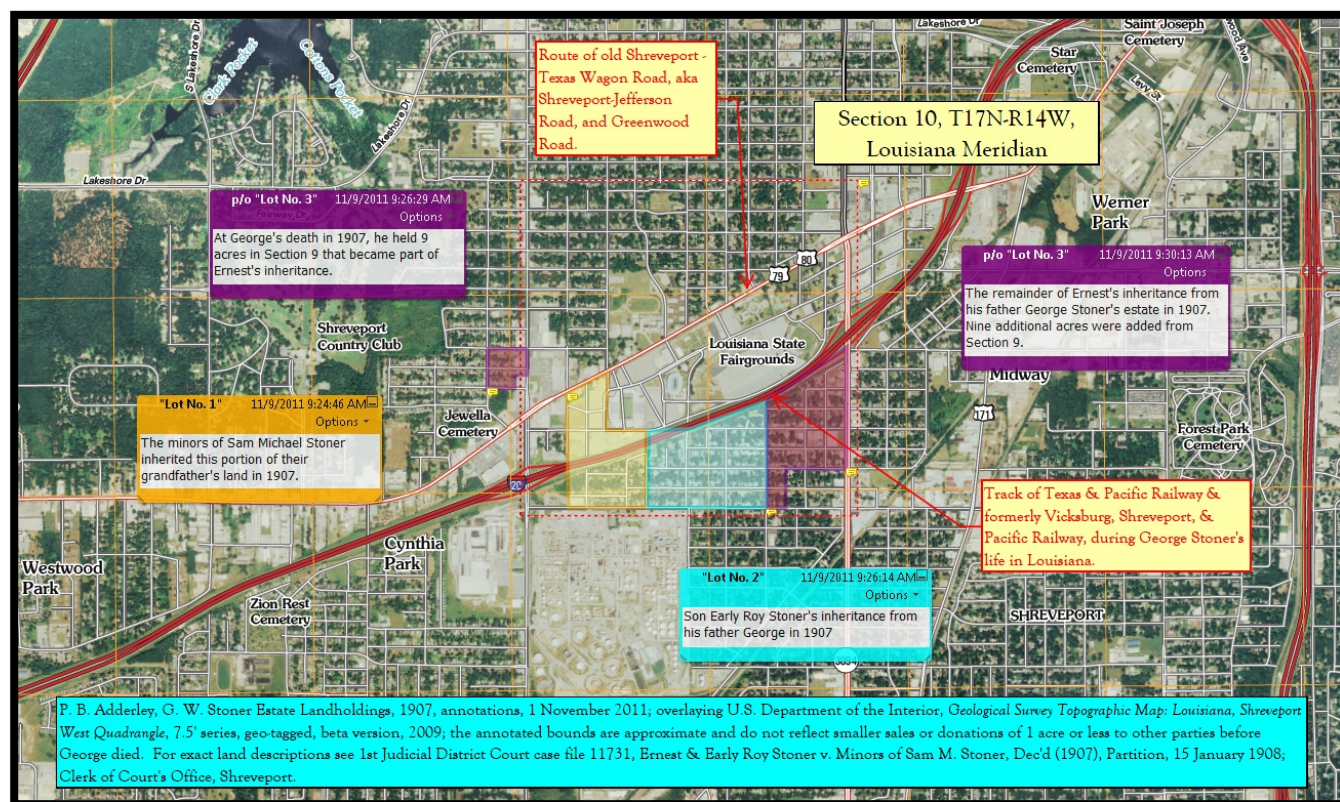


Figure 1: George W. Stoner's 1907 Estate Landholdings

The following month—May 1912—witnessed a flurry of activity.

A week after they married, Early Roy Stoner and his wife Mary Roach Stoner bought Lots 11, 12, 13, 14 and the east half of Lot 10 of the Oakside Subdivision in Shreveport for \$4100: \$1000 in cash and \$3100 in two promissory notes. The document notes them as residents of Caddo Parish. They sold the same on 30 December for \$1150 cash and assumption of the outstanding mortgage.³³ This

³⁰ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, E. Roy Stoner, Mrs. Ethel B. Pike, Mrs. Frances E. Leopard and George W. Leopard (Tutor and Co-Tutor representing minor Mary Ray Stoner) to C. L. Bland, warranty deed, 13 March 1912, original authentic act no. 30294; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Also, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 47:378–9, Heirs of G. W. Stoner to Each Other, partition, 15 January 1908; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 11731, Ernest & Early Roy Stoner v. Minors of Sam M. Stoner, Dec'd (1907), Partition, 15 January 1908; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

³¹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Map Book 50:515, L. Z. Crawford, parish surveyor, plat map of Magnolia Addition, subdivision of land within lots 3, 4, & 8 of Section 10, T17N-R14W, May 1912; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

³² Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Marriage Book 38: 593, Early Roy Stoner and Mary Roach, 1912, recorded bond with original signature, license, and return; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

³³ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, T. Foreman Parker to E. Roy Stoner, warranty deed, 7 May 1912, original authentic act no. 30461; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, E. Roy Stoner to J. E. Johnston, Jr., warranty deed, 30 December 1912, original authentic act no. 36192; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

may have been the first transaction in which Early tried his hand as a real estate investor, as no kinship related connections with this land have been uncovered, and Early retained it for only six months.

Eight days after his Oaksides Subdivision purchase, Early bought a \$350 piano from Hutchinson Brothers in Shreveport. He paid \$25 in cash and the balance in thirty-two promissory notes covering the remainder. Someone in handwriting other than Early's penned at the bottom of promissory note #6 the address "2800 Stonewall St." which is consistent with the address reported for Mary and him in the 1913 Shreveport city directory.³⁴ Early apparently did not pay the first notes promptly, because the seller quickly brought suit for non-payment. Judgment rendered 15 July 1912 against Early resulted in the sheriff's seizure of the piano by Writ of Sequestration until final determination of the case. Whether Early eventually paid the debt and recovered the piano is unknown—the case file is silent.³⁵

Marrying Mary was Early's foremost action after his return from California, but why did the couple remain in the parish? Perhaps it was to be close to Mary Roach's family and kin. Minerals—oil and natural gas—and the local economic environment they stimulated were more discernible reasons. News accounts had already been circulating that the Caddo Field, consisting of substantial oil and gas deposits in northwest Louisiana, was being drilled with some success. Earlier in 1908 the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* reported that a large new corporation was forming to drill new wells in the Caddo Field.³⁶ A year later it reported rapid development of oil and gas production in the field, with Standard Oil leading the investors. By then two pipeline companies were operating in the Caddo Field: the Gulf Refining Company and the Louisiana Gas Company.³⁷

Early and May eagerly joined others seeking to benefit from mineral rights. On 30 May 1912, a month after their marriage, Early purchased one hundred acres of land south of Caddo Lake in Section 12 of T17N-R15W from W. L. and A. C. Steere. This land was about two miles due west of the Leopard and Roach farms. He paid \$4500: \$1400 cash and the remainder in three promissory notes.³⁸ He then leased his mineral rights in its northern forty acres, adjacent to the Shreveport-Jefferson Road (formerly the Shreveport Texas Wagon Road), via an oil and gas lease for \$100 cash, one eighth of the future oil production, and \$200 quarterly for each gas producing well. The lessee R. T. Layne formally accepted the lease on 12 December 1912,³⁹ and it continued in force until 21 July 1916 when the parties Early and the Standard Oil Company, which had apparently acquired it from Layne in the interim, mutually agreed to its cancellation.⁴⁰ Although he retained his mineral rights to it, Early did not keep the hundred-acre tract long. In November 1912 he began a series of actions that ultimately led to its sale by 21 December, when J. E. Johnston, Jr. acquired it for \$6000, in cash and promissory notes. The mineral oil and gas rights were not part of the transaction.⁴¹

Within a span of nine months, then, Early had sold the real estate he inherited from his Grandfather George W. Stoner; married Mary the eldest daughter of his dairy-farming neighbor; and bought and sold two substantial real estate tracts, keeping the mineral rights from second. His interest in real estate persisted, with a special interest in other land that had been part of his grandfather George W. Stoner's estate in 1907—the land inherited by his two uncles.

³⁴ *Shreveport City Directory 1913* (Shreveport, Louisiana: Louis N. Brueggerhoff, 1913), "Prefatory" page unpaginated, 410, 545.

³⁵ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 18509, Hutchinson Bros. vs. E. R. Stoner (1914); Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

³⁶ "Start New Oil Company, Congressman Broussard Heads a \$50,000 Caddo Corporation," *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, 27 July 1908, p. 8., col. 4; digital images, "Historical Newspapers," *GenealogyBank.com* (<http://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 9 May 2012).

³⁷ "Oil Industry Is Growing Greater," *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, 1 September 1909, p. 45, cols. 5–7; digital images, "Historical Newspapers," *GenealogyBank.com* (<http://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 9 May 2012).

³⁸ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, W. L. Steere and A. C. Steere to E. Roy Stoner, warranty deed, 30 May 1912, original authentic act no. 31093; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

³⁹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, E. Roy Stoner to R. T. Layne, lease, 23 July 1912, and acknowledgment, 25 July 1912, original private act no. 32987; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, R. T. Layne to E. Roy Stoner, acceptance of lease and acknowledgment, 12 December 1912, original private act no. 35894; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁴⁰ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 109:236, Standard Oil Company to E. Roy Stoner, lease cancellation, 21 July 1916; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁴¹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, E. Roy Stoner to R. C. Boisseau and D. H. Cathey, option to sell land, 24 November 1912, original authentic act no. 35473; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 80:87, E. Roy Stoner to R. C. Boisseau and D. H. Cathey, option to sell land, 24 November 1912; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, R. C. Boisseau and D. H. Cathey to E. Roy Stoner, release, 20 December 1912, original authentic act no. 36035; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, E. Roy Stoner to J. E. Johnston, Jr., warranty deed, 21 December 1912, original authentic act no. 36054; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

Figure 1 and Figure 2 both show land inherited by George W. Stoner's two surviving sons Ernest and Early Stoner, shaded red and blue respectively.⁴² George's son Early sold his inherited real estate first, to William S. Penick, Jr., in two transactions, 18 May and 30 October 1908.⁴³ Ernest sold his land 26 August 1909 to H. R. Ratcliff and Carl Svarva.⁴⁴ From the union of these tracts, Ingleside Subdivision was formed on or about 7 March 1910. Figure 2 shows the newly created subdivision as it appeared then.

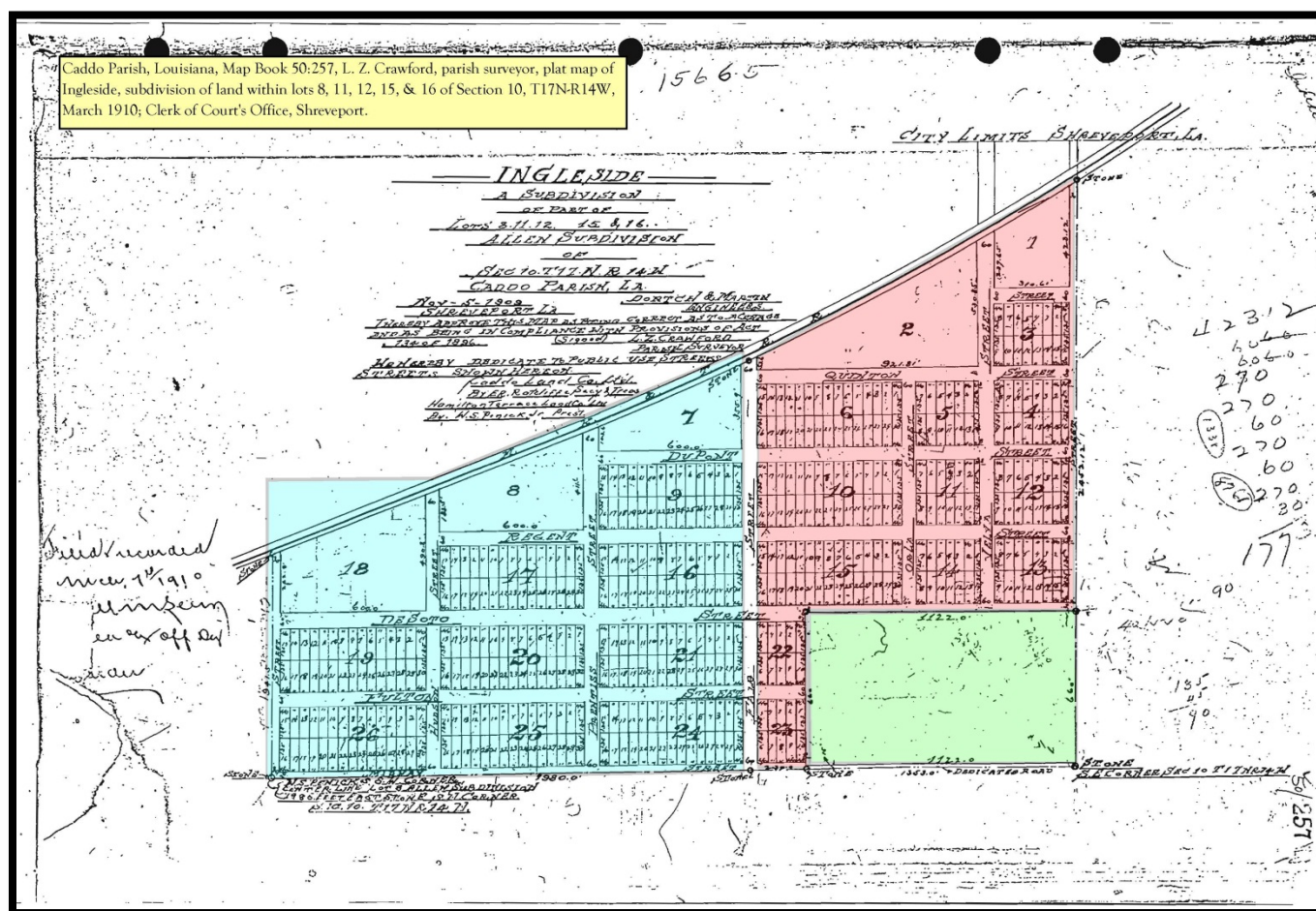


Figure 2. Ingleside Subdivision, 1910, shadings added by the author.

