# The Genie



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY

## ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

P. O. BOX 4463 SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71134-0463

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#### ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 4463

Shreveport, Louisiana 71134-0463

The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association is a Section 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Louisiana.

The purpose of this organization is:

- To collect, preserve and make available genealogical documents and records
- To encourage an interest in genealogy and to sponsor educational programs for its development
- To promote the Shreveport/Bossier City area as having significant resources for genealogical and historical research
- To compile and publish a quarterly publication, *The Genie*, composed of records of genealogical and historical importance, helpful research information, and ancestral queries.



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

The membership year is from January 1 through December 31 and dues are \$20.00 annually for individual or same household family memberships. Dues for those members joining in the last half of the year (July 1 - December 31) are \$10.00. Membership renewals are due by January 31 at the "whole year" annual rate. Payment may be made online through PayPal, by regular mail, or at regular meetings. Refer to our website: <a href="http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~laaltga/join.htm">http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~laaltga/join.htm</a> for details.

**Statement of Publication**: *The Genie* is published on a quarterly basis and distributed electronically as a pdf document to members and subscribing institutions that have provided an email address. The Association also participates in an exchange agreement with other organizations that publish similar genealogical publications. Those publications that are received are donated to the Broadmoor Branch Genealogy Department of the Shreve Memorial Library.

We welcome family history and genealogy research articles and records, especially those that are likely to be of an interest to others. Some examples are family pedigree charts, cemetery surveys/records, family and community histories, and transcribed courthouse records. We also accept articles describing a genealogical "brick wall," as well as queries. All submitted material should be typed or very plainly written and sent to our mailing address above or emailed to our editor at <a href="mailto:thegenie.editor@gmail.com">thegenie.editor@gmail.com</a>. Please note that *The Genie* cannot be responsible for errors or inaccuracies, but will hasten to publish correction.

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#### President's Message

This has been a rewarding year in so many ways. We have tried to provide educational opportunities in genealogy for everyone in the Ark-La-Tex through our special large group events, such as the August seminar and "A Conversation with Lisa Louise Cooke." We have also attempted to educate through our monthly meetings, *The Genie*, one-on-one instruction, the GenExpo, email guidance for those seeking genealogical assistance, our volunteer work at the Broadmoor Library, as well as many other planned activities yet to occur. If you have been positively affected by any of these attempts, please mention that to one of the board members.

If you believe that you have ideas which would enhance our mission to educate and support genealogy in our area, please share those ideas as well. We try to include everyone who wishes to participate in our efforts. If you would like to become more active in helping us continue to reach out to our members, both locally and around the country, please consider volunteering to serve on one of our committees. If you would like to speak in a 15-20 minute Horn Book session at our monthly meetings about genealogy, or write, publicize, organize, etc., there is a place open for you! Let's talk about it!

On another topic, there are three books which I would like to recommend:

- 1. Christine Rose. **Genealogical Proof Standard; Building a Solid Case, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.** (San Jose, CA: CR Publications, 2014).
- 2. Drew Smith. **Organize Your Genealogy; Strategies and Solutions for Every Researcher.** (Cincinnati, Ohio: Family Tree Books, 2016).
- 3. Lisa Louise Cooke. **The Genealogist's Google Toolbox, 2**<sup>nd</sup> **Edition** (Published by the author, 2015).

None of the above books are in the Shreve Memorial Library system thus far. You might try Barnes and Noble (<a href="www.barnesandnoble.com">www.barnesandnoble.com</a>), Lisa Louise Cooke's website (<a href="www.genealogygems.com">www.amazon.com</a>). Each has its own flavor and has been very helpful in the respective categories. Ms. Rose is a seasoned and accomplished genealogist who writes on a layman's level about a more complex topic for some. However, we all want to improve our techniques to make our genealogy sound and easy for our descendants to follow, so this book is "just about right" to help in that area. Drew Smith has been a part of the *Genealogy Guys Podcast* for a number of years and recently published this organization book for paper and digital methods. It is a winner! Finally, Ms. Cooke's book is a step-by-step approach to using Google more effectively. Genealogy is FUN!

Glenda Efferson Bernard

#### Vice-President's Observations

#### Dear Genies.

This last quarter has been a busy time filled with productive activities for our association. In July, we tried a different learning approach with the meeting. Tables were set around the room with presenters demonstrating a specific topic. Members moved freely between the various tables. This approach allowed for hands-on and small group attention. Members had the opportunity to visit all the tables or linger at just one or two. Even with the small attendance, we feel the program was successful and will try this approach again in the future with different topics.

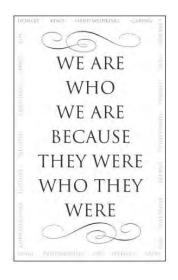
Jim Johnson's tireless efforts with planning and execution produced an outstanding August seminar! Jim's advertising and massive email endeavors paid off. The seminar was filled to capacity. Barnes and Noble sold a variety of genealogy and history books. We all bought books! A big **thank you** to Jim for making the seminar a success.

Our guest speaker for the September meeting was Eric Gipson of Forest Park Cemetery services. Mr. Gipson provided an overview of the historic 100-year-old Forest Park East Cemetery located off St. Vincent Avenue. He shared a list of luminaries buried in Forest Park East and provided historical background information on them.

Sonja Webb, member of the Education Committee, presented the hornbook session for the September meeting. The presentation was an overview of how to find the clues in the 1790-1870 censuses that can us lead to further research. Each member was given a set of blank census forms to follow along with the slides and to circle those tip areas.

We all are looking forward to the next quarter filled with research ideas, shared stories, and fellowship.

Sonja Webb



#### **Periodical Exchange Review**

#### Contributed by Reed Mathews

The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association currently exchanges periodical publications with dozens of historical and genealogical organizations across the country. These exchange publications are donated to the Genealogical Department at the Shreve Memorial Library. It is the purpose of this column to make readers aware of these wonderful resources for the family historian by giving brief descriptions of the publications and their content.

The Missouri State Genealogical Association Journal. The Missouri State Genealogical Association publishes their Journal quarterly from their base in Columbia. It has a card-stock cover, and it is staple-bound. Issue No. 2 of 2016 has 60 numbered pages including a table of contents and a full-name index. Black and white illustrations accompany several of the articles. Many of the articles are documented in footnotes. Contact information for authors is consistently provided.

This issue contained several articles that were reprinted from period newspapers. "Missouri's Foreign Born List Shows German Majority" ran in 1914 in The Daily Intelligencer of Mexico, Missouri, but had a by-line of Jefferson City. Information from the U.S. census of 1910 indicated that of Missouri's 228,896 foreign-born residents, 88,224 were from Germany. This article provides headcounts for many nationalities for the state of Missouri and for the cities of St. Louis, Kansas City, and St. Joseph, all of which was of interest at the time as much of Europe was at war. Family historians also enjoy understanding how their heritages fit in the mix.

A 1909 article from the **Sedalia Daily Capital** explained that "The Woman Died to Save Husband." As Mrs. Thomas Connell was cooking dinner one evening, her dress caught fire. Rather than go to her husband who had been paralyzed by a stroke, Mrs. Connell chose to escape the house. By the time neighbors arrived to help, she had been burned so badly her life could not be saved.

There are many articles that are more strictly genealogical. John Abney abstracted original records for his article, "Burials at the Iron County Poor Farm." Dixie Dawson Rolwing contributed the Bible records of her great-grandfather in "James Houston Howard's Family Bible." There is a very good history of the Hart family of Franklin County, Missouri, and a biography of Edward Weldon, a free man of color from Adair County.

Some of the submissions concern particularly colorful ancestors of the authors. Virgil Hoftiezer's family handed down the story that his great-great-great-grandfather, George Heisinger, had shot Jesse James. His article, "The Man Who Shot Jesse James First," quotes period accounts that Jesse James visited Heisinger's farm in the summer of 1864. According to these accounts, George Heisinger defended his property by shooting the bushwhacker in the right lung.