Yates Holmes is listed as a single man who partnered with Early Roy Stoner, husband of Mary Roach Stoner, to purchase a large number of lots in the Ingleside Subdivision in the city of Shreveport for \$9000, in cash and promissory notes, on 14 September 1912. This land lies in Ingleside Subdivision only, and does not comprise any part of the Ingleside Annex subdivision, shaded green in Figure 2. Early's participation in subsequent real estate transactions in Ingleside Subdivision continued until early 1915. Yates, who married Mary Ray

⁴² Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 47:378-9, Heirs of G. W. Stoner to Each Other, partition, 15 January 1908; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Also, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 11731, Ernest & Early Roy Stoner v. Minors of Sam M. Stoner, Dec'd (1907), Partition, 15 January 1908; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁴³ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Early R. Stoner to William S. Penick, Jr., warranty deeds, 18 May & 30 October 1908, original authentic acts no. 6505 and 8538 respectively; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁴⁴ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Ernest Stoner to H. R. Ratcliff and Carl Svarva, warranty deed, 26 August 1909, original authentic act no. 13032; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

Stoner, Early's sister, was involved in several of the transactions. No records have been found to support any role for Early other than as a financial investor in the subdivision. Table 1 lists Early's participation.⁴⁵

Table 1. Early Roy Stoner's Land Transactions, Ingleside Subdivision, 1912–1915.

Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Caddo Land Co. (H. R. Ratcliff, president) to E. Roy Stoner and Yates L. Holmes, warranty deed, 14 September 1912; original authentic act no. 33951, Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.
Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, E. Roy Stoner and Yates L. Holmes to C. W. Leach, warranty deed, 24 September 1912; original authentic act no. 34139, Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.
Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, E. Roy Stoner to Yates L. Holmes, quitclaim deed, 7 October 1912; original authentic act no. 34976, Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.
Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, E. Roy Stoner to Yates L. Holmes, quitclaim deed, 7 November 1912; original authentic act no. 35068, Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.
Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, E. Roy Stoner to Yates L. Holmes, quitclaim deed, 23 December 1912; original authentic act no. 36081, Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.
Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, J. E. Johnston, Jr., to E. Roy Stoner, warranty deed, 17 September 1914; original authentic act no. 51040, Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.
Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 96:233, E. Roy Stoner to J. E. Johnston, Jr., warranty deed, 17 September 1914; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.
Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, E. Roy Stoner and Ethel B. Pike to Yates L. Holmes, quitclaim deeds, 24 February 1915; original authentic act no. 54558, Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport

Early and Mary bought what was probably their first home 30 December 1912 for \$2400 cash and the assumption of a mortgage from J. E. Johnston, Jr. The land consisted of Lot 20 and the east half of Lot 19 in Block 16 of the Queensborough Addition Subdivision in Shreveport.⁴⁶ They were taxed on the property for the first time, as expected, in the 1913 Caddo Parish Tax Assessments, and Early also paid taxes on an automobile valued at \$200.⁴⁷ A survey map of the subdivision places the lots at the northwest corner of the intersection of Missouri Boulevard and Stonewall Street, facing south on Stonewall. The subdivision itself was in the southeast corner of Section 3, T17N-R14W, less than a mile north of George W. Stoner's Jewella homestead. The street car line was a block to the east and ran south about seven to eight blocks to Greenwood Road and the northern edge of Louisiana State Fairgrounds.⁴⁸

Shreveport's 1913 city directory confirmed the couple living and residing at 2800 Stonewall Street. Mary appeared as "May R," spouse of Early R. Stoner. The census count of two implied that no children under age sixteen resided in the household,⁴⁹ confirming that their children were yet twinkles in their parents' eyes.⁵⁰ Since their piano from Hutchinson Brothers was delivered to 2800 Stonewall Street on or before July 1912, it is likely that Early and Mary had rented this property then and bought it on 30 December. Yates L. and wife Mary R. Holmes–Early's sister–resided nearby in 1914 at 2639 Greenwood Road, between Arkansas Avenue and Kentucky Avenue, about eight to ten blocks south and west of Early.⁵¹

⁴⁵ Yates Holmes may have continued buying and selling lots in the subdivision, but his subsequent transactions therein have not been researched.

⁴⁶ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, J. E. Johnston, Jr., to E. Roy Stoner, warranty deed, 30 December 1912, original authentic act no. 36191; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁴⁷ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1913, folio 507 for E. Roy Stoner.

⁴⁸ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 41:385, L. Z. Crawford, parish surveyor, plat map of Queensborough Addition, subdivision of land in southeast quarter of Section 3, T17N-R14W, November 1906; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁴⁹ *Shreveport City Directory 1913* (Shreveport, Louisiana: Louis N. Brueggerhoff, 1913), "Prefatory" page unpaginated, 410, 545; the Prefatory notes the age (16 and above) at which persons are separately listed in the directory, even if living in the same household.

⁵⁰ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Mary Ray Stoner birth certificate, no number, 18 March 1914; Caddo Shreveport Health Unit, Division of Vital Statistics, Shreveport; digital image, certified true copy, 15 March 1972, held and supplied by Talman Stoner, Beaverton, Oregon. The daughter was listed as the only child of born of her mother at this time.

⁵¹ *Shreveport City Directory 1914* (Shreveport, Louisiana: L. N. Brueggerhoff, 1914), 76, 111, and 245 for Holmes, 105 and 280 for Leopard.

The Estates of George Washington Stoner and Elizabeth H. Stoner: Inheritances by Grandchildren Early Roy Stoner, Ethel Bell Stoner, and Mary Ray Stoner

The final settlement of George W. Stoner's and Lizzie H. Stoner's estates with respect to the children of their pre-deceased son Samuel Michael Stoner occurred 10 October 1912.⁵² The Tutorship of the Minors of Sam M. Stoner had formally begun after Lizzie's death in 1901⁵³ under Louisiana District Court jurisdiction, case no. 7619 in Caddo Parish.⁵⁴ The tutorship dealt with Lizzie's estate until it also accrued Sam's share of his father George W. Stoner's succession after the latter's 1907 death in the parish, Sam's children still being minors at the time. In order to place the final settlement in perspective, it is helpful to understand a few basic rights and privileges of the children's guardians and key restrictions imposed upon them by law; and in that context to review chronologically key events associated with the tutorship account. Notwithstanding modifications to specific provisions by legislative act, the Louisiana Revised Civil Code of 1870 prevailed for the life of the case, 1901–1912; the respective Article numbers appear in parentheses.⁵⁵

- Beginning in 1870, regardless of a minor's age, a guardian in Louisiana was designated a Tutor (male) or Tutrix (female) (Article 246). A Tutor or Tutrix is usually the surviving parent by right (250), but if a surviving parent remarries without following specific requirements she is deprived the right and must be qualified and court-appointed (254). Such was Frances Elizabeth (Vines) Stoner's case, as she had remarried in 1896.⁵⁶
- Because of her remarriage and her subsequent appointment as Tutrix, the law required "by necessity" that her second husband George W. Leopard be appointed Co-Tutor (255). The children's grandfather George W. Stoner had recommended these appointments to the court in his petition 18 February 1902.⁵⁷
- To safeguard the minors' interest from conflict with that of the Tutrix (Frances), the court appointed an Under-Tutor (273–275). The minors' uncle Early Roy Stoner was their first Under-Tutor until 15 February 1909, after which C. J. Dennison was appointed.⁵⁸
- The court often required a bond of each appointed tutor to safeguard the minors' interests. George and Frances each posted a bond.⁵⁹ To satisfy her particular bond requirement Frances' purchased with her own separate funds twenty-fives acres of land in 1904, and she did not sell it until the court released her from the bond requirement 1 December 1909, her husband George's ownership of separate land remaining as sufficient security.⁶⁰ Three years later, after final settlement of the Tutorship account, George and Frances petitioned for release of their obligations as trustees of the minors of Sam Michael Stoner. The outstanding bond and mortgage given by the Tutrix and Co-Tutor as securities were ordered canceled and released 12 October 1912.⁶¹
- To further safeguard the minor's interest, court-run family meetings (285) were required involving five relatives (or friends if relatives could not be found) who resided within thirty miles (281), were appointed by a judge (284), and did not have a conflict

⁵² Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 7619, Tutorship of the Minors of Sam M. Stoner (1901), Final Settlement of Francis E. Leopard, Tutrix, and Geo. Leopard, Co-Tutor, Receipt and Acknowledgment of Mary Ray Stoner Holmes, Receipt and Acknowledgment of Ethel B. Stoner Pike, Receipt and Acknowledgment of E. Roy Stoner, all 10 October 1912; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁵³ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, District Court case file, no. 6913, Succession of Lizzie H. Stoner, 1901, Petition for Probate of Will, 18 February 1901; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁵⁴ Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case 7619, Petition and Order for Family Meeting, 1 July 1902.

⁵⁵ The articles of the Louisiana Revised Civil Code of 1870 can be found in several different sources. The author used Joseph Dainow, editor, 1972 *Compiled Edition of the Civil Codes of Louisiana*, in *West's Louisiana Statutes Annotated*, Volumes 16-17 (St. Paul, Minnesota: West Publishing Company, 1973). The article numbers that subsequently appear are found in vol. 16 under Title VIII, "Of Minors, or Their Tutorship and Emancipation."

⁵⁶ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Marriage Book 21: 657, G. W. Leopard and Mrs. F. E. Stoner, 1896, recorded bond (with original signatures), license and return; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁵⁷ Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case 7619, Petition and Order for Family Meeting, 1 July 1902.

⁵⁸ Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case 7619, Oath of Under-Tutor, 10 July 1902, for Early; Resignation of Early R. Stoner as Under-Tutor, 17 February 1909; Letters to C. J. Dennison Under-Tutor, 17 February 1909.

⁵⁹ Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case 7619, Bond of Tutor and Co-Tutor, 9 July 1902; Petition for New Bond and Cancellation of Old Bond and Orders for the Same, 17 April 1903;

⁶⁰ Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case 7619, Proces Verbal of Family Meeting, and Petition for and Judgment Homologating Family Meeting, both 1 December 1909; citing Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 34:549, V. L. and Emma I. Fulton to Frances E. Leopard (1904).

⁶¹ Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case 7619, Petition and Order Discharging Tutrix and Co-Tutor Ordering Mortgage and Bond Cancelled, 12 October 1912.

of interest with one of the minors, even if related (283). The Under-Tutor's presence was required but he was *not* allowed to be a family meeting member; he was expected to oppose any recommendation of a meeting if he felt that it was "injurious to the interests of the minor" (276). Minutes from these meetings were required of the court-appointed officer moderating the meeting and they had to be signed by the family meeting members for subsequent submission to the court for its review and approval (291). A judge's approval "homologated" the proceedings if he concurred with the recommendations, and subsequent court orders might be issued reflecting his decisions. Numerous petitions, meeting minutes, court orders, and other documents survive in the Tutorship's case file, some of which are discussed below.

- The Tutrix was required to invest the minors' revenues less expenses (347), and she could not sell, lease or mortgage their real property without specific authorization to do so (341). She could sell the capital or use it as collateral to acquire funds to offset the costs of raising and educating the children, provided that family meetings endorsed the actions and the court so ordered them (350). Frances' actions are captured in family meeting minutes. Despite the 1902 start of her tutorship, her first substantive request for the financial needs of her children was sought and accepted in a family meeting accompanied by corresponding court order, both on 3 March 1909, allowing her to use the 16 acres of land belonging to the minors as collateral in a mortgage for \$1000.⁶² The land is shown shaded green in Figure 2, which is a 17-acre parcel, but the 17th acre was reserved for a church or school in the extreme southeast corner. This land had come into the minors' complete possession through a set of complimentary quitclaim deeds valued at about \$1500 each, beginning 14 July 1902.
 - First the minors quitclaimed their share of their grandmother's estate on 14 July 1902 and 11 September 1903. Two deeds were required because, although they legally owned a collective 2/9 interest, only 1/9 was erroneously quitclaimed initially, and the other 1/9 interest was quitclaimed after the error was discovered.⁶³
 - The remaining heirs of Lizzie's estate—grandfather George W. Stoner and his sons Ernest and Early—quitclaimed to the minors their 8/9 share in the sixteen acre parcel just described on 16 July 1902, but they legally owned only a 7/9 share. A deed correcting the error could not be located, but may not have been needed, since the intent of the quitclaim was to effectively release all their interest in the property.⁶⁴
 - Based upon the approximately equal values of the two quitclaims and the two days separating them, it seems clear that the intent of all parties was to give Sam's minors full ownership of enough acreage, such that its value approximated their fractional share of their grandmother's total estate; and for the minors, in turn to quitclaim their share in *all remaining* lands in her estate to their grandfather and two uncles. This may have become the family's intent by December 1901, seven months before the formal execution of the quitclaims, because two warranty deeds and a donation given by George and his two living sons to other parties reflected *their* full ownership.⁶⁵ Unfortunately, they made all three transactions *before the July 1902 quitclaims*, which resulted in incorrect land descriptions and flawed titles.⁶⁶
- Although the terms of the 3 March 1909 mortgage have not been uncovered, Frances' actions on 1 October 1909 suggest that it had a 6-12month term. Frances sought to sell her minors' 16-acre holding in Section 10, T17N-R14W to avoid foreclosure on the \$1000 mortgage she was allowed to execute on 3 March 1909. The corresponding family meeting concurred and the court approved on 5 October 1909. On the same day William Hamilton purchased the minors' sixteen acres for \$2000 and assumption of the \$1000 mortgage. Because her 1909 petition spoke of the financial needs of her children, and because there had been no prior request for financial relief since her tutorship began in 1902, it is reasonable to presume that the extended family and court considered the proceeds of the sale as necessary to partially offset the expenses she incurred to raise and

⁶² Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case 7619, Proces Verbal of Family Meeting, and Petition for and Judgment Homologating Family Meeting, both 3 March 1909.

⁶³ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 28:798, Heirs of Sam M. Stoner to George W. Stoner, quitclaim deed, 14 July 1902; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 35:212, Heirs of Sam M. Stoner (Tutrix Mrs. Eliza F. Stoner and Co-Tutor Geo. W. Leopard her husband) to George W. Stoner, quitclaim deed, 11 September 1903; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁶⁴ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, George W. Stoner, Ernest Stoner, and Early R. Stoner to Heirs of Sam M. Stoner, quitclaim deed, 16 July 1902, original authentic act no. 51600; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁶⁵ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyances, George W. Stoner, Ernest Stoner, and Early R. Stoner to Hans C. Henrickson and John J. Sneed (Trustees of Jewella Christian Church), donation, 2 December 1901, original authentic act no. 50654; George W. Stoner, Ernest Stoner, and Early R. Stoner to T. B. Herndon, warranty deed, 18 January 1902, original authentic act no. 50196; George W. Stoner, Ernest Stoner, and Early R. Stoner to Moses W. Jackson, warranty deed, 20 January 1902, original authentic act no. 50204; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁶⁶ The corrections that were subsequently required are discussed in the life histories of George and Lizzie Stoner, Generation no. 3 Ascending.

educate her children to this point, and to partially serve as 10% of the minors' annual revenues to which she was legally entitled as a commission for her "care and labor" (349).

- George W. Stoner left an inventory of \$44,213.00 in his 1907 succession. Although the succession's case file in the Caddo Parish courthouse is missing, the succession's inventory is restated in District Court case file 11731, Ernest & Early Roy Stoner v. Minors of Sam M. Stoner.⁶⁷ The suit resulted in the partitioning of George W. Stoner's estate into three equal lots of land, movable property, mortgage notes, and cash. The exact quantities of land, notes, and other property varied from lot to lot, but overall division into three equal lots was achieved. The three minors selected by chance Lot #1 which consisted of about 48 acres of land appraised at \$9854.50 (Figure 1, shaded yellow), mortgage and promissory notes assessed at \$4641.57, and \$241.65 in movable property and cash. Lot #1 and the other two lots each totaled **\$14,737.72**.
- On 29 February 1912, George and Frances Eliza Leopard sought permission to dispose of and partition the assets held in common by the emancipated Early Roy and Ethel B. (Stoner) Pike, and the remaining minor of Sam Stoner–Mary Ray Stoner. They received court judgment on 1 March authorizing their action.⁶⁸
- Twelve days later, E. Roy Stoner+, an emancipated minor, his sister Mrs. Ethel B. Pike, and the trustees for his unmarried minor sister Mary Ray Stoner sold the 48 acres inherited from their grandfather George W. Stoner for \$19,148 cash, 13 March 1912.⁶⁹
- The revenue generated from the minors' 48 acre land sale thus came to \$19,148.00 less its appraised value \$9854.50, or \$9293.50. By law Frances was entitled to 10% of the revenue, or \$929.35.
- Early Roy Stoner made two significant cash down payments totaling \$2400⁷⁰ and another of \$3135 in partnership with Yates Holmes, Mary Ray Stoner's husband,⁷¹ *before* final settlement of their mother's tutorship account on 10 October 1912.⁷² Since he was an active participant in the 13 March land sale, it is likely that some, if not all, of \$6383 (one third of \$19148) went into his hands directly, and not into his mother's tutorship account. Ethel Bell (Stoner) Pike was also an active participant signing on her own behalf with her husband's consent. Mary's share, since she was still legally a minor, should have been retained by her mother on her behalf.
- The final settlement account dated 10 October 1912 totaled \$13,413.45 *cash*. The report does not detail how Frances derived this number. For example, there is no indication if the \$4641 in notes receivables existing in paper-form in George W. Stoner's succession were (a) successfully converted to cash on the minors' behalf, or (b) written off, or (c) passed silently to the heirs for future collection. Similarly, how much of the \$19,348 land sale proceeds on 13 March (a) passed directly to the heirs, (b) was included in the final settlement, and (c) kept by Frances as commission and to cover her expenses?
- The truth is probably an amalgam of the observed documents and negative evidence: no suits have been found filed in Caddo Parish by any of her children or by their Under-Tutors for mismanagement of her tutorship. Considering the oversight imposed on her tutorship by family meetings, court reviews, and, after emancipation, her children themselves, it is likely that Frances and her second husband G. W. Leopard did well for her first husband's children from 1902 through 1912.
- Sometime between 24 and 28 September 1912, Mary Ray Stoner, Early's youngest sibling by his father Sam and still a minor, married Yates L. Holmes.⁷³ Although she had not reached the age of majority, her marriage "emancipated" her under Louisiana

⁶⁷ Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case 11731, Partition, 15 January 1908, filed 18 January 1908.

⁶⁸ Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case 7619, Petition and Order for Family Meeting, 29 February 1912, Proces Verbal of Family Meeting, and Petition for and Judgment Homologating Family Meeting, both 1 March 1912.

⁶⁹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, E. Roy Stoner, Mrs. Ethel B. Pike, Mrs. Frances E. Leopard and George W. Leopard (Tutor and Co-Tutor representing minor Mary Ray Stoner) to C. L. Bland, warranty deed, 13 March 1912.

⁷⁰ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, T. Foreman Parker to E. Roy Stoner, warranty deed, 7 May 1912. Also, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, W. L. Steere and A. C. Steere to E. Roy Stoner, warranty deed, 30 May 1912.

⁷¹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Caddo Land Co. (H. R. Ratcliff, pres.) to E. Roy Stoner & Yates Holmes, warranty deed, 14 September 1912.

⁷² Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case 7619, Final Settlement of Francis E. Leopard, Tutrix, and Geo. Leopard, Co-Tutor, 10 October 1912.

⁷³ Yates was unmarried as late as 24 September 1912, per Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, E. Roy Stoner and Yates L. Holmes to C. W. Leach, warranty deed, 24 September 1912, original authentic act no. 34139; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. On the 28th of September 1912 Yates authorized his wife Mary Ray Stoner Holmes to signed her documents in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 7619, Tutorship of the Minors of Sam M. Stoner (1901), Final Settlement of Francis E. Leopard, Tutrix, and Geo. Leopard, Co-Tutor, Receipt and Acknowledgment of Mary Ray Stoner Holmes; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Where the Holmes-Stoner marriage occurred has not been determined.

law.⁷⁴ Following her emancipation, the three siblings reached a settlement agreement on 28 September that partitioned the inheritance due them from the Tutorship of the Minors of Sam Stoner. Each sibling acknowledged the settlement agreement, received \$4,471.15 in cash, and signed a receipt for it, on 10 October 1912.⁷⁵

- Coincident with final settlement, the 65-acre tax assessment for the “Heirs of Sam Stoner” last appeared on the 1912 Caddo Parish tax rolls.⁷⁶ It had consisted of 16 acres from Grandmother Lizzie Stoner’s 1901 estate, and 48–49 acres from Grandfather George W. Stoner’s 1907 estate.

Louisiana National Guard, ca. 1912–1917

The years 1912–1913 were important in Early’s life for another reason. In one of these he probably enlisted in the Louisiana National Guard. Evidence indirectly supporting the assumption derives from his 1917 World War I draft registration card; the history of the Louisiana National Guard company recruited locally from Caddo Parish, including its call-up into active duty for World War I; and Early’s return to Caddo Parish from California in March–April 1912, previously discussed.

Early’s signed his draft registration card for World War I in June, 1917, all other entries being penned, however, by his step-father, whose handwriting identifies him as the precinct’s draft board registrar. Early’s reported age twenty-five, date and place of birth, and married status with two children are consistent with expectations.⁷⁷ His occupation as a farmer with mailing address RFD 2, Shreveport, may have been that associated with his father-in-law Sydney Henry Roach, who was in the dairy farming business,⁷⁸ or stepfather G. W. Leopard’s farm, which remained in the latter’s possession until 1920.⁷⁹ Early’s physical description was medium build and height, with brown hair and blue eyes, and no physical disabilities with respect to limbs and eyes. He did not claim an exemption from the draft.⁸⁰

Early reported on his card that he had served as a Private for *four* years in the Louisiana National Guard. No dates for his service were added, but the registration card contained no provisions for them. One can deduce the beginning and ending timeframes:

- Service started no earlier than his return from California to Caddo Parish, or 13 March–30 April 1912. He was then aged twenty but previously emancipated while residing in California. If the guard required and enforced a twenty-one year age minimum, however, then his earliest starting date was 11 June 1912.
- The ending timeframe was not the June entry on his draft card, but the date that Louisiana National Guard units were called up and mustered into federal service for World War I, or 17 April 1917.⁸¹ Early had to have been discharged from the Guard

⁷⁴ Joseph Dainow, ed., *1972 Compiled Edition of the Civil Codes of Louisiana*, 16: 235, Article 379 of the Louisiana Revised Civil Code of 1870 applied.

⁷⁵ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 7619, Tutorship of the Minors of Sam M. Stoner (1901), Final Settlement of Francis E. Leopard, Tutrix, and Geo. Leopard, Co-Tutor, Receipt and Acknowledgment of Mary Ray Stoner Holmes, Receipt and Acknowledgment of Ethel B. Stoner Pike, Receipt and Acknowledgment of E. Roy Stoner, all 10 October 1912; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport. The case file contains numerous documents that date from Lizzie H. Stoner’s death in 1901 until the grandchildren’s Tutorship Account was distributed in October 1912.

⁷⁶ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1912, folio 404 for Heirs of Sam Stoner.