Jane Beal, a certified genealogist, first wrote her article, "The Woman behind the Arrow Rock Tavern," to accompany her application to the Missouri First Families program. Ms. Beal provides much information on the family of Elizabeth Humphrey, who was born by about 1790, in Nelson County, Virginia (later Kentucky). She married Bradford Lawless there in 1815, and the two moved to Saline County, Missouri by 1817. Bradford Lawless died in 1822. It was Elizabeth's second husband, Joseph Huston, who built the hotel and restaurant at Arrow Rock, which was known as the J. Huston Tavern. "Although no evidence exists, Elizabeth must have been a key player in the workings of their business ... [which is now] ... the oldest continuously operating restaurant west of the Mississippi."

The Missouri State Genealogical Association Journal provides a wealth of information for genealogists and lovers of history. Researchers with roots in Missouri will find much in these pages.

Le Raconteur. Le Comite' des Archives de la Louisiane is "the non-profit genealogical support group for the Louisiana State Archives." Le Comite' publishes Le Raconteur quarterly. "Le Raconteur" is French for "the story teller," and the title is entirely appropriate for a periodical compendium of genealogical and historical articles devoted to the state of Louisiana from colonial times forward. Lest there be doubt, the publication is otherwise completely in English. Issue 2 of 2016 contains 70 numbered pages including a table of contents, but no index. The cover is heavy paper. Black and white illustrations are provided for two of the articles.

Le Raconteur has been ably edited by Judy Riffel since 1984. Ms. Riffel is the foremost authority on the holdings of the Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge, and she has contributed volumes to Le Raconteur during this time. Articles in this edition which bear her name as author include "Louisiana Inhabitants Petition the Spanish King in 1807 to settle in Spanish Territory;" "Iberville Naturalization Records, 1838-1907;" "Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Natchitoches, Louisiana, Marriage Register 20, 1850-1891;" "An Index to the Testimony given by Louisianians in the Contested Election of 1876;" and "1865 Vermillion Parish Tax Assessment Rolls." These articles are each the kind of lists of names by period and place that family historians crave. Ms. Riffel provides the provenance, the historical context, and the eccentricities of these documents that researchers need to access, understand, and use in their research.

This issue also presents several articles submitted by E. A. "Tony" Dardeau. Mr. Dardeau has edited *Mississippi River Routes*, the journal of the Vicksburg (Mississippi) Genealogical Society since 1996. His contributions to this issue include "Death of a New Orleans Botanist, 1786;" "Lt. Col. James B. Many's 1825 Letter from Fort Jessup;" "Death of M. Gastagnol at Ibberville, 1826;" "James M. Nelson sells two Slaves, 1840;" "Lack of Wind Delays Shipment of Cotton from New Orleans to Liverpool, 1853;"and "Washington, Louisiana, Yellow Fever Deaths, 1870." Mr. Dardeau's submissions are gleaned not only from period newspapers, but also from one-of-a-kind period letters, which he has bought on eBay. Mr. Dardeau possesses a passion for collecting these unique, colorful artifacts and for sharing the wonderful insights drawn from them.

In her article "The Fate of the Immigrant Ship Luna," Carol Mills-Nichol explains that the lives of her great-great-great-grandmother, Minette Thalsheimer, and Minette's second husband, Salomon Lehman, had been a mystery for many years. All of Minette's children emigrated from the Alsace to New Orleans, but Salomon and Minette Lehman simply disappeared after 1856. An obscure report of the victims of a shipwreck turned up which gave an answer. Salomon and "Nina" Lehman had sailed for New Orleans in March of 1860, but they perished in the disaster. Period newspapers and official reports revealed the story. Less than 24 hours after the schooner **Luna** left Le Havre, a storm drove her back toward the coast of Normandy. From the shore, witnesses watched helplessly as the ship crashed on the rocks. The **Luna** was a total loss. More than a hundred people died.

Judy Riffel and *Le Comite*' have dedicated themselves to publishing historical and genealogical information focused on the state of Louisiana. Family historians will do well to mine these publications for the names of their ancestors who lived here. Thanking them is as easy as joining *Le Comite*', and we owe them an enormous debt for their service.

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Lord, help me dig into the past
And sift the sands of time,
That I might find the roots that made
This family tree of mine.

On which my father's trod,
And led them through so many lands
To find our present sod.

Lord, help me find an ancient book
Or dusty manuscript,
That's safely hidden now away
In some forgotten crypt.

Lord, let it bridge the gap that haunts
My soul when I can't find,
The missing link between some name
That ends the same as mine.

-- Author Unknown

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#### Greenwood Cemetery in Greenwood, LA Reed Mathews' List as of 2007 North Part of African-American Section East of the Unpaved Road

NOTE: This is part two of a three part series. Part three will appear in THE GENIE in the fourth quarter of 2016 .

	FTM= Funeral Home Marker			Tombstone
	<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Death</u>	<u>Inscription</u>
1.	Byrdsong, Huey	1930	1992	[FHM: Born 11-?-36 Died 2-28-92]
2.	Birdsong, George Sr.	Sep 15, 1902	Feb 17, 1970	
3.	Birdsong, Ola Mae	1902	1906	
4.	Birdsong, Ola Mae	Feb 16, 1908	Jun 5, 1996	
5.	Byrdsong, George E.	Jun 17, 1927	Aug 5, 2004	PVT US Army World War II
6.	Johnson, Mary Lucy	Dec 24, 1920	Feb 25, 2006	
7.	Johnson, Lee Arthur	Nov 26, 1956	Nov 4, 1972	US Navy
8.	Marshall, Annie Lee Hickman	Dec 31, 1928	May 16, 2003	
9.	Williams, Kurvis Montreal	Jan 8, 1974	Jun 1, 1989	
10.	Johnson, Kenneth Ray	Apr 25, 1969	Aug 4, 1969	
11.	Russell, Robert Earl	1957	1986	
12.	Collen, Peggy	Jan 13, 1882	Dec 10, 1966	
13.	Patterson, Archia Jr.	Dec 17, 1892	Sep 10, 1939	[Stone Broken]
14.	Taylor, Jacolby M.		Sep 14, 1987	[One date on marker assumed to be death date]
15.	Holt, Janette Marie	Aug 30, 1931	May 18, 1992	
16.	Holt, James Stokes Jr.	Dec 9, 1896	Oct 1986	[Dates from Social Security Death Index]
17.	Holt, James S.	Jul 18, 1871	Nov 5, 1949	Daddy
18.	Holt, Aggie Rollins	Sep 1880	Feb 1954	
19.	Jones, Dorothy Lee	May 16, 1926	Sep 9, 2004	

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20.	Allen, Frederick	Sep 15, 1951	Aug 28, 2001	PVT US Marine Corps
21.	Jones, Jack L.	Feb 1, 1941	Mar 17, 1993	US Army
22.	Jones, Jack	Dec 20, 1920	Sep 19, 1990	
23.	Patterson, Mable Hill	Jun 25, 1903	Aug 23, 1967	[Second marker: Mable Patterson 1902 August 23,
				1967 age 65]
24.	Reeder, Lizzie	1881	1961	
25.	Dotson, Viola Black	Jul 12, 1932	Nov 12, 1961	
26.	Dotson, Thomas J. Dan	1895	1986	
27.	Dotson, Sarah	1902	1963	
28.	Unknown - concrete slab			
29.	Marshall, Carolyn	Jun 7, 1961	Aug 23, 1962	
30.	Brooks, Pete	Oct 12, 1887	Apr 13, 1968	
31.	Walton, Clarence	Feb 27, 1907	Jun 8, 1973	
32.	Brooks, Sammie P.	Jan 1892	Jul 17, 1975	
33.	Unmarked by tree			
34.	Bailey, Luke B. "Bow"	Oct 15, 1918	Jul 30, 2002	
35.	Bailey, Laura G.	Jun 14, 1931	Apr 17, 1985	
36.	Glover, Annie B.	Aug 25, 1902	July 30, 1976	
37.	Bailey, Luke	1875	Mar 20, 1947	Age 72
38.	Bailey, Annie V.	Feb 1875	Mar 17, 1944	
39.	Colbert, Ben	1896	Apr 14, 1944	[Death date from LA Death Index]
40.	Jefferson, A. Clemons	1906	1944	
41.	Patterson, Roberta	Jun 24, 1858	Jan 7, 1941	Mother We Miss You
42.	Concrete slab, stone broken			[Remnant of marker: Gone But Not Forgotten]
43.	Fields, Annie Lee	1915	1966	
44.	Patterson, Rev. Archie		Feb 10,1949	Age 76
45.	Patterson, Annie	Nov 23, 1864	July 29, 1948	Mother
46.	Starks, Bertha L.	1949	2006	
47.	Jackson, Liouns Jr.	Nov 13, 1947	Jun 15, 2002	[Dates from Social Security Death Index]
48.	Jackson, Jennie Alma	Oct 12, 1912	Oct 14, 1988	•
49.	Unmarked Grave	•	•	
50.	Unmarked Grave			