⁷⁷ 1920 U.S. census, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Ward 4, enumeration district (ED) 40, folio 49 (stamped), sheet 12-A (struck through and labeled 49-A), dwelling 234, family 265, Roy Stanley [sic] in household of Henry S. Roach; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 16 April 2009); citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 608; Early and Mary show only two children and the youngest George H. was three years and three months old, inferring birth ca. September 1916.

⁷⁸ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1908, folio 323; 1917, folio 656; for H. S. Roach. By 1917 Roach had disposed of his 10 acres in Section 8 but still held the same 80 acres in Section 7 as he did in 1908—the south half of the northeast quarter. 1910 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch., Ward 4, Jewella Pct., folio 74, ED 34, sheet 5-A, dwell. 97, fam. 98, H. Sidney Roach, dairy and truck farmer.

⁷⁹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 143:469, George W. Leopard to W. L. Dickinson, warranty deed, 15 March 1920; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport. H. S. Roach’s

⁸⁰ “World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918,” digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 April 2012), Erley [sic] Roy Stoner, serial no. 2790, order no. 79, Precinct 10, Caddo Parish, Louisiana; citing *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*, NARA microfilm publication M1509; no specific roll cited; the signature “Early Roy Stoner,” is consistent with that of George Leopard’s stepson. George attested Early’s signature and signed as draft board registrar. Only the signature was Early’s; the card entries appeared to be in Leopard’s hand; original signatures of both men have been collected from multiple documents and are held by P. B. Adderley, Shreveport, Louisiana, 2012.

⁸¹ Waldo Moore, “Shreveport Gave Many in Defense of Their Country,” *The Shreveport Journal*, Centennial Edition, 27 June 1935, page and column not specified; Newspaper Collection (1812, 1843–1985, 1991), Collection 344, Box 20, Archives and Special Collections, Noel Memorial Library, Louisiana State University in Shreveport; digitized article supplied 4 May 2012 by Shawn Bohannon.

prior to this date: if he were still in the Guard on or after that date, he would have been called up with his unit and mustered into federal service, presumably making a draft card dated the following month unnecessary.

- Therefore, if Early served four years in the Louisiana National Guard, he did so sometime in the five year interval March 1912 through 17 April 1917. On the basis of the four years' service he listed, his enlistment had to begin either in 1912 or no later than 17 April 1913.

Military records that might shed light on Early's service in the Guard do not survive from this period at local and state archival depositories, nor does it appear that the Guard itself still holds records of this period.⁸² One 1935 Shreveport newspaper account, however, noted that Shreveport's "local company" was Company L, 156th Infantry, Louisiana National Guard. This unit reportedly served along the Mexican border in the summer of 1916, and, when war was declared on 6 April 1917, the unit was mustered into federal service on the 17th of April. After mobilization it reportedly became Company B, 142nd Machine Gun Battalion, 39th Division, and served in France in the summer of 1918. The newspaper published the roster of the company as of the 17th of April 1917. It did not include Early, as expected, but named a private that might be Early's half-brother "R. O. Leopard."⁸³ If the name reflects the same person, Robert O. Leopard was then about nineteen years old.⁸⁴

1913 to 1917

By 1912's close Early Roy Stoner had relocated to Caddo Parish; married Mary Caroline Roach; invested in real estate and mineral rights; bought his first home on Stonewall Street in Shreveport; and, in either 1912 or 1913, probably enlisted with the Louisiana National Guard.

The 1913 Shreveport city directory captured Early's occupation as a "tinner" or sheet metal worker. Perhaps his early time working as a clerk in the California pipe works industry had introduced him to this trade. The Shreveport directory for 1913 lists both business and residential addresses. In Early's case the business location was 2800 Stonewall and "h" [home] was the "same."⁸⁵ It is likely that Early used part of the land and improvements at his residential location as a base for a small sheet metal business.

Early and his sisters received a windfall in early 1913 from an unexpected quarter. The 16-acre inheritance that their mother Frances had sold on their behalf to William Hamilton for \$2000 on 5 October 1909 included the assumption of a \$1000 mortgage.⁸⁶ The land changed hands with the mortgage being unpaid by the time a W. S. Johnston assumed ownership. In early 1913 Early and his sisters sued Johnston in Louisiana District Court for Caddo Parish. The plaintiffs won the case and the resulting conveyance documents the court's remedy. Early and his sisters retained title to the land by judgment, but Johnston had paid outstanding mortgages on some of the property, most of which had been developed by then into 104 lots comprising the Ingleside Annex Subdivision, and a few lots immediately west of it in Ingleside Subdivision. Instead of reimbursing Johnston for the amounts he had already paid (on their behalf), the siblings quitclaimed their interest in specified lots, to him and to a Mrs. Kathleen Ellis. Besides Early, Mary Ray (Stoner) Holmes

⁸² Attempts to acquire records of Louisiana National Guard servicemen in the ten years preceding World War I have been unsuccessful. Guard holdings at the Louisiana State Archives occur in two date groupings: 1883–1896 (Accession P1985-154) and 1943–1945 (Accession P1977-116); information supplied by 1 May 2012 by Bill Stafford, Director of Reference Services. Local Guard-related material covering approx. 1926–1933 appear in Collection No. 122, Hollingsworth B. Barret Papers, 1892–1959; information supplied 4 May 2012 by Shawn Bohannon, Archives and Special Collections, Noel Memorial Library, Louisiana State University in Shreveport. Also, P. B. Adderley to and from Sgt. Mary Magee (318.641.3835), Louisiana National Guard point of contact for separation papers, telephone exchanges, 26-27 April 2012; Sgt. Magee was very helpful and searched both separation papers and old payroll records, but unfortunately the earliest extent and completeness of the records could not be readily determined, which preclude assessing the negative results for Early Roy Stoner.

⁸³ Waldo Moore, "Shreveport Gave Many in Defense of Their Country," *The Shreveport Journal*, Centennial Edition, 27 June 1935.

⁸⁴ 1900 U.S. census, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Jewella Precinct, Ward 4, p. 55 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 31, sheet 20-A, dwelling 438, family 438, Geo. Leopard household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 6 September 2008); citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 559, Robert born October 1897. 1910 U.S. census, Los Angeles Co., Ca., pop. sch., San Jose Township, Precinct 5, folio 130 (stamped), ED 333, sheet 11-A, dwell. 7, fam. 7, Geo. W. Leopard household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 16 April 2009); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 80; Robt. O. Leopard, age 12.

⁸⁵ *Shreveport City Directory 1913*, 410.

⁸⁶ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Minors of Sam M. Stoner (Tutrix Mrs. Frances E. Leopard, Co-Tutor George W. Leopard) to William Hamilton, warranty deed, 5 October 1909, original authentic act no. 13412; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

signed in her own right, authorized by her husband Yates; and Ethel B. Pike signed in her own right, authorized by District Judge T. F. Bell, “in the absence of her husband now in California.” George Pike had pre-authorized on 14 January 1913 in Caddo Parish his consent for his wife Ethel B. Pike, “maiden name Stoner,” to sell, mortgage, transfer, and deed any property which she owned.⁸⁷ About three weeks later, Johnston purchased many of the additional lots in the Ingleside Annex Subdivision from the siblings. He paid \$15,000: \$7500 in cash and one 6-month promissory note for the remainder.⁸⁸

Early continued to pursue real estate as an investment. Unless a creditor is involved in a transaction, conveyances involving moveable property such as stock certificates are not always recorded in the parish conveyance books. However, if used as collateral in a separate transaction and the creditor seeks a court remedy for non-payment, evidence of movable property may surface. W C. Agurs and A. Josey filed suit for non-payment of a \$240 promissory note written 13 May 1913 by Early Roy Stoner in Shreveport, payable in two months. Stoner had pledged as collateral twelve 25-dollar shares of capital stock of the Fairside Development Company issued to him on 3 June 1913 under certificate number #87. The court found for the plaintiffs and on 3 December 1913 ordered the seizure and sale of Early’s stock. A photostat of the stock certificate appears in the case file along with Early’s original promissory note.⁸⁹

Mary Caroline (Roach) Stoner gave birth to her first child, a daughter that Early and she named Mary Ray Stoner, on 18 March 1914 in Shreveport.⁹⁰ Their daughter’s given names match those of her Aunt Mary Ray (Stoner) Holmes.

Early appeared in Caddo Parish court records once in 1914. He bought a wagon and harness from Gibbs Implement and Vehicle Co., signing a promissory note on 8 July for \$121.75. President H. W. Gibbs filed suit for non-payment, petitioning the court for a Writ of Sequestration to seize the items until the suit was resolved. The court supported the plaintiff and issued the writ on 27 October. In November the court declared Early to be in default and ordered the property sold to satisfy the vendor’s lien on the property.⁹¹

Caddo Parish tax assessment rolls for 1914 continued to show Early owning the same property in the Queensborough Addition Subdivision as he had in 1913, and the *Shreveport City Directory 1914* corroborated his 2800 Stonewall Street address.⁹²

Early and Mary acquired another one and a half lots in Queensborough Addition Subdivision and sold them on 1 May 1915 for \$804.68 cash to the Shreveport Roofing and Metal Works, “a branch of the Shreveport Blow Pipes & Sheet Iron Works Corporation.”⁹³ It is unclear how Early acquired the additional lots in this subdivision, but since they did not appear as Early’s tax liability in previous years, he likely acquired them in late 1914 or early 1915. The sale specifies Block 24 in the subdivision, which correlates with Early and Mary’s new residence at 3108 Frederick Street, as reported the 1915 Shreveport directory. It showed Early’s business address still at 2800 Stonewall, Early working as a tinner, but the street directory listing for 2800 Stonewall showed E. P. Taylor residing there. The Stoner’s

⁸⁷ Details could not be legibly extracted directly from Louisiana Judicial District Court Case no. 16,667, but the conveyance record captures key results and documents the remedy: Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Mary Stoner Holmes, Ethel B. Pike, E. Roy Stoner, and W. S. Johnston, et al., agreement and quitclaim deeds, 21 February 1913, original authentic act no. 37613; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport.

⁸⁸ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Yates and Mary Stoner Holmes, Ethel B. Pike, and E. Roy Stoner to W. S. Johnston, warranty deed, 7 March 1913, original authentic act no. 38061; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport.

⁸⁹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 17657, W. C. Agurs, et. al., vs. Early Roy Stoner (1913); Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport. The signature on the promissory note identifies the stock holder as George W. Stoner’s grandson, and not his son.

⁹⁰ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Mary Ray Stoner birth certificate, no number, 18 March 1914. Husband “Ernest” was listed as a 22-year-old Louisiana native, occupation tinner, and housewife Mary appeared as a 23-year-old Louisiana native. The entry “Ernest” and his birthplace were erroneous—his age, birthplace, and occupation correlate with Early Roy Stoner born in June 1891 in California. The only “Ernest” of the family known in the local area was Early’s uncle Ernest [no middle name] Stoner, who was born in 1869. Mary Ray was listed as the first child of her mother Mary (Roach) Stoner.

⁹¹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 18915, Gibbs Implement & Vehicle Co. vs. E. Roy Stoner (1914); Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport.

⁹² Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1914, folio 503. *Shreveport City Directory 1914* (Shreveport, Louisiana: L. N. Brueggerhoff, 1914), 19, 106 and 380 for Stoner.

⁹³ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, E. Roy Stoner to Shreveport Roofing and Metal Works, warranty deed, 1 May 1915, original authentic act no. 55952; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport.

census count for their Frederick Street residence in the alphabetical listing was three, which correlates with the addition of their first child Mary Ray' birth in 1914.⁹⁴

Early stopped appearing as a land owner in the 1915 Caddo Parish tax assessment rolls, and he was also not assessed for any personal property.⁹⁵ Evidence of the presumed sale of his property on Stonewall Street has not surfaced, but negative evidence that the couple sold the property is strong: annual tax records 1916–1930 show that Caddo Parish authorities did not assess the couple for any real estate.⁹⁶ In 1931 and 1932 the couple resurfaced with assessed real estate. In both years, though, it was Early's wife Mrs. Mary C. Stoner who appeared. She was assessed as a non-resident for two acres she held in the H. S. Dennis estate in Lot 1 of Section 24, T17N-R15W.⁹⁷ Events will show that her non-resident status is accurate.

What caused the presumed downturn in Early's fortunes? The country's last business depression ended in 1896, the next would not occur until 1920–1. In the mid-1910s the national economic picture was bright, and World War I and the post-war environment saw strong economic demand.⁹⁸ The evidentiary record in Early's case shows us principally the effects, leaving cause open to question.

The next suit against him began 8 May 1915. Yates and Early had not paid an overdue debt of \$750.88 on this day for land they had purchased in the Ingleside subdivision on 14 September 1912. H. R. Ratcliff, president of the Caddo Land Company, sued to collect the debt, and the court's findings resulted in a Writ for Seizure and Sale of property, the proceeds to be used to satisfy the unpaid debt, interest due, and court costs. The court found for the plaintiff and two days later initiated the process to seize, advertise and sell the land. The original promissory note signed by Yates and Early resides in the case file. On 3 July the government seized and sold eight lots in the subdivision to satisfy the debt.⁹⁹ The results hurt Yates financially rather than Early, who had previously quitclaimed his half interest in the lots to Yates on 7 November 1912.¹⁰⁰

Beginning in 1916, Early no longer appeared in tax records owning real estate. He was only taxed on personal property of one horse and a wagon in 1916, and he then resided in Ward 4 in Caddo Parish with an RFD #2 postal address. His step-father George W. Leopard and father-in-law Henry Sydney Roach also appeared with an RFD #2 address. They each still owned eighty acres in Section 7 of T17N-R14W, the same homesteads where Early and Mary grew up.¹⁰¹ It is likely that Early, Mary, and their young family then lived on one homestead or the other. Consistent with the tax records, Early and Mary did not appear in the 1916 Shreveport city directory.¹⁰² Although Early reappeared briefly in the 1917 Shreveport city directory, living with Mary and another resident Oscar Moore at 1701 Pierre Avenue, working as a tinner, the couple did not appear again in published listings for the city through 1922.¹⁰³

⁹⁴ *Shreveport City Directory 1915* (Shreveport, Louisiana: L. N. Brueggerhoff, 1915), 64, 101, and 398 for Stoner, 251 for Holmes, 100 and 289 for Leopard. There is no explanatory material explaining the census count in the alphabetical listing, so the 16 year old cutoff used in previous directories of this publisher is presumed, with those aged 16 or greater reported separately.

⁹⁵ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1915, negative results for Early Roy Stoner in all resident wards, non-resident listing, and in property adjudicated to the state and not redeemed (typically for non-payment of taxes).

⁹⁶ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1915–1930, negative real estate tax results for Early Roy Stoner.

⁹⁷ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1931, page 3857; 1932, p. 3794.

⁹⁸ Paul S. Boyer, editor, *Oxford Companion to United States History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), 183–4.

⁹⁹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 19698, Caddo Land Co. Ltd. Vs. E. Roy Stoner, et. al. (1915); Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, E. Roy Stoner to Caddo Land Company, sheriff's sale, 3 July 1915, original authentic act no. 57140; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

¹⁰⁰ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, E. Roy Stoner to Yates L. Holmes, quitclaim deed, 7 November 1912, original authentic act no. 35068; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

¹⁰¹ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1916, folio 467 for E. Roy Stoner, folio 331 for George W. Leonard [sic], folio 419 for H. S. Roach. The Leopard and Roach homesteads' land descriptions for Section 7 in the assessment rolls match the 1904 rolls. The author found no chronological breaks in their annual real estate tax roll appearances to this point.

¹⁰² *Shreveport City Directory 1916* (Shreveport, Louisiana: L. N. Brueggerhoff, 1916), negative result for Early Roy Stoner and his wife Mary.

¹⁰³ *Shreveport City Directory 1917* (Shreveport, Louisiana: L. N. Brueggerhoff, 1917), 94, 423. *Brueggerhoff's Shreveport City Directory 1917, ...1918, ...1919, ...1921, ... 1922* (Dallas: R. L. Polk & Co., 1917, 1918, 1919, 1921, 1922, respectively), negative results for Early Roy Stoner; no directory for 1920.

Inheritance Revisited

Indirect evidence of the Stoner family's donation of one acre for school purpose in the extreme southeast corner of the Ingleside Annex Subdivision surfaced in Caddo Parish School Board meeting minutes 15 January 1920. The board determined that the land deeded them was not being used for school purposes and passed a resolution returning it to those whom it believed the rightful owners, Early Stoner and his siblings. The conveyance occurred 10 May 1920.¹⁰⁴ Yet three days *before* the board convened on the 15th of January, Early and Ethel had already quitclaimed their 2/3 undivided interest in the land to J. W. Peyton for \$166.75 on 12 January 1920.¹⁰⁵ The strange timing of events suggests superficially that they had advance knowledge of the board's intentions, but a subsequent civil suit suggests a simpler motive, perhaps they believed they (the siblings) were the rightful owners.

Early Roy Stoner and Ethel (Stoner) Pike brought suit against the Hanzen-Mason Realty Company on 4 June 1920 complaining that the company illegally possessed land partly owned by them in the Ingleside Subdivision of Shreveport. The history presented in the suit reached back to their grandparents' 1857 Kentucky marriage. On 16 June 1920 the company answered the fifteen articles of the original petition and added seven additional articles claiming that it had acquired complete ownership of the disputed property. The court found for the defendant company and rejected Early and Ethel's demands on 16 April 1921.¹⁰⁶ With respect to Early specifically, the court's actions resulted an 18 April 1921 quitclaim by Early given to both Sam W. Mason and to the Hanzen-Mason Realty Company for \$250. It effectively divested Early of all his interest in any part of the lands originally partitioned and inherited in 1907 by his Uncle Early Roy Stoner (which formed the western portion of Ingleside Subdivision), and any interest the plaintiff may have subsequently re-acquired in the numerous Ingleside Subdivision lots specified in his suit.¹⁰⁷

The ongoing civil suit against the Hanzen-Mason Realty Company almost certainly influenced J. W. Peyton, since the single acre he acquired from Early and Ethel in January 1920 was originally part of the successions of Lizzie and George W. Stoner. Peyton challenged whether Early and his sister Ethel actually possessed an undivided 2/3 interest in the 1-acre property called out in their 12 January 1920 quitclaim. If they did not, then it clouded his title. He brought suit to force the sale of the 1-acre lot in Louisiana District Court on 20 January 1921, in order to effect the proper partition of the property. On 29 January the court found for Peyton and ordered the land sold, to be distributed as follows: 2/9 to Peyton (as a result of the quitclaim from Early and Ethel on 12 January 1920, but now correctly reflecting their ownership share), 1/9 to Mary Stoner Holmes, 1/3 to Early R. Stoner (Early's uncle), and 1/3 to Ernest Stoner. Peyton became full owner for \$200 at the court-ordered auction in April 1921.¹⁰⁸ The \$200 was then distributed in accordance with the court-ordered distribution ratios.¹⁰⁹

Dairy Farming, 1920–1926

Early and his wife Mary were not present in the real estate and personal property tax assessment rolls from 1917 through 1920.¹¹⁰ The two simplest reasons are:

- They resided outside Caddo Parish during this timeframe.

¹⁰⁴ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 27667, J. W. Peyton vs. Earley R. Stoner, et., al. (1921), for a true copy of Caddo Parish School Board resolution passed 15 January 1920, and certified copy of Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 148:680, School Board to E. R. Stoner and Mrs. E. B. Pike, 10 May 1920; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

¹⁰⁵ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, E. Roy Stoner and Ethel B. Stoner Pike to J. W. Peyton, quitclaim deed, 12 January 1920, original authentic act no. 100380; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

¹⁰⁶ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 27357, E. R. Stoner, et. al., v. Hansen-Mason Realty Co.(1920); Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Also, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 160:258, E. Roy Stoner, et al., to Hansen-Mason Realtor Company, et al., judgment, 16 April 1921. The defendant company's assertions regarding the title history are consistent with the findings and conclusions of the author.

¹⁰⁷ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Early Roy Stoner to Sam W. Mason, quitclaim deed, 18 April 1921, original authentic act no. 8367; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

¹⁰⁸ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 27667, J. W. Peyton vs. Earley R. Stoner, et., al. (1921).

¹⁰⁹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Early Roy Stoner, et al., to J. W. Peyton, sheriff's sale, 16 April 1921, original authentic act no. 11501; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

¹¹⁰ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1917–1920; negative results for Early Roy Stoner.

- They resided within Caddo Parish but owned nothing warranting a real estate or personal property tax liability.¹¹¹ A variation to this possibility was that Early and Mary lived with another family, and their host absorbed the assessment of their remaining personal property, if any.

Early possibly worked for his father-in-law Henry Sydney Roach for several years beginning about 1917. He eventually leased his own farm and started his own small dairy business by 1921. Various records give glimpses into this chapter of his life.

On 1 January 1920 the census enumerator listed Early and his family in his father-in-law Henry S. Roach's dairy farming household in Ward 4 of Caddo Parish. Mary C. Stoner appeared as Henry's daughter with her Roach siblings Lurline, Henry S. (Jr.), Frank McD., and Ruby. Mary's two children Mary Ray and George H. Stoner show "daughter" and "son" relationships with Henry Roach, but their surnames and placement in the enumeration after Early and Mary strongly suggest that they are Early and Mary's children. Early's occupation appears as "none."¹¹² The Roach's farming neighbors were Jesse and Millie Bickham.¹¹³ Annie Roach's maiden name Bickham¹¹⁴ suggests possible kinship between Jesse and Annie.

Perhaps his father-in-law's business influenced him, because about June 1921 Early entered into a verbal agreement with B. B. Nichols to lease a ten acre farm located "near Nichols switch" in Caddo Parish for \$10 monthly.¹¹⁵ He bought six Jersey cows and calves from O. E. Foster on 22 June 1921 for \$600 in the form of twelve promissory notes.¹¹⁶ Jersey cows being associated with milk of high butterfat content,¹¹⁷ Early clearly intended to try his own hand at the dairy farming business. 1921 tax records were consistent with a leased farm and his cattle purchase, taxing him only on cattle assessed at \$250. His residence of record was still RFD #2, but now in Ward 5.¹¹⁸

Between January and April 1922, though, his lessor Nichols, his creditor Foster, and the State of Louisiana all sued or brought charges against Early. Nichols filed suit to collect \$80 unpaid rent on 7 January 1922, the court finding for him, and ordering seizure and sale of Early's movable property on the premises on 28 January.¹¹⁹ Early had paid the first two of the twelve promissory notes due Foster, but the latter sued for the remaining unpaid notes on 22 February. The court ordered on 18 March 1922 the seizure and sale of the cattle to satisfy the vendor's lien. The notice of judgment was served on Early at his residence, the person signing receipt for it on 7 April 1922 being Mrs. E. R. Stoner.¹²⁰

The State of Louisiana brought a criminal complaint on 24 February 1922 against Early Roy Stoner for the use of an improperly marked truck used in the retail milk industry. Allegedly the truck was not "conspicuously marked with the name and address of such person, firm, or corporation in large Roman letters not less than three inches high, properly proportioned in width and permanently attached thereto." The results of the criminal case do not appear in the case file, unfortunately.¹²¹ Early might have been conducting a milk delivery business entirely on his own, or perhaps associated with the dairy farming business of his father-in-law H. Sidney Roach.

¹¹¹ Poll taxes were still a possibility, and Louisiana required poll taxes from 1868 through 1934. The author has not found surviving poll tax records at the local courthouse and the Louisiana State Archives after 1883 for Caddo Parish specifically for those who were "exempt" from both real estate and personal property assessments but still liable for poll tax.

¹¹² 1920 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch. Ward 4, ED 40, folio 49 (stamped), sheet 12-A, dwell. 234, fam. 265, Henry S. Roach household.

¹¹³ 1920 U.S. census, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Ward 4, enumeration district (ED) 40, folio 49 (stamped), sheet 12-A (struck through and labeled 49-A), dwelling 235, family 266, Jessie Bickham household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 16 April 2009); citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 608.

¹¹⁴ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Marriage Book 18: 594, H. S. Roach and Annie Bickham, 1890.

¹¹⁵ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 20331, State of Louisiana vs. E. R. Stoner (1922); Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 31690, B. B. Nichols vs. E. Roy Stoner (1922); Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

¹¹⁶ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 32043, O. E. Foster vs. E. R. Stoner (1922); Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport; the document consistently noted E. R. Stoner as the debtor, but the final judgment cited "Earnest" R. Stoner in one instance as the debtor. The signatures on the promissory notes are consistent with that of Early R. Stoner. The name Earnest recorded in the judgment is an error.

¹¹⁷ Barbara Jean Evans, *A to Zax: A Comprehensive Dictionary for Genealogists & Historians*, 3rd ed. (Midlothian, Virginia: Hearthside Press, 1995), 150.