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51.	Crosby, Clara	Aug 24, 1926	May 2, 2006	[FHM]
52.	Anthony, Mariah	Dec 23, 1872	Jul 25, 1954	Age 82
53	Jackson, Liouns	Jan 12, 1913	Jan 13, 1965	
54.	Jackson, Robert E. "Baby Jack"	Jan 15, 1952	May 13, 2002	
55.	Stephens, Allie Mae	Feb 24, 1916	May 9, 1997	
56.	Stephens, Zebedee "CD"	Dec 21, 1910	May 13, 2001	
57.	Taylor, Mitchell	Apr 21 1938	Jan 24, 2004	[Dates from Social Security Death Index]
58.	Taylor, Pearline D.	July 8, 1916	Aug 4, 1993	
59.	Taylor, Thurmond	May 6, 1915	Mar 10, 2001	
60.	Unmarked grave with the Taylors			
61.	Cornelious, Rev. R. O.	May 16, 1875	Jan 10, 1919	
62.	Taylor, Shireanne	Oct 1, 1947	Jul 21, 1995	
63.	Large concrete slab by road			
64.	Williams, Herman	Jul 4, 1934	Aug 18, 1995	
65.	Wayne, Joe 1903-1982	Mar 26, 1903	Jun 1982	[Dates from Social Security Death Index]
66.	Wayne, Ada (Mrs.)	May 7, 1906	Jun 2, 2000	[FHM]
67.	Hunter, Marrie		Sep 1979	Age 42 Yrs. [Stone is sunken into the ground]
68.	Dotson, Henry	Oct 8, 1901	Jan 26, 1989	
69.	Dotson, Lizzie Gray	Dec 25, 1902	Sep 18, 1987	
70.	Dotson, Charles Edward Mosley	Dec 6, 1952	Sep 18, 1979	
71.	Dotson, Elvira	May 14, 1886	Oct 13, 1979	
72.	Unmarked Grave			[Funeral Home Marker Near Road]

#### **Capture Those Family Stories**

Helen Marak's stories of her life have been written. So often we have missed the opportunity to encourage our family members to write their stories; not so with Mrs. Marak's family who got the "Write Stuff" from her. Linda Marak Scott encouraged her mother to put her stories on paper. Her writing collection has been a great joy for the Marak family. What follows is a wonderful example of one of Helen's stories, only one of many which has left her family with an extraordinary legacy. We all can draw inspiration from her.

So, Read on as Linda Marak Scott introduces her mother to us.

#### Forward by Linda Marak Scott

Mom was 89 years old when she took up residence at Live Oak. She had spent 50 years as an active businesswoman in real estate. She was at a loss when she first came to the assisted living home but decided to be positive and find an activity she would enjoy. Mom discovered a new writing class, which met weekly. It was composed of about six fellow retires at Live Oak ages 85 to 95. They were assigned a topic each week and would each read their writings at the next weekly meeting. Mom loved the assignments. It gave her something to think about, talk over with family and friends and then share her final product. Mother met weekly for 4 years with her friends and did her homework completing about 200 writings. Our family values these writings for they are family memories and history. Mom always had a good story to tell. She had a long list of email friends she or family members would share her writings. She was open to comments and criticisms. The following writing was an assignment to write about someone they knew that was foreign. Mother interviewed Vera her Russian friend. Vera was very happy to have her history preserved for her family. Vera recently died and her daughter was pleased to have this writing.

5-1-13 By Helen B. Marak

#### VERA, MY RUSSIAN GODCHILD

Vera was a coal miner's daughter in the cold, bleak Ukraine Her family lived on the fifth floor of a huge old apartment building shared by many relatives and friends. It was tradition. They all knew hunger and need. They occupied just a few rooms. She was always hungry. The snow drifts were as high as she was, but the children loved the snow. Times were changing. Stalin was in power. Grandma still prayed and loved her icons but the children didn't understand. The old people were not bothered but the young people were not to know anything about religion.

Vera was 18 when the Germans occupied the area and moved her, her sister and husband, and others in their neighborhood to forced labor camps. Fortunately, they ended up in

Estonia, a neighboring conquered small country that was contributing oil to the German war efforts. Here she was not separated from her relatives but was housed in barracks and trained to work in the laboratory making oil related products. They survived several years in this area until the Russians again regained Estonia.

Faced with the dubious choice of returning to Russia and possibly being considered traitors because of employment in the German factories, and consequently running the risk of Siberia or equal, or moving on towards Germany, many of the workers took the German choice.

Arriving in Munich, Germany, she lined up at the University with the other displaced young people trying to find food and shelter. She found a young man pulling her long braids. He was a handsome Polish lad who had spent the last 4 years in a German concentration camp in Munich. His command of German made it possible to fill in their application forms.

This flirtation progressed and they were married and assigned rooms. He studied, she worked, and they had a son who was assigned to a nursery for food and care. Years of work, deprivation, and plain guts resulted in Jake being awarded a degree in Chemical Engineering.

The next move was emigration! They both agreed to forget Russia and Poland and move on. They had choices of France, Canada, or the USA. Evidently Europe was as happy to unload all these people as were the people to go, for governments provided ships for them to emigrate at no cost. In 1951, Vera, Jake and son arrived in New York City. with \$20. in cash.

After six months of sharing housing with others, they moved on to Chicago which seemed to offer more opportunity. Here again was more plodding along but Jake found work in the steel industry and Vera worked in a factory. Jake took English speaking lessons and finally was able to convince an employer of his ability and education. He transferred to Western Electric Co. where his skill and passion for work was soon recognized. They were sent from one new plant to another as he was needed. His dedication to his work paid off and he was rewarded with promotions. He was sent to Shreveport, Louisiana to help establish a new big operation.

Vera was frightened when Jake returned from his initial trip to Shreveport when he told her that they were going to buy a house. "Oh, No! Jake we cannot possibly afford such a thing!" They bought not just any house but a luxury blond brick home like the architectural styles of Europe in a fine neighborhood. Jake was now an executive with a handsome income. He proceeded to give Vera all the things he had never been able to afford. He dressed her well, bought her jewelry and furs. He was the proud European male and made all the decisions. He did not teach her to drive or handle money. They shopped for groceries and clothes together. They sent their son and the later addition of a daughter to the nearby Baptist school and he attended St. John Berchman's Catholic Church.

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It was 1968 and this is where I met Vera. She was sitting and looking lonely outside the school class room while her daughter Christina was taking instructions held for young students who did not attend Catholic schools. I was just passing through but I stopped to say hello and a little small talk. I asked her if she belonged to any of the church circles and she said "No." I suggested she might like our group of young women and offered to pick her up for our next night time meeting. She hesitated but accepted the offer.