¹¹⁸ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1921, p. 1701 for E. Roy Stoner. Beginning 1921, assessments were arranged alphabetically in a single listing for the entire parish, and no longer grouped by ward number.

¹¹⁹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 20331, State of Louisiana vs. E. R. Stoner (1922).

¹²⁰ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 32043, O. E. Foster vs. E. R. Stoner (1922).

¹²¹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 20331, State of Louisiana vs. E. R. Stoner (1922); Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

Caddo Parish tax records suggest indirectly that Early stayed the course and recovered. Though the court seized all of his cattle in April 1922 for subsequent auction, the value of cattle in Early's possession in tax years 1922 through 1924 averaged almost \$400 in assessed value, compared with 1921's \$250.¹²² Either family or kin supported Early by purchasing the cattle at auction and restoring them to him, or else he acquired a similar number of head elsewhere, likely with kinship support. The records are silent about any subsequent lease of farm land with another lessor, but the city directories for Shreveport began to include the region around Jewella as the city expanded. The 1924 directory placed Early with wife Mary residing with an RFD 2 address on Greenwood Road,¹²³ suggesting that he might have returned to live with kin,¹²⁴ while retaining ownership of his cattle.

The tax year 1926 was the last to show valuation on cattle—a significant decline to \$20.¹²⁵ The absence of cattle-related assessments in subsequent tax records and Early's renewed interest in the sheet metal business, discussed next, are indirect evidence that his personal involvement in the dairy farming business had ended.

Sheet Metal Working and the Great Depression

Records from 1918 through 1922 are quiet with respect to Early's occupation as a tinner in the sheet metal industry. In 1923 he reappeared as a tinner working for Houseman Sheet Metal Works located at 1549 Jordan Street, Shreveport. The directory then listed six sheet metal works businesses. Mary and he continued to reside on RFD 2.¹²⁶ Coming on the heels of Early's legal problems with his dairy farming business in 1922, the 1923 directory listing seems less a coincidence than a determination to change direction.

He persisted, working for two other sheet metal employers in the following years. Harris Sheet Metal Works, 1018 Marshall Street, Shreveport, employed him in 1924, but he continued residing outside the city limits on RFD 2.¹²⁷ H. H. Bain Sheet Metal Works hired him for the next two to three years in 1925–7, during which time Mary and he began renting a home at 2023 Seymour Avenue, Shreveport. H. H. Bain Sheet Metal Works' motto touted, "The Bain Roof Is Rain Proof."¹²⁸ There, possibly, was the genesis of Early's subsequent occupations as a roofer and roofing contractor. Mary and Early continued their Seymour Street residence when Houseman Sheet Metal Works re-employed Early sometime between 1927 and 1928.¹²⁹ Tax authorities for 1927 assessed an automobile in Early's possession at \$100. No real estate or other tax-liable assets appeared.¹³⁰

For businesses like Early's, the onset of the Great Depression came well before the stock market panics in October 1929. By 1929 residential construction had dropped to half of its peak in 1926.¹³¹ The number of sheet metal businesses in Shreveport had dropped to three by the time Early started his own business Stoner Sheet Metals Works in 1928. Both his business and residence appeared at the same address—2023 Seymour Street. He advertised in a quarter page layout in *Brueggerhoff's Shreveport City Directory 1928–1929*.¹³²

On 9 October 1928 Early Stoner "husband of Mary Roach" participated in three successive conveyances associated with Lot 337, Unit 2, in the Broadmoor Subdivision in the city of Shreveport. First he paid South Highlands Company \$6750 cash for the lot. He then sold the lot to the Shreveport Mutual Builders Association for \$4500 cash. The Shreveport Mutual Builders Association in turn sold the

¹²² Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1921, p. 1701; 1922, p. 2030; 1923, p. 2296; 1924, p. 2406; 1925, p. 2594; 1926, p. 2816; 1927, p. 2716; for E. Roy Stoner entries.

¹²³ *Brueggerhoff's Shreveport City Directory 1924* (Dallas: R. L. Polk & Co., 1924), 805. The use of the abbreviation "r" versus "h" in various directories of this period signify that the listed persons resided in the home of another. The use of the companion street directory within the same volume typically lists the head of the household at the address, but an RFD address, which covered multiple dwellings on a single rural route, does not appear.

¹²⁴ The Roach, Leopard, and Stoner farming homesteads had portions of their property accessing Greenwood Road in Caddo Parish, which is the route of the former Shreveport Texas Public Wagon Road. Interstate I-20 closely parallels the same road today from the state fairgrounds westward.

¹²⁵ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1926, p. 2816 for E. Roy Stoner entry.

¹²⁶ *Brueggerhoff's Shreveport City Directory 1923* (Dallas: R. L. Polk & Co., 1923), 740, 915.

¹²⁷ *Brueggerhoff's Shreveport City Directory 1924* (Dallas: R. L. Polk & Co., 1924), 146, 805, 1006.

¹²⁸ *Brueggerhoff's Shreveport City Directory 1925–1926* (Dallas: R. L. Polk & Co., 1925), 145, 694, 999, entries for Early R. Stoner, spouse Mary, and H. H. Bain Sheet Metal Works. The hardback spine of this volume reads 1925–1926; however, the publication flyleaf reads only 1925. Also, *Brueggerhoff's Shreveport City Directory 1926–1927* (Dallas: R. L. Polk & Co., 1926), 147, 711, 910, 1032.

¹²⁹ *Brueggerhoff's Shreveport City Directory 1927–1928* (Dallas: R. L. Polk & Co., 1927), 684, 883, 1007.

¹³⁰ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1927, p. 2716 for Early Roy Stoner at 2023 Seymour.

¹³¹ Paul S. Boyer, editor, *Oxford Companion to United States History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), 184, column 1.

¹³² *Brueggerhoff's Shreveport City Directory 1928–1929* (Dallas: R. L. Polk & Co., 1928), 119, 675, 876, 1000.

same land back to Early for a ten-year promissory note in which he agreed to purchase over the terms of the note 21.5 shares of the Shreveport Mutual Builders Association, a certificate of this being issued to Early on the day of his purchase. Their timing correlated with the 1928 start-up of Stoner Sheet Metal Works, and the 2nd and 3rd transactions appear to be an alternative mechanism for raising cash.¹³³ In light of the downturn in residential construction or Early's prior credit history or both, banks may have been unwilling to loan him money to fund his new business. 1929 tax records show the Stoners at their new address at 3411 Broadmoor Blvd, taxed only on an auto assessed at \$60.¹³⁴

Six months and fifteen days later, the first of two stock market sell-offs began in the last hour of trading on 23 October 1929, continuing on the 24th, followed by more panic selling on the 29th. The Associated Press reported that stocks lost paper value in the last hour of the 23rd at the rate of \$50 million dollars per minute, or \$3 billion.¹³⁵ While individual investors were devastated, experts agree that the pervasive damage caused by the crash came from a resulting four-year deceleration of consumer spending and business investment, especially lower agricultural spending in the face of poor crop yields, all coupled with the Federal Reserve's increase in interest rates in order to remain at that time on the gold standard.¹³⁶ It was a perfect economic storm, but Early and his family were probably already suffering from it by 1929.



Figure 3. Early Roy Stoner's Sheet Metal Business

Early decided to relocate his family and business to Bossier City in Bossier Parish sometime before R. L. Polk & Company gathered its information for the 1930 Shreveport city directory. The directory showed them residing at 809 Ogilvie Street, and Stoner Sheet Metal Works doing business at 402 Cain, next to the Glenwood Hotel.¹³⁷ Early did not advertise his Bossier City business in this directory. The family's presence there was consistent with the 1930 federal population schedule for Bossier Parish, Louisiana, which showed Earley [sic] working in the sheet metal industry and head of household with wife Mary and their four children at the same address.¹³⁸ Early rented his home for \$35 per month and had one lodger Reisor McDermont, age 31 and single, born in Louisiana. Both men were tinnerns, with Early being an employer and Reisor a wage earner. The latter likely worked for the former.

On 17 March of 1930, as the nationwide economy continued its downward spiral, Henry Sydney Roach husband of Annie Roach "born Bickham" donated two acres of land 129 feet N-S by 673 feet E-W in southeastern-most portion of the northeast quarter of Section 24 in T17N-R15W to his daughter Mary Caroline Stoner, indicating that she was the issue of his marriage to Annie. The consideration was the natural love and affection he held for his daughter. Eva wife of A. W. Poythress, residence Caddo Parish, was also indicated as his daughter, and the deed that H. S. Roach executed with her for \$500 cash on 22 January 1929 was in fact a donation inter vivos.¹³⁹

¹³³ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, South Highlands Company, Inc. (Patton Hawkins, secretary) to Early Roy Stoner, warranty deed, 9 October 1928, original authentic act no. 58748; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Early Roy Stoner to Shreveport Mutual Building Association (Philip Lieber, president), warranty deed, 9 October 1928, original authentic act no. 58753; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Shreveport Mutual Building Association (Philip Lieber, president) to Early Roy Stoner, warranty deed, 9 October 1928, original authentic act no. 58755; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. In the author's experience, the use of same-day title swaps with the same cash-raising effects was not uncommon. This particular case may have been the result of credit tightening that characterized the Great Depression (banks being less willing to loan money), or perhaps the banks' unwillingness to loan money to Early based upon his prior credit history.

¹³⁴ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1929, p. 3842 for Early Roy Stoner. 1928 tax rolls might have shed additional light, but no Stoners appeared.

¹³⁵ The AP article, datelined New York 23 October 1929, appeared in newspapers nationwide. For example, see "Three Billions in Values Wiped Out in Storm of Stock Selling," *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, 24 October 1929, p. 1, col. 4–5; digital images, "Historical Newspapers," *GenealogyBank.com* (<http://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 5 August 2011).

¹³⁶ Paul S. Boyer, *Oxford Companion to United States History*, 184, columns 1–2.

¹³⁷ *Brueggerhoff's Shreveport City Directory 1930* (Dallas: R. L. Polk & Co., 1930), 597, 700, 773, 897, Bossier City entries for Earl [sic] R. Stoner, spouse Mary, and Stoner Sheet Metal Works.

¹³⁸ 1930 U.S. census, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Bossier City, Ward 2, enumeration district (ED) 8-5, folio 65 (stamped), sheet 2-A, dwelling 20, family 21, Early R. Stoner household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 January 2011); citing NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 785.

¹³⁹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, H. S. Roach to Mary Caroline Stoner and Eva Louise Poythress, donation inter vivos, 17 March 1930, original authentic act no. 79393; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. A donation inter vivos under Louisiana Civil Code is a legally irrevocable distribution of

Exactly how this land came into H. S. Roach's possession remains to be researched, but 1927 tax assessment books provide a lead, showing Henry taxed on 16.5 acres, part of Lot 1, H. S. Dennis Estate, in Sections 12 and 24 of T17N-R15W.¹⁴⁰

The last record indicating Early and Mary's presence in either Caddo Parish or Bossier Parish is the 1930 Caddo Parish tax assessment. Early Roy Stoner resided at 1560 Jordan Street, Route 2, Ward 4, Shreveport. His auto assessed at \$50. The business listings for the 1930 directory show Houseman Sheet Metal Works, Inc., located at 1549–1555 Jordan Street,¹⁴¹ where Early had worked in the late 1920s. Did he return to live there and perhaps work for Houseman temporarily?

The Early Roy Stoner family left northwest Louisiana sometime in the period 1930 to 1931. The following findings support that conclusion:

- Four annually published Shreveport city directories, 1931–1934 show no entries for Early or his business. The directories covered Shreveport, Bossier City, South Highland and Cedar Grove. Shreveport coverage extended to the Jewella region. In 1931 and 1932, the family's former residence on Ogilvie Street showed renter Dr. W. J. Givens, and Early's business location on Cain Street was listed as vacant.¹⁴²
- 1931 and 1932 Caddo Parish tax rolls show no residential entries for Early Roy Stoner or Mary, but Mary C. Stoner was assessed as a non-resident in both years for two acres in Section 24 of T15N-R15W. If accurate, the listing's 809 Ogilvie Street address in Bossier City was probably the government's last held address for them.¹⁴³

California and Oregon, 1932 to 1983

In the midst of the Great Depression, Early and Mary left northwest Louisiana and moved to San Bernardino County, California. The family's presence in San Bernardino County has roots extending to Early's 1891 birth in the region,¹⁴⁴ and the Leopard-Stoner family had returned to the region from Louisiana for a few years beginning about 1910.¹⁴⁵

In 1932, E. R. Stoner, occupation roofer and residing at 1084 Mt. Vernon Avenue, appeared as a registered voter in San Bernardino Precinct no. 40. Early identified himself as a Democrat. Mrs. Frances Leopard and Claud Jefferson Leopard registered at the same street address as Democrat and Republican—their presence with Early and their names identify them as his mother and half-brother.¹⁴⁶ However, Mrs. Mary C. Stoner, a homemaker, registered as a Democrat in precinct 85, residing at 1280 Sepulveda Street. If the Mary C. Stoner in precinct 85 is the Louisiana native who married Early in 1912, it is unclear why she appeared at a separate address.¹⁴⁷ There were no other Stoners in these two precincts.

property while living, requiring two witnesses and passage before a notary; see Dainow, ed., *1972 Compiled Edition of the Civil Codes of Louisiana*, 16: 837, 877, Articles 1468 and 1536 of Louisiana Revised Civil Code of 1870 for definition and witness requirements applicable to Roach's donation.