Our Circle 5 girls were delighted to listen to her accent and halting English. She warmed up and seemed to enjoy us. We pumped her for stories of her experiences and were happy to have her one of us. After a few meetings Jake started bringing her and picking her up. He was interesting too and really added zip and zest to our holiday dinners and Christmas dances. He set a new pace for our relaxed husbands when he appeared in his tux and clicked his heels when he danced. We girls all had a crush on this handsome Continental gentleman.

For fun we elected Vera Treasurer of our Circle. Jake had to teach her to write checks and deposit our dues to the bank account. It was an effort but she rose to the occasion.

One evening when the Circle met I was ill prepared for a program. I had been showing houses all day and I just grabbed at an idea. We were in a member's living room sitting in a circle and I announced that we would not have a formal program but just have each member tell what the Circle had meant to her. So many of us had been members for years. I was surprised at the sincerely sentimental responses of the first few members. Then Vera really got our attention when she tearfully announced that the Circle had been so wonderful to her and all of the girls were like sisters to her, and she was not even a Catholic!

This was truly quite a jolt to us. It had never even occurred to us. But then I remembered she had said the children in the Ukraine had no religion at all.

The next day I called Vera and asked whether Jake had ever proposed that she become a Catholic. She said "No" they had never talked about it. I asked whether she had ever been invited to become one and she said "No" again. I said "Well, I am inviting you, and will take you to instructions if you wish". "But I cannot take instructions because I cannot write in English."

I prepared my old friend, Father Browning, for the situation and together we explained the faith to her in a few sessions. A haunting suspicion occurred to me. In the turmoil of those years in Munich, Jake had quite likely married Vera, a non Catholic, in a civil ceremony. According to church law, Jake could not receive the sacraments although he attended Mass faithfully. Jake was a proud man. I took a chance and suggested to him that it would be wonderful if they would have their marriage blessed when Vera was baptized and Christina made her first Communion.

So, my husband Henry and I, served as God parents to Vera and best man and matron of honor at their wedding.

Jake evidently rejoiced at having his religious problems untangled for he promptly became very active in church functions. He joined the Holy Name Society, helped the ushers and generally took part in passing out turkeys and holiday baskets to the poor.

Jake passed on with a heart attack but Vera survived in great sorrow from the loss of the husband who had done so much for her. But the old spirit that had brought her this far took charge. From the shy shrinking violet she had been with Jake as her protector she emerged as a full blown sun flower.

She sold off the two magnificent automobiles that graced her carport, took driving lessons and bought a small compact Toyota. She never ventured on to the highways but she drove herself to the grocery stores and church services and Circle meetings. She was invited numerous times to tell of her experiences at business men's luncheons and other gatherings. She helped form a group of Russians in this area. They meet monthly at a church on Youree Drive to talk, reminence, sing Russian songs and even dance. She says you cannot forget your childhood and those relatives still in Russia. She sends money and goods each month to her sister who still lives in the old town.

She is 90 now and is slowing down a bit but she enjoys living alone in her fine home where she digs in the back yard taking care of her flowers. She misses her daughter but did not cling to her, allowing her to move to California with here pilot husband. She would like to see more of the 3 grandchildren but distance does not mean much with airlines and telephones.

We worry about her because she will not call on anyone for help, but she has neighbors who check on her. She has one friend who appeared in the nick of time when she had suffered with an illness for 3 weeks. Luckily she whisked her off to the hospital for a much needed treatment. Now she battles with her and drives her to her doctor appointments.

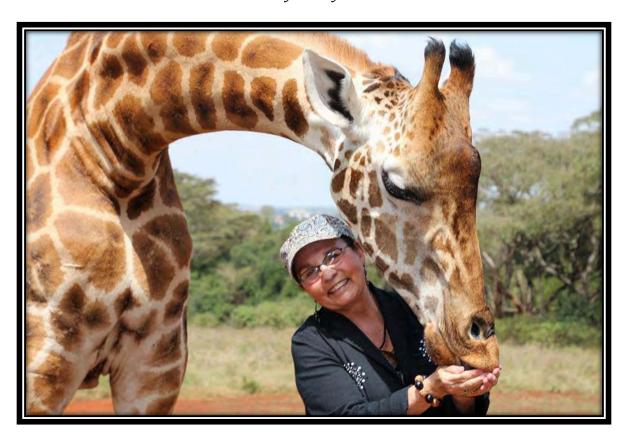
She will stay living alone in her home as long as her health permits. When I checked with her about my report on her life, she told me she was glad Jake had not listened to her when she badgered him about wasting their money by buying Western Electric stock. She had told him it would be just like in Russia. "You will never get your money back!" But now Merrill Lynch sends her a nice check each month.

I know that she is happier with the assurance her faith gives her of a hereafter with life everlasting. I love her and am glad she is my God child.

# GETTING TO KNOW YOU

## Sylvia Powers

Contributed by Marilyn Christian



#### LET'S MEET SYLVIA POWERS

If you have been hesitant about writing and sharing your family history, hesitate no more. Sylvia Powers has your back. Although she has been a member of ALTGA for a short time, she has bravely volunteered to proofread and edit the articles we submit to *The Genie*. What luck! We can finally share our wonderful stories and not worry about all those commas!

Sylvia knows about commas. Her career as an English and reading teacher spanned forty-five years. Her undergraduate degree is from Abilene Christian College; she received her M.Ed in Administration and Supervision from Tarleton University, currently part of the A&M System in Stephenville, Texas. For her dedication to teaching, she received the Texas Teacher of the Year award. Her husband's Air Force career led them to England,

Germany, and nine states in the US. Sadly, Ed Powers died at an early age due to complications from Agent Orange exposure.

Sylvia was born in an army-airbase hospital in Halls, Tennessee, during World War II. Her mother and father were married just two weeks before he was shipped out. She is proud of her father's service as a tank driver and his participation in The Battle of Normandy on D-Day, November 6, 1944. Clearly, Sylvia is familiar with the sacrifices that her family has made to defend our country. We are grateful.

As a child, Sylvia was curious about the stories of her family members and their questions concerning Native American ancestry, but her family had no proof. There is still no proof as yet as to the Native American heritage, but another patriot did materialize when Sylvia applied last year for membership to the Daughters of the American Revolution. With her research, the help of the DAR genealogist, and a trip to Alabama, documents were found to prove her patriot. She realized the information had been there, but she had not known how to access it. That was her "Aha" moment. Sylvia realized that we don't start our genealogy journey as experts, and there is help out there. Now, she is in the process of getting her daughter and granddaughter approved for the DAR.

Like the rest of us Sylvia has her genealogy brick wall, too. She is searching for sound documentation to prove that Milas Davidson is her great-great- grandfather. She is also researching the surnames Sharp, Sipes, Hilliard, and Plunk.

Sylvia's favorite story of her ancestors is about her great-great grandfather, Plunk. He was a doctor and he sold scalps! Imagine reading this about your ancestor! After recovering from the shock of this information, she researched further. The scalps turned out to be wolf scalps that were sold for bounty. After a sigh of relief, she found more "scalp" references. This time the doctor was credited with sewing the scalp back on a teenager who had had an unlucky encounter with an Indian!

Sylvia says she gets frustrated with all the trees and charts and diagrams in the world of genealogy. All of us can relate to this. She is also searching of ways to keep her research organized.

At the end of a recent conversation, I was telling Sylvia that writing was difficult for me. She said, "Put down your thoughts and ideas. Let someone else worry about the rest." She is that someone.

I told you that she has our back. Thank you, Sylvia.

#### FROM THE PALMETTO STATE TO PALMETTO PLANTATION

#### By Dale and Larri Jennings

The 1,595-acre Palmetto Plantation in north Bossier Parish belonged to the Vance family from 1850 to 1890. During that time, ownership between family members was at times blurred. They apparently made some private transactions within the family without a public record being registered at the court house. This has left descendants to conjecture just what had taken place.