¹⁴⁰ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1927, p. 2371 for H. S. Roach.

¹⁴¹ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1930, p. 3940 for Early Roy Stoner.

¹⁴² *Brueggerhoff's Shreveport City Directory 1931* (Dallas: R. L. Polk & Co., 1931), 560, 656, 729, 851. *Brueggerhoff's Shreveport City Directory 1932* (Dallas: R. L. Polk & Co., 1932), 485, 568, 646, 752. *Brueggerhoff's Shreveport City Directory 1933* (Dallas: R. L. Polk & Co., 1933), 447, 695. *Brueggerhoff's Shreveport City Directory 1934* (Dallas: R. L. Polk & Co., 1934), 463, 715.

¹⁴³ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1931, p. 3857 for Mary C. Stoner. The finding reoccurs in the 1932 assessments, p. 3794.

¹⁴⁴ George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828–1901, Early was born in San Bernardino County near Alessandro and Moreno [present-day Moreno Valley, Riverside County], California.

¹⁴⁵ 1910 U.S. census, Los Angeles County, California, pop. sch., San Jose Twp., Precinct 5, folio 130 (stamped), ED 333, sheet 11-A, dwell. 7, fam. 7, Geo. W. Leopard household.

¹⁴⁶ 1910 U.S. census, Los Angeles County, California, pop. sch., San Jose Twp., Precinct 5, folio 130 (stamped), ED 333, sheet 11-A, dwell. 7, fam. 7, Geo. W. Leopard household; Claud [sic] J. Leopard was George's 2-year-old son, appearing with Early's full sisters Ethel and Mary, listed as step-daughters to Leopard. Thus, Claud was their half-brother and by extension, Early's half-brother.

¹⁴⁷ "San Bernardino County [Voter Register] 1932[–1934]," San Bernardino Precinct No. 40 for E. R. Stoner, Mrs. Frances Leopard, and Claud Jefferson Leopard, San Bernardino Precinct No. 85 for Mrs. Mary C. Stoner, alphabetical listing, unpaginated; digital images, "California Voter Registrations, 1900–1968," images 402 & 484, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 May 2012).

Erley [sic] R. Stoner with wife Mary appeared in the San Bernardino city directory of 1933-1934. Early worked as a roofer and they lived at 1143 Base Line Street.¹⁴⁸ For the 1934–1936 period, they registered as voters in San Bernardino Precinct no. 41 at the same 1143 Base Line Street address: Early was listed as a roofing contractor and Mary as a housewife. Both named their party affiliation as Democrats. In San Bernardino Precinct no. 40, E. R. Stoner no longer appeared, as expected, but Mrs. Frances Leopard, housewife, and Claude J. Leopard, cab driver, continued their voter registration at the 1084 Mt. Vernon Avenue address.¹⁴⁹

Per the *San Bernardino City Directory, 1936, Including Colton and Rialto*, Early returned to the 1084 Mt. Vernon Avenue address, this time residing there with wife May [sic]. The household residents continued to include his mother Mrs. Frances E. Leopard, with no occupation, and, for the first time, a Geo. Stoner, also showing no occupation. Claud Jefferson Leopard had apparently married and moved out—wife Madeline and he resided at 2156 Lugo Street, and he worked as an auto mechanic.¹⁵⁰ The Geo. Stoner entry was possibly Early's son George, who would have been 19-20 years old.¹⁵¹

In 1937, George moved out and auto mechanic Claude J. Leopard and his wife Madeline moved in. Early, his wife Mary, and his mother Frances still lived at 1084 Mt. Vernon Avenue. Early worked as a roofer. His mother appeared as “Mrs. Frances Leopard (wid Geo),” or the widow of George W. Leopard, who had apparently died if the information is accurate.¹⁵²

A 16 November 1937 Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance confirmed Early and Mary's move to San Bernardino County, California. H. S. Roach “husband of Annie Bickham Roach,” residence Caddo Parish, acknowledged the sale to Mary Caroline Stoner, “wife of E. R. Stoner,” residence “State of California,” of the same tract of land “purporting to be a donation” inter vivos on 17 March 1930. Roach stated that Mary had purchased this 2-acre property using \$200 of her separate and paraphernal funds. Witnesses were L. Y. and Chris Barnette.¹⁵³ On 13 December 1937, Mary Caroline Roach, residence San Bernardino County, California, sold the same 2 acre tract to Eva L. Poythress wife of A. W. Poythress, the latter using her paraphernal funds to do so (\$400 cash). Witnesses in San Bernardino were Chas. P. Dant and M. Keith Davis.¹⁵⁴ The 1937 conveyance noted that Mary and Eva had used “separate” and “paraphernal” funds. Under Louisiana Civil Code, the term paraphernal property is the separate property of a wife that formed no part of the marriage dowry. It applied to property already owned by the wife before marriage regardless of how it was acquired, but which was excluded from the dowry; and to property inherited by her or acquired specifically using her separate property after the marriage.¹⁵⁵

Early and Mary moved from San Bernardino County to Wasco County, Oregon, sometime between 1938 and November 1941. Whether they stopped and resided in other locales during the period is unknown. In 1938 they were still registered as voters in San Bernardino

¹⁴⁸ *San Bernardino City Directory, 1933–34, Including Colton and Rialto* (San Bernardino, California: San Bernardino Directory Company, 1933), 331, Erley [sic] R. Stoner entry; digital images, “U. S. City Directories, 1821–1989 (Beta),” Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 April 2012).

¹⁴⁹ “San Bernardino County Great [Voter] Register 1934[–1936],” San Bernardino Precinct No. 41, for Early R. Stoner and Mrs. Mary C. Stoner, Precinct 40 for Mrs. Frances Leopard, alphabetical listings, unpaginated; digital images, “California Voter Registrations, 1900–1968,” images 598 & 602, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 May 2012).

¹⁵⁰ *San Bernardino City Directory, 1936, Including Colton and Rialto* (San Bernardino, California: San Bernardino Directory Company, 1936), 371 for Early R. Stoner entry, 238 for Mrs. Frances E. Leopard and Claude J. Leopard; digital images, “U. S. City Directories, 1821–1989 (Beta),” Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 May 2012).

¹⁵¹ 1920 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch., Ward 4, ED 40, folio 49 (stamped), sheet 12-A (struck through & labeled 49-A), dwell. 234, fam. 265, Henry S. Roach household; George was age 3 years and 3 months old, imputing a Sep. 1916 birth. If Polk directories for Louisiana are typical for other directory publishers nationwide at this time, persons 16 or 18 and up were separately listed.

¹⁵² *San Bernardino City Directory, 1937, Including Colton and Rialto* (San Bernardino, California: San Bernardino Directory Company, 1937), 357 for Early R. Stoner entry, 216 for Mrs. Frances Leopard and Claude J. Leopard; digital images, “U. S. City Directories, 1821–1989 (Beta),” Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 May 2012).

¹⁵³ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, H. S. Roach to Mary Caroline Stoner, warranty deed, 16 November 1937, warranty deed, original authentic act no. 70645; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. For the referenced 1930 donation see Caddo Ph., La., conveyance, H. S. Roach to Mary Caroline Stoner and Eva Louise Poythress, donation inter vivos, 17 March 1930; act no. 79393.

¹⁵⁴ San Bernardino County, California, conveyance, Mary Caroline Roach to Mrs. Eva L. Poythress, warranty deed, 13 December 1937, original authentic act no. 70646, recorded 5 January 1938; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana. The signatures of Mary and Early were clerk-recorded vs. original. Eva was Mary's sister Eva Louise Roach.

¹⁵⁵ Dainow, ed., 1972 *Compiled Edition of the Civil Codes of Louisiana*, 17: 29–30, 57–8, Articles 2335, 2383, Louisiana Revised Civil Code of 1870.

Precinct no. 42, residing at 1084 Mt. Vernon Avenue, as before. Early was a roofing contractor.¹⁵⁶ City directories for 1939 and 1940 do not list the couple, suggesting that they may have left the city sometime between 1938 and 1939.¹⁵⁷ On 19 November 1941, Mary and Early appeared in Wasco County, Oregon, courthouse records as residents. Mrs. Mary C. Roach Stoner wife of Roy Stoner and joined by her said husband, “resident of Wasco County, Oregon,” sold to Newton B. Stoer [sic] husband of Constance Stoer, residence Caddo Parish, Louisiana, lots 5 and 6 in the fractional southwest quarter of Section 19 in T20N-R15W in Caddo Parish “lying West of the right of way of the Kansas City Southern Railway” for \$15. Acreage was unstated. Witnesses in Wasco County were Grace E. Simmons and John M. Stapleton. The Oregon Notary Public was Lawrence Simmons.¹⁵⁸

Twenty four days later, Japan bombed the U. S. Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, bring the United States into World War II. The demand for skilled sheet metal workers to support the war effort rocketed upwards. For example, one west coast shipbuilder, the Seattle-Tacoma Shipbuilding Corporation, announced in May 1942 that it had 250 sheet metal workers building Navy destroyers in two plants and that “this number will be increased three or four times just as rapidly as the men can be trained.”¹⁵⁹ Perhaps production needs such as these were behind Early and Mary’s move to Portland, Oregon, probably by 1943.¹⁶⁰

Evidence that Mary had inherited land in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, appears in several conveyances executed between 1943 and 1950.

- 7 June 1943: Mary wife of Roy Stoner resided in Multnomah County, Oregon, at 6202 Yamhill[?] Street, Portland. She contested with Gulf Refining Company the title and interest to approximately 28 acres described more fully in the conveyance, but generally within Section 19 of T20N-R15W, which lies within Caddo Parish. The land had been previously conveyed to Gulf by Emory Cutliff Pitts (20 acres, October 1908) and J. B. McCann and W. H. Harper (8 acres, December 1908). In order to avoid suit, Gulf Oil settled and paid her \$10 for her rights, title and interest, including mineral rights, in the said tracts. She signed before a notary in Multnomah County and before witness Lawrence L. Clark.¹⁶¹
- 7 August 1944: Mary C. Stoner, nee Roach, wife of E. R. Stoner, residing in Portland, Oregon, sold to Gus Weaver, husband of Mary L. Mathis, residence Caddo Parish, for \$230 twenty acres in Section 35, T17N-R15W: 16.11 acres in the west part of lot 4 and 3.89 acres in the east part of lot 5 of the L. O. Romagosa Estate platted in Conveyance Book 300:60. Witnesses in Oregon were Gibson Bowles and Ethel E. Clarke, and the notary was C. E. Ferguson.¹⁶²
- 1 June 1946–18 February 1950: Mary Roach Stoner claimed to be 1 of 22 persons holding a combined 1/5 interest in land inherited from Patience Gerrold [sic] Fortner, namely in Section 20 of T20N-R15W, which lies within Caddo Parish. Gulf Refining Company disputed their claim and the resulting conveyance describes the settlement, which took until 18 February 1950 to complete with all twenty-two parties. Gulf paid \$3600 to the 22 persons in the claim and released and quitclaimed all rights associated with the oil and gas lease executed on the land. Title to the 9.2 acres did not change hands, however.¹⁶³

¹⁵⁶ San Bernardino County, California, voter lists 1938–1940, San Bernardino precinct no. 42, for E. R. Stoner and Mrs. Mary C Stoner, alphabetical listing, unpaginated; digital images, “California Voter Registrations, 1900–1968,” image 686, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 May 2012).

¹⁵⁷ *San Bernardino City Directory, 1939, Including Colton and Rialto* (San Bernardino, California: San Bernardino Directory Company, 1939), 342; *San Bernardino City Directory, 1940 ...*(1940), 360; negative results for Early Stoner; digital images, “U. S. City Directories, 1821–1989 (Beta),” *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 May 2012).