Unlike neighboring Texas which bargained to come into the Union in retention of its land, Louisiana was a federal domain state. The part of Bossier Parish here on Red River in northwest Louisiana was opened to private acquisition in the late 1830s. At this time, it was part of western Claiborne Parish. William K. Beck was appointed Bossier Parish district judge with the formation of the parish in 1843. He had purchased considerable federal land there in 1839 and 1840, to include the 1,157 acres of what would later be the major part of the Vance plantation.

The first Vance to own the plantation was Allen Vance, a wealthy Abbeville District, South Carolina planter. His brother, Dr. James Washington Vance, moved from there to soon-to-be Bossier Parish in time for the 1840 census. "Wash" Vance, as well as being a physician, would also become a large cotton planter on Red River. He was beginning to buy land there and probably also persuaded his brother Allen to invest in a plantation adjoining his own. In addition to the land he bought from Judge Beck in 1850, Allen purchased military warrant land in the early 1850s, which expanded his plantation to just under 1,600 acres.

Allen Vance made occasional visits to Louisiana, but he continued to live in Greenwood, SC. A number of his male Vance kin would later make the move to Bossier Parish, ten in all. They were all single men who came individually over a span of time. Five remained bachelors. Five were doctors, and one was a lawyer. Two went into politics. Most were planters, to include Allen's son, John Chappell, and John's cousin, William Calvin (Cal) Vance, future owners of Palmetto Plantation.

Circumstances placed cousins Calvin and John Vance at Charleston Harbor at the flash point of the Civil War. As a senior cadet at the Citadel in January 1861, Calvin participated in the firing of the first shot on the federal steamer *Star of the West*. It had been sent from New York with 200 troops to reinforce the besieged Union garrison at Fort Sumter. The Congressional 128-volume *Official Reports of the Union and Confederate Armies* would later describe this hostile engagement in its first report. However, historians give the bombardment of Fort Sumter in April as the start of the Civil War because neither the ship nor the fort returned fire on either the cadet battery, Fort Moultrie, or other harbor batteries.

John Vance's descendants preserved his brief autobiographical sketch, in which he told of being a freshman student at South Carolina College in Columbia in early 1861. He told how the students organized a "College Cadets" company. "We went to Charleston and were stationed at Ft. Moultry (sp) on Sullivans Island during the attack on Ft. Sumpter (sp)."

Calvin went off to war with his hometown company, the Greenwood Secession Guards, said by family to have received substantial financing from Allen Vance. They became Company F, Second South Carolina Regiment, and were sent to Virginia where they fought in the battle of First Manassas, or Bull Run. John soon turned eighteen, enlisted, and joined his hometown company in camp. Calvin became captain of the company, and John saw extended duty as a courier on the staff of corps commander, General James Longstreet, mounted on a fine Arabian mare given him by his father. General Longstreet was very good at "shaping the battlefield," committing and redeploying elements to include divisions, guided by the sounds of battle and information brought in by his couriers.

The Vance cousins participated in nearly all the major battles of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Near the end, their South Carolina brigade was transferred to General Joseph Johnston's army trying to stem the advance of General Sherman's army up through the Carolinas. They made their stand at Bentonville, North Carolina, in the last great battle of the war. John was severely wounded in the thigh, left for dead on the field by the retreating army, and was taken prisoner. General Johnston surrendered not long after the battle. General Lee had already surrendered, and when General Kirby Smith surrendered his Trans-Mississippi Department headquartered in Shreveport, the war was officially ended.

John Vance told in his narrative about his long painful journey back home on crutches, with only occasional short rides between burned bridges. He said he was lifted into a boxcar by General Breckenridge (Jefferson Davis' last Secretary of War) who was fleeing west with the Confederate archives. The general seated him on a keg of silver coins, which John said were afterward divided among Davis' bodyguard at Abbeville, SC, fourteen miles beyond his hometown of Greenwood.

Allen Vance died in 1865, but not before seeing his son return home safely. Allen had made his son and his brother in Louisiana the executors of his will. He desired in the will that his wife Mary be left their South Carolina plantation and Greenwood residence. He wanted his oldest daughter Mary, or "Molly," upon coming of age or if she married sooner, to be advanced \$10,000, an estimated one-third of his Louisiana estate. He didn't want the plantation sold until the youngest daughter Laura Elizabeth, or "Nina," reached the age of eighteen. It could then be sold and the proceeds divided between John and Nina.

Shortly after Allen Vance's death and funeral in September 1865, John embarked for Bossier Parish to join his Uncle Wash in administering the Louisiana part of his father's estate. Allen had already willed the disposition of 350 bales of the plantation's cotton.

Other than the land itself, cotton would have been the Vance plantation's greatest asset. The 1860 agricultural census had shown a yield of 615 bales that year. But for the recent turn of events, the estate's biggest asset would have been its approximately 100 slaves. The 1860 slave schedule showed 83 slaves. Allen had retained only 16 on his South Carolina plantation. John found among the estate's credits and debts some outstanding residual slavery accounts. A bill from a slave catcher for \$25.00 for the capture and return of the slave Hudson was presented and paid by John.

An awkward duty was facing the executors. This was the collection of \$9,600 owed by Mattie Gilmer for an outstanding balance on slaves she had bought from Allen Vance in 1859 and 1860. Mattie was one of the three daughters of Dr. Vance's best friend, James B. Gilmer. The girls' mother and father had died; Doctor Vance was executor of James Gilmer's will and administrator of his estate on behalf of the children. He had been like an uncle, but now he and his nephew were legally obliged to collect all debts to Allen's estate.

Mattie, now Mrs. Patrick O'Neill, appeared in court with her lawyer to contest the debt. They used several points of law to refute the claim. One was that she had been warranted title to the slaves, but was divested of title on January 1, 1863, by Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. She further alleged that the slaves were sold to her fraudulently, alleging that Allen Vance, being a "negro trader and speculator," had brought them here, sold seven of the nine within the state and then went to Arkansas to make titles in order to evade the state's revenue laws. Additionally, that from May 1861 to September 1865, there was no court held in Bossier by any judge qualified by taking an oath to support the constitution of the USA. Finally, that on June 10, 1863, the General Assembly of Louisiana passed an act suspending "prescriptions" during the war and one year thereafter (obviously some legal avenue of litigation that Mattie was deprived of in civil court during that period).

The court rejected every argument presented by the defendant except the last one. That was deemed to be valid, so the court ruled in favor of Mattie and against the estate of Allen Vance. (No. 2025. 2<sup>nd</sup> District Court, Bossier Parish, LA. filed Sep 28, 1866).

John Vance named the plantation "Palmetto" for his native "Palmetto State," but legally it would long remain the "Allen Vance Plantation." This was the name used in legal documents to match its survey description. The plantation was less than half river land, and the remainder "hill land," divided by the Flat River bayou, which traversed the plantation. (See attached map)

The property was back from Red River, but its overflow from flooding over the centuries had deposited rich sandy soil as far back as the Flat River bluffs. This barrier ran the length of Flat River on the hill land side. The wooded, undulated hill land with its thin top soil appraised for only 1/15<sup>th</sup> to 1/20<sup>th</sup> the value of the river land. This would reverse itself with the decline of cotton and a demand for gentle rolling wooded subdivision lots, but that would be far in the future.

Calvin didn't migrate over to Bossier Parish until 1867. He probably stayed back to give support to the newly widowed Mary Vance and her two daughters. Other than the certainty that he was the Vance siblings' cousin, Cal's specific relationship has not been positively ascertained. Allen seems to have been his mentor if not his legal guardian. Calvin was a witness to Allen's signature on his 1865 will, but he was not mentioned in the will.

William Calvin Vance can first be found in the 1860 census while a student at the Citadel. His widow later said that he had been born in Spartanburg District in 1840. It is thought that he may have been the illegitimate son of Allen and Wash Vance's wealthy bachelor brother, Nathanial Carr Vance. Nathaniel was murdered by Dave, one of his slaves, in 1846. Having died intestate, his large estate was divided by law between his twelve siblings.