¹⁵⁸ Wasco County, Oregon, conveyance, Mrs. Mary Caroline Roach Stoner to Newton B. Stoer, warranty deed, 19 November 1941, original authentic act no. 29266, recorded 10 December 1941; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana. Apparently this was a quitclaim based upon (1) the small amount of payment and (2) the tax statement at the end of the document reading, “taxes due ... upon ... Lots 5 & 6 Pitts & Barnhardt Partner in Trl[?] quarter Sec[ti]on 19(20-15) have been paid in full....” A map of the tract, not examined, is referenced in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 100:216.

¹⁵⁹ H. E. Jamison, “Speed to Victory,” *The Seattle Daily Times*, 25 May 1942, page 3, columns 1–2.

¹⁶⁰ Oregon State Health Division, Center for Health Statistics, death certificate no. 9642 (1958), Early Roy Stoner, 20 August 1958; the informant his widow Mary indicated 14 years as Early’s length of stay in Portland, imputing an arrival there between 1943 and 1944.

¹⁶¹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Mary Roach Stoner, et al., to Gulf Refining Company, agreement & quitclaim, 7 June 1943, acknowledgments 7 June & 3 September 1943; original private act no. 11918; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport.

¹⁶² Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Mary C. (Roach) Stoner to Gus T. Weaver, warranty deed, 7 August 1944, warranty deed, original authentic act no. 59164; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport.

¹⁶³ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Mary Roach Stoner, et al., and Gulf Refining Company, agreement & release, 1 June 1946, multiple acknowledgments extending to at least 18 February 1950, original private act no. 69567; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana,

Associated with this land dispute, on 9 July 1947, Mary C. Roach Stoner and four other parties were given 90 days to file a “petitory action” regarding their ownership rights in the 9.2 acres claimed in suit no. 9582, First Judicial District Court of Louisiana (Caddo Parish), lying in Section 20 of T20N-R15W.¹⁶⁴ Mary’s residence did not appear in the court’s judgment. A “petitory action” was needed in this case for Mary and other alleged owners to recover their ownership on the strength of their title.¹⁶⁵ If they failed to initiate the suit within the allotted time, title would rest with J. T. Roberts. No evidence has been uncovered to show that they did.

- 5 February 1949: Mrs. Mary Roach Stoner was one of thirteen persons granting special powers of attorney to Eva Roach Poythress and Era B. Boutte in oil and gas lease actions involving their 1/5 interest in about 51.54 acres in Section 19 of T20N-R15, all within Caddo Parish.
- 1 October 1950: Mary Roach Stoner, a resident of Portland, Oregon, was one of twenty persons who quitclaimed their interest in property previously described in Section 19 of T20N-R15W. The entity that acquired their interest was the Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company, and it did so for a \$3500 settlement, but only for those gases and minerals removed from the land prior to 1 October 1950. The twenty two plaintiffs retained their collective 1/5 interest in all minerals removed from the land after this date. Mary’s share was 96/8640 of 1/5, and she shared the same fractional share value as Eva Roach Poythress (Caddo Parish), Theo Roach Nicholson (Odessa, Texas), Lurline Roach Smythe (Laramie, Wyoming), Frank M. Roach (Caddo Parish), and Ruby Roach Ashlock (Ft. Worth, Texas). Other plaintiffs received different and larger sized shares. Due to the ratios involved, these six were probably siblings representing mother Annie Bickham Roach’s share of an inheritance begun possibly four generations earlier, as Bickham appears in other presumptive collateral lines, but not Roach. Witnesses to Mary’s signature in Portland were notary C. L. Coffin[?] and Geo. E. Kaump[?].

Early and Mary grew up together on adjacent Louisiana farms, fell in love, and married in 1912. Their life as a couple spanned two world wars and a great depression. When Early died on 20 August 1958¹⁶⁶ they had been married forty-six years. Mary Caroline (Roach) Stoner lived almost another quarter century and never remarried. Sometime between 1950 and her death she moved to Clackamas County, Oregon. She passed away 16 June 1983. Early and she are interred in Riverview Abbey Mausoleum in Portland, Oregon.¹⁶⁷

Children of Early Roy Stoner and Mary Caroline Roach were:

- i. MARY RAY STONER born 18 March 1914 in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.¹⁶⁸
- ii. GEORGE H. STONER born ca. September 1916 in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.¹⁶⁹ Stoner family records report that George died in 1955.¹⁷⁰
- iii. SAMUEL FRANCIS STONER born 13 July 1920 in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, died 6 October 1996 in Portland, Oregon.¹⁷¹

conveyance, Gulf Refining Company to Mary Roach Stoner, et al., quitclaim deed, 11 June 1946, original authentic act no. 90383; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport.

¹⁶⁴ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 555:476, Thomas Elmer Farris, et al., to J. I. Roberts, judgment, 9 July 1947; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport.

¹⁶⁵ Henry Campbell Black, *Black’s Law Dictionary*, 4th ed. (St. Paul, Minnesota: West Publishing Co., 1968), 1303.

¹⁶⁶ Oregon State Health Division, Center for Health Statistics, death certificate no. 9642 (1958), Early Roy Stoner, 20 August 1958.

¹⁶⁷ Oregon State Health Division, Center for Health Statistics, death certificate no. 83-010112 (1983), Mary Caroline Stoner, 16 June 1983.

¹⁶⁸ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Mary Ray Stoner birth certificate, no number, 18 March 1914; Caddo Shreveport Health Unit, Division of Vital Statistics, Shreveport; digital image of certified true copy, 15 March 1972, supplied by Talman Stoner, Beaverton, Oregon, 2008.

¹⁶⁹ 1920 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch. Ward 4, ED 40, folio 49 (stamped), sheet 12-A, dwell. 234, fam. 265, Henry S. Roach household; George H. Stoner is age 3 years and 3 months.

¹⁷⁰ Talman Stoner, Stoner family descendant tree, 1718–1981; supplied by Talman Stoner, Beaverton, Oregon, 2009; Mr. Stoner noted that he used censuses and information in a Boone Family Genealogy; he specifically identified George H. Stoner as his grandfather. For the Boone Family source see Bess Hawthorne, compiler, “The Stoner Family,” in Etta Hazel Atterbury Spraker, *The Boone Family; A Genealogical History of the Descendants of George and Mary Boone who came to America in 1717* (1922; reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1974), 550–3, citing information supplied by Mrs. Lucy Boone-Kerley Stoner, St. Petersburg, Florida, for Michael L. Stoner and his descendants; digital images, *Google Books* (<http://books.google.com> : accessed 23 April 2012); the children of Michael Lower Stoner and his wife on p. 552–3 are a relatively close fit with M. L. Stoner’s 1850 Cumberland County, Kentucky, census household, discussed further under the 3rd Generation Ascending: George Washington Stoner.

¹⁷¹ Samuel G. Stoner, Pedigree Chart for Samuel George Stoner, 11 February 2004, Cornelius, Oregon; digitized copy supplied by Talman Stoner, Beaverton, Oregon, 2009. Although the supplied charts do not cite the sources used, the information is carefully detailed, and where overlap exists

iv. VIRGINIA ANN STONER born ca. 1925 in Louisiana,¹⁷² probably in Shreveport, Caddo Parish.¹⁷³

Early Roy Stoner was the son of Samuel Michael Stoner and his only wife Francis Eliza Vines.

To Be Continued

with the findings presented elsewhere in this narrative, the chart's information has been found consistent. Samuel's July 1920 birth is consistent with his absence and presence in Early R. Stoner's 1920 and 1930 census households, respectively: 1920 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch., Ward 4, ED 40, folio 49 (stamped), sheet 12-A (struck through & labeled 49-A), dwell. 234, fam. 265, Henry S. Roach household, Sam not present, but census day was 1 January. 1930 U.S. census, Bossier Ph., La., pop. sch., Bossier City, Ward 2, ED 8-5, folio 65 (stamped), sheet 2-A, dwell. 20, fam. 21, son Samuel F. Stoner, age 9.

¹⁷² Talman Stoner, Beaverton, Oregon, to Philip Adderley, e-mail, 25 September 2008, "RE: Genealogical Research," family traditions attributed to the supplier's Great Aunt Virginia Ann Stoner. Also 1930 U.S. census, Bossier Ph., La., pop. sch., Bossier City, Ward 2, ED 8-5, folio 65 (stamped), sheet 2-A, dwell. 20, fam. 21, daughter Annie V. Stoner, age 5.

¹⁷³ In 1925 the Early Stoner family resided in Shreveport: *Brueggerhoff's Shreveport City Directory 1925–1926* (Dallas: R. L. Polk & Co., 1925), 145, 694.

In the past few years, DNA testing has become another tool in breaking through the brick walls of genealogy. Those interested in joining lineage societies may have felt stymied by their attempts to use DNA results as proof of ancestry. In January 2014, the Daughters of the American Revolution announced that it will begin accepting DNA under certain conditions. You may wish to read this excerpt from the DAR website about their change in policy.



DAR Begins Accepting DNA Evidence

WASHINGTON, DC – With the new year comes a new policy adaptation for the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) regarding accepting DNA as evidence of lineage submitted with DAR membership applications. DAR staff genealogists will now consider Y-DNA evidence along with more traditional genealogical sources during the verification of member-related applications. With this change in policy, DAR recognizes the importance of DNA in genealogical research, but also that DNA evidence alone is not definitive enough to prove the exact relationships of remote ancestors. Although various types of DNA tests are commercially available, DAR staff genealogists will only consider Y-DNA 37 Marker test results.

“We are very excited to take our DAR membership verification process to a new level by allowing the submission of Y-DNA test results as part of the genealogical analysis of evidence for membership applications,” said DAR President General Lynn Forney Young. “I look forward to this policy adaptation opening the door for more prospective members to apply to our great organization.”

Y-DNA as evidence to support DAR applications

DAR begins accepting Y-DNA evidence, effective January 1, 2014, in support of new member applications and supplemental applications. DNA evidence submitted along with other documentation will be considered along with all of the other source documentation provided to prove heritage. Y-DNA will not be considered as stand-alone proof of lineage because, while it can be used as a tool to point to a *family*, it cannot be used as absolute proof for an *individual*. For those applicants wishing to submit DNA evidence as proof of lineage along with their other traditional proof documentation, they must submit Y-DNA test results from at least two test subjects following criteria outlined in the guidelines and test requirements for Using DNA Evidence for DAR Applications.

Of the three types of DNA widely available through a number of genetic genealogy testing companies – Mitochondrial DNA, Y-DNA, and Chromosomal or Autosomal DNA – at this time, only the Y-DNA is applicable to the DAR verification process. Y-DNA is the most attractive test for genealogical purposes because of the lack of complexity and its mutation rate. However, it must also be noted that Y-DNA is passed only through the male line, therefore, women applying for DAR membership will need to find appropriate male surrogates for whom the test results can be used to link the applicant to an ancestor and lineage already completely verified by the DAR. Identifying the specific types of situations in which DNA can be accepted by the DAR, as well as the testing and reporting methods for the surrogate Y-DNA test subjects, are outlined in documents that can be found at www.dar.org/DNA.

www.dar.org/DNA.
Accessed 21 February 2014



Bits & Pieces

Every once in a while, our members discover information that doesn't warrant a full-blown article and doesn't fit into any specific category. It is just interesting and helpful. *Bits and Pieces* is just that tad of lagniappe. Feel free to contribute to this reader-driven segment. Thanks to Brenda Randall and Sonja Webb for these tidbits.

1. Initials that may appear on death certificate:

d.s.p. = died without issue(no children) Latin: decessit sine prole

d.s.p.l. = died without legitimate issue

d.s.p.m.s. = died without surviving male issue

d.u.n.m. = died unmarried

2. Daughters of the American Revolution web page download free book

Forgotten Patriots: African American and American Indian Patriots In The Revolutionary War

www.dar.org

In search box, top right corner, type PDF, look down list for Forgotten Patriots, download

3. Deciphering Old Handwriting:

www.amberskyline.com/treasuremaps/oldhand.html

4. Family Search Learning Center

www.familysearch.org/learn/researchcourses

Editor's Note: There are no words to express gratitude to Willie Griffin, who edited the ALTGA publication for 14 years! What a tremendous job he did. Kudos! Thanks to all who helped epublish this *Genie* by submitting articles. Expect good changes in the future. Suggestions? Email us at altgenassn@gmail.com. And remember to search by using "Control F."