Subsequently, the editor of the Greenwood *Index-Journal* published a serialized article in 1947 entitled, "Our Old Roads." One segment profiled the local Vance family. The contributor said that he was puzzled over the relationship of William Calvin Vance to the other Vances. He related how he had made an inquiry to Bossier Parish and was told that Calvin's father was Nathaniel Vance. Still puzzled, he mused that this couldn't have been the older Nathaniel who had fathered the thirteen children, and that Nathaniel Carr had no children.

Much of this probably would not be told had Captain Vance not survived the war. None of his five battle wounds kept him from the front for very long. Having been wounded in the Battle of the Wilderness, he was recuperating at home in Greenwood during the next closely sequenced battles, Spotsylvania, North Anna, and Cold Harbor, otherwise, this writer's wife, Larri, might not have been fated to become Calvin Vance's great granddaughter. (Larri's descent is through William C., Jr., Nina, and Allen Vance.)

The 1867 Bossier Parish tax assessment records show that W. C. Vance paid taxes of \$1.25 that year on an "amount of money loaned on interest-- \$500.00." Doctor James Washington Vance died the following year. His will reads in part: "To William Calvin Vance....at this time a member of the commercial firm of N. W. Sentell & Co, doing business in Collinsburg...I will and bequeath, in addition to means and money I have heretofore furnished and advanced him, the sum of twenty thousand dollars in gold...." (Calvin had joined two other former Confederate captains who had a mercantile partnership in the ward just above Palmetto.) Doctor Vance also willed \$2,500 in gold to Harriet "Hattie" R. Montgomery in Laurens District, South Carolina.

Doctor Wash Vance then divided the remainder of his property equally among his legal heirs. He named Calvin and George Washington Sentell as his executors. In December 1869, Cal bought 1,584 acres of Doctor Vance's Riverside Plantation at succession sale for \$31,180.

It is known from the census and later writings that Hattie lived with her mother, Mary Ann Montgomery, and Mary's blind sister, Margaret, on the Spartanburg side of the

Enore River dividing Spartanburg District from Laurens. Hattie was born there in 1840. Nathaniel Carr lived in Laurens District between Abbeville and Spartanburg. He and his business partner, John W. Davis, owned property together in that area on both sides of the Enore River. Mr. Davis witnessed Mary Ann's signature on her will on February 11, 1864, the same day as her death (as shown on her tombstone at Cross Anchor near the Enore River). Mary Ann left one dollar apiece to a niece, a nephew, and her brother, John D. Montgomery. She left the remainder to her daughter Harriet Rosanna Montgomery. Hattie received a good liberal arts education and married a doctor, Irby Dunklin. They named their son James Washington. Years later in Bossier Parish, LA, Calvin would examine an 1875 legal document, and make a sworn statement that he knew Mrs. H. R. Dunklin and knew the signatures of her and her husband Irby Dunklin to be genuine.

The widowed Mary Chappell Vance came over from South Carolina in 1870. In the 1870 census, she and 17-year-old Nina were living with John Vance on Palmetto in Ward 2. John was a planter with \$20,000 in real property and \$5,000 in personal property. Mary gave her worth as \$50,000 in real property and \$3,000 personal. Mollie had married and stayed in Greenwood, only coming to Louisiana much later after becoming widowed.

Calvin had in February of that year married Lou M. Doles, the 21-year-old member of a pioneer Bossier family. In the census they are living in Ward 3 just north of the other Vances, where Cal had purchased 480 acres of land with Nathan W. Sentell. He was a 30-year-old planter, curiously worth only \$7,500 in real property and \$2,000 in personal property. Lou Doles Vance died in January 1871, having just given birth to a son. Calvin named the boy Allen Washington.

Cal remarried to his cousin Nina Vance on February 1, 1872. His cousin John had married the gifted, cultured, young Helen Pratt of nearby Minden the day before. Just previously, in December 1871, Cal purchased the 1,595-acre Palmetto Plantation at Allen Vance's succession sale. Mary had just the month before made a legal renouncement of any claim she might have had on Palmetto. Calvin paid the appraisal value of \$12,590 in cash for the plantation and over \$6,000 for most of the livestock and other movable property.

Calvin Vance's succession sale purchase of Palmetto Plantation, as shown in official court records, should not be taken at face value. It appears to have been an innovative collaborative way of taking the plantation out of estate intact in order to close the succession and make its ownership a private Vance family matter. We have only hints of how this was resolved, but it seems to have been a demonstration of the trust that family members had in each other. Palmetto was known to be John Vance's plantation. He continued to pay the property taxes and to live in the Palmetto Place home, where he and Helen raised their large family.

On April 15, 1873, John Vance began a long running notice in the *Shreveport Times* that he was conducting a lottery to dispose of his 700-acre Red River plantation and an

attached 180 acres. He explained that he was desirous of changing his business, and that the lottery was the only way he could see to affect a cash sale in those hard times (probably from the onset of the World Financial Panic of 1873). The first prize was to be the 700-acre river land plantation. He described it as first class Red River bottom, 2 ½ miles from Benton ("old" Benton), 11 miles above Shreveport, and one mile from the river. He placed its value at \$20,000. Second through seventh place prizes were six 20 and 40 acre attached lots. Also, there would be 93 cash prizes of \$100 each (a total value of \$30,000 in tickets to be sold).

In describing the property, John provided information about the Palmetto house and grounds that we would not have learned otherwise. He said he had a large ginhouse in perfect running order, and that every other house had been built since 1866. There were 19 cabins with brick chimneys, "built in different places on the plantation to suit the new system of labor" (probably sharecropping, with black families each farming a forty-acre plot).

The dwelling house was described as a fine, large two-story house with six rooms, exclusive of the kitchen, store rooms, bath rooms, etc., just completed at a cost of \$6,000. He said that he had spent \$10,000 on improvements alone since 1866. The house site came with a three-acre garden and orchard.

John assured lottery participants that possession of the plantation would be given over to the winner not later than January 1, 1874. However, should all tickets not be sold, a full refund would be made to ticket holders.

Mr. Thomas Braden, the Clerk of the Bossier District Court, certified in the notice that there were no more honorable gentlemen in the parish than the four named by Mr. Vance as securities in his "Plantation Lottery Scheme." They included the three aforementioned ex-Confederate captains who had been in the mercantile business in Collinsburg: Messrs. N. W. Sentell, J. H. Nattin, and John Vance's cousin and brother-in-law, W. C. Vance.

The Clerk of Court also certified that there was no suit pending against Mr. Vance, nor mortgage or claims against his property (leaving us to ponder what documentation existed to show that John was the legal owner, as such cannot be found recorded in the court house conveyance records). The newspaper ran the lottery notice week after week for many months before it was finally discontinued. It must be assumed that not all tickets were sold, and the ticket holders' money was returned.

The following chain of events are shown for whatever conclusions might be drawn. In January 1881, Calvin bought the 2,080-acre Willow Chute Plantation adjoining the Palmetto and Riverside plantations from John Pickett by credit sale. Bossier Parish Conveyance Book 12, Page 130, dated March 17, 1882, shows the sale of 900 acres of Palmetto Plantation by Calvin Vance to John Vance. It was indicated in the conveyance that this was a belated registration of the sale, which had actually occurred more than three years earlier on December 31, 1878. John was now (1882) buying 33 mules, 2

horses, 6 wagons, 40 turn plows, and 30 stock plows from Capt. W. J. Fish for \$5,000, indicating that he was most probably reentering the planting business.

John had been elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in January 1878. He took a strong stance against the suspect Louisiana State Lottery during the election and while in office. He was soon elected to the Louisiana State Senate and served two terms. According to John Vance's descendant, William Obering, he was appointed as Surveyor (Chief Customs Officer) of the patronage-ridden Port of New Orleans during the first term of the reform-minded President Grover Cleveland (1885-1889).

In January 1886, John Vance sold the Palmetto 900 acres back to his brother-in-law, William Calvin Vance. Cal and Nina once again owned the 1,595-acre Palmetto Plantation. John's beloved Helen died suddenly in New Orleans four months later.

In 1887, Calvin Vance bought a residence on Fannin Street in Shreveport located three blocks west of the river front. The house at 310 Fannin Street sat squarely between their church, St. Marks Episcopal, and the B'nai Zion Synagogue. That block now has one street number, 300 Fannin, the address of the federal courthouse building. Their architect, N. S. Allen, did extensive reconstruction and remodeling, to include adding a story and a half to its elevation. They moved into their mansion in 1890, the same year that they sold the Palmetto Plantation to Mr. R. N. McKellar, a leading Shreveport businessman. Nina's brother John made an affidavit at sale that he no longer had any interest in Palmetto Plantation.

Nina was probably able to persuade her husband to move to the city because of the railroad. The Cotton Belt line had been completed in 1888 from Shreveport across Red River to Bossier Parish and up to Lewisville, Arkansas. Calvin could now conveniently ride the train up along the river and disembark either at his flag stop on Riverside Plantation or at the depot on his Willow Chute Plantation. In early 1891, Calvin made a legal declaration that for the sum of \$5,000, heretofore received by him for his wife from the succession of her deceased father Allen Vance, he was now transferring to her the property at 310 Fannin Street.

Reuben McKellar was an area planter, a large-scale cotton factor or broker, and a few years later, he would be elected mayor of Shreveport. He was also an extensive buyer, seller, and mortgage holder of many of the larger Bossier Parish plantations. He soon sold a half interest in Palmetto to Mary F. Birdwell, wife of John Birdwell. In 1893, the two sold the plantation to C. B. Wilkerson of Philadelphia. He in turn sold it to the Equitable Securities Company of New York City in 1898. In 1890, Equitable sold it back locally to a stalwart Bossier citizen, J. W. Jeter. The old John Vance plantation home was destroyed by fire during the short time Jeter owned Palmetto (but was at some time rebuilt). Jeter sold the property to J. N. Birdwell in 1901, and this typical "game of monopoly" continued.

Mr. J. N. Birdwell sold the plantation in 1907 to Col. J. B. Ardis, a widely-known planter, cotton factor, and owner of probably the largest wholesale mercantile house in

Shreveport. Ardis held the plantation until 1914 when he sold it to the incorporated "Palmetto Planting Company." The planting company sold it to George W. Duke two years later. Duke bought more than 300 acres of the South Riverside Plantation from another seller, combined the two properties and called his plantation Dukedale. However, when the 1,228 acres were conveyed to Frank Stevenson in 1921 and then to a Missourian, Mr. A. R. Kilburn, in 1923, it was the "Allen Vance Palmetto Plantation." At this point, the plantation was finally split up through successive sales by the Kilburns beginning in 1924. Ownership of the parts would return to Bossier Parish residents.

The western, or river land part of Palmetto Plantation, has to this day remained basically intact, although not now identified as such. After a succession of sales, Mr. Raybon C. Atkins bought most of the land on the west side of Flat River from William P. Lincoln in 1947. This included the old South Riverside Plantation land between there and Red River. In 2003, the Atkins' daughter, Charlene, and her husband, Donald E. Sonnier, put most of the property into the "Atkins-Sonnier Family, LLC." It is now in the possession of the Atkins' granddaughter, Laura Lee Sonnier Leflett, her husband Donnie, and their children, Peyton, Lauren and Tanner. The Lefletts, who are "cow people" and pecan growers, are good stewards of the land. The younger Lefletts are accomplished rodeo performers, as well as ranch kids. The family grazes cattle on the large river land part of Palmetto Plantation that was once white with cotton interspersed with the nineteen cabins, with brick chimneys.

Today there are six residential subdivisions either totally or partially within the boundaries of the old Palmetto Plantation. All but James Towne were placed on the hill land side of Flat River. The others are Palmetto Park, Palmetto Place, Bay Hills, Sweetwater, and Woodlake South. Sweetwater is on the east side of Black Bayou Lake. Before the lake was created some thirty-five years ago, it was just the seasonably-dry Black Bayou, which zigzagged through the eastern part of the plantation. The middle third of the lake now lies within the plantation's old boundary. The last named three subdivisions are on nicely wooded tracts along the shores of Black Bayou Lake. They are on what was the least desirable of the hill land, being assessed for from \$1.00 to \$1.25 an acre when the plantation was taken out of Allen Vance's succession in 1871.

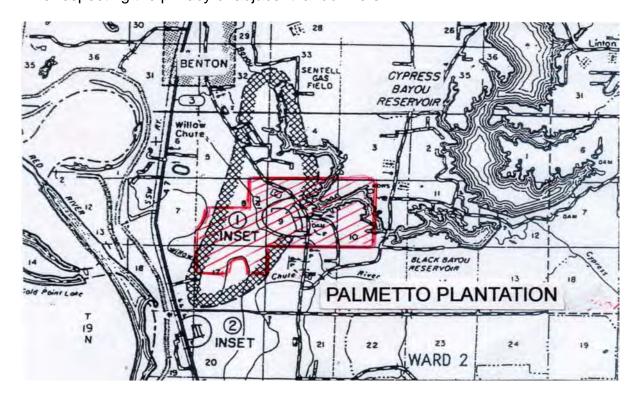
The parish roadway, Palmetto Road, runs north and south through old Palmetto. At the north entrance is the clubhouse of the now defunct Palmetto Country Club. John Vance's Palmetto Place home sat on the little knoll now occupied by the clubhouse. At the south exit from the plantation, Cypress Baptist Church sits just across the old property line on the left or east side of Palmetto Road. In fact, the church has acquired some of the land extending up into the Palmetto tract for future use. St. Jude Catholic Church is just on the other side of the line on the west side of the road.

The Palmetto Country Club, which opened in 1950, had been declining in membership for quite some time, despite a great influx of population into the Benton area, drawn by its rural, small community atmosphere, Lakes Black Bayou and Cypress, many new subdivisions, and its good schools. The decline continued despite promotion efforts by

a new membership-owner group. This included an attractive new white ranch rail fence along the golf course perimeter with Palmetto Road. For some reason the sport of golf seemed to have lost much of its appeal.

Palmetto Country Club closed operations on December 31, 2014. The following year, an out-of-area developer took an option on the property and began the process of obtaining the zoning change needed to establish a residential subdivision on the 155-acre property. The change was opposed by the capacity crowd of local citizens at the zoning board meeting. (When someone asked for a show of hands by everyone who wanted a subdivision, the promoter was the only one to raise his hand.) The outcome was an approval by the Bossier Parish Police Jury. But, not approved was the proposed six-acre fringe of small retail sales and service businesses along the white fenced border with Palmetto Road. This was because of its dangerous entrances and exits onto the two lane curved road. The developer withdrew his application and his option to buy, and the overgrown old golf course continued to be an attraction for the deer and coyotes.

On May 1, 2016, the giant Willis-Knighton Health System announced in the Shreveport paper, *The Times*, that they had purchased the 155-acre Palmetto Country Club property and would be master planning a medical health services complex to serve the area. Their plans are to develop an expansive green space around the perimeter of the campus featuring park benches and a comprehensive walking trail, further preserving the park-like natural setting, as well as providing community recreational opportunities while respecting the privacy of adjacent landowners.



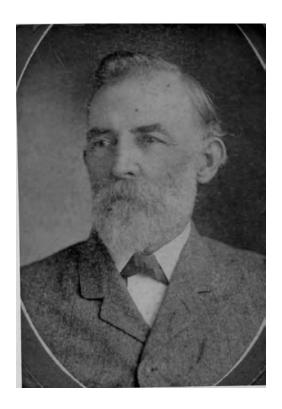
Bossier Parish map depicting Palmetto Plantation. Map designed by Dale Jennings



WILLIAM CALVIN VANCE SR.



**NINA VANCE** 



JOHN CHAPPELL VANCE



HELEN PRATT VANCE



Palmetto Country Club after closure





Grandmothers are just "antique" little girls. -- Author Unknown

Myrtle Eve Watts, age 16 years, 1911. Grandmother of Glenda Bernard.

## "On the Hill by the Walnut Tree"

- the search for our missing pioneer -Research by \*Ken Dailey, ALTGA member since 2014

My mother's family can be traced many generations, and I have been fortunate to visit the grave of my great-great grandfather in the obscure family cemetery near Zebulon, GA. His grave (photo below) identifies him as American Revolutionary War Patriot, **Sherwood Beckham** (1760 / aft. 02-16-1837).

REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT SHERWOOD

**BECKHAM** 

BORN 1762 PROBABLY IN GEORGIA DIED AFTER FEB 16, 1837 IN GEORGIA



MARKER PLACED BY XAVIER CHAPTER OF NSDAR MAY 3, 1997 WIFE
MARY STEPHENS
BECKHAM
BORN CIRCA 1774
IN SOUTH CAROLINA
DIED AFTER 1850
IN GEORGIA



Moreover, the modern descendants of Sherwood Beckham know the fate and burial place<sup>1</sup> of Sherwood's youngest grandchild, **Solomon Daniel Beckham (Jr.)** (09-11-1864 / 06-07-1926), who was my grandfather.

What we haven't known for at least a generation is the burial place(s) and date(s) of death of Sherwood's son and executor of his estate<sup>2</sup>, Solomon Daniel Beckham (Sr.) and Solomon Sr.'s wife, Mendelia Elizabeth Culpepper Beckham.

Solomon Sr. and M. Elizabeth moved from Pike Co., GA about 1847 to Bradley County, Arkansas' Pennington township<sup>3</sup>, just northeast of the County seat of Warren. The migration was made with their first four of nine children. According to some family lore, Solomon abandoned his obligation to care for his mother (Mary Stephens) in her old age, leaving that to his brothers and sisters who remained in Georgia. M. Elizabeth's family, the Culpeppers, a prominent southern family, may have thought that M. Elizabeth was "marrying beneath her station" as they did not entirely approve of her choice of spouse<sup>4</sup>.

Solomon Sr. took advantage of land offered for as little as \$1.25 per acre under the Federal Scrip Warrant Act of 1855 (10 Stat. 701). Eventually he held the patent on a total of 440 acres.<sup>5</sup>

Solomon Sr. and M. Elizabeth had five more children in Arkansas. The youngest of their nine children was my grandfather, Solomon Daniel Jr., whom I have previously described. The Beckhams farmed and sold timber.

According to the 1880 U.S. Census, Solomon Sr. and M. Elizabeth were living with one of their daughters and son-in-law, still in Pennington Township. A casual observer of events after that census and upon noting the absence of the pair in the 1900 U.S. Census might assume that their fates would remain clouded.

An unexpected discovery in a local library renewed hope that the Arkansas pioneers had more history to tell.

- 1) Solomon D. Beckham Jr. is buried in Philadelphia Cemetery, Columbia Co., AR
- 2) Abstracts of Georgia Wills, Vol. II, p. 132
- 3) U.S. Federal Census' of 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880
- 4) Letter of Herschel Patterson to Lewis Griffin, March 23, 1995
- 5) Solomon's last eighty acres were obtained under Federal provision of Sale-Cash Entry (3 Stat. 566) of 1820

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Only one or two of the dozens of family trees and histories of the Beckham family on the Internet come close to being accurate. Most mix generations, leave out individuals, err on dates and places, and generally repeat information from other questionable sources. Many of the genealogy sites declare Solomon Sr's date of death as 1864, but he lived at least to 1880.6 Virtually all of the sites state that Solomon Sr. is buried in "Walnut Hill" in Bradley Co., Arkansas. There is no cemetery by the name of Walnut Hill in Bradley County. Among fifty or more bound and loose-leaf reference books in the genealogy section of the South East Arkansas Regional Library at Warren, Arkansas concerning listings of cemeteries of Bradley County, no mention is made of a cemetery by that name. The names of Solomon Sr. and M. Elizabeth do not appear on any cemetery roster in the United States. The popular website, *Find-A-Grave* does not list either of the pair. There is a "Walnut Hill" Cemetery in Lafayette, Co., Arkansas west of the town of Bradley (a vexing coincidence). Extensive research, however, ruled out any possibility of either being buried there.

On April 22, 2016, my spouse, Susan Dailey (also an ALTGA member) pulled a nondescript, white, one inch, three-ring binder from the shelves of the Warren, Arkansas library. The spine was hand-lettered in a faded black magic marker, "Old Not Used Cemeteries [of Bradley Co.]." There were five pages listing old cemeteries. On page three was the heading, "Beekman/Skinner Cemetery" (Beekman is a common misspelling of Beckham).

A copy of that page is as follows:

## Beekman/Skinner Cemetery

Location: from the Radio Station on HWY 63 N. go to Bradley 22 then right on Bradley 22 go about Mile & ½. . in the woods only 2 stones found , only one had these Initials "WRW" on top of stone Mr . Lavern Wangle told Mike Berry that Turner Cornish told him they were related to some Skinners who established "Skinner Ford" . Also Lathan Stedman said he does not know who is buried there ,but it use to be fenced in. This was found March 30, 2007

Two of Solomon Sr.'s children married Skinners and the Skinner family held land adjacent to Beckham land near a Saline River ford, bearing their name. The brief narrative under the heading gave directions to the cemetery. The writer realized that the directions placed the cemetery within the boundary of the first forty acres deeded to Solomon Sr. in 1857.

The mentioned Lathan Stedman and one of the researchers (Peggy Bowman) are deceased and the present owner of the property, Lavern Wangle, was in poor heath and could not be interviewed.

The remaining researcher, Jack Scobey, lives in Warren, AR. J. Scobey took me to the home of Mike Berry, whose land is adjacent to that of L. Wangle. M. Berry and J. Scobey escorted Susan and me to a dim and abandoned road extending due east from the first curve of the north leg of Bradley Co. Rd. #22. The site is approximately four miles northeast of Warren, AR. The dim road originally extended one mile east of the curve and crossed the Saline River at a place commonly known as "Skinner ford."

We walked about 100 yards due east and came to a red gate on our left. We walked north/northeast past the gate on a dim trail for another 100 yards and found ourselves on a <u>small hill</u> that dropped off gradually on all sides. A later review of topographical maps of the area confirmed that the knoll was the highest point of elevation within miles.

On top of the hill was a massive and ancient black <u>walnut</u> tree which would have been mature at the time of occupation by the Beckham family. M. Berry said that the tree still produced fruit each year. No other stately trees were on the property, which had succumbed to undergrowth and neglect.

Immediately east of the base of the walnut tree were two unusual grave stones. Each semicircular stone, appearing similar to a big hoop of cheese cut crossways, sat on a 24-inch square slab. On top of one of the upper stones were carved the initials, "WRW" and the second stone was completely unmarked. Photographs of the location and the stones are as follows:



On top of the hill stands a massive black walnut tree. Two stones are among the tangle of weeds and fallen branches on the east side of tree.



The writer sits between the only remaining headstones of his great grandfather's presumed family cemetery. The black walnut tree to his right dominates the hill. Excavation and restoration might reveal other markers.



The stones are identical, but the northmost stone is devoid of any markings or inscription.



The other stone has the initials "WRW" cut into the top of the marker.

Did family oral history relate that Solomon Sr. was buried on the "hill by the walnut tree?" Was it eventually shortened to a burial on "Walnut Hill?" Was this the source of the burial place name on all those web-based family trees? The informal name would not appear on any "official" listing of cemeteries in Bradley Co. Modern residents of the neighborhood would not be familiar with the moniker "Walnut Hill." Only a few know that the ancient family cemetery exists.

The coincidences suggested that the "Beckham/Skinner" cemetery might hold the remains of great-grandfather or other relatives, but more validation was required. That validation came while studying a second migration of the Beckham family. Narrowing the dates of death of the elder Beckhams and of locating their final resting place(s) now seemed possible.

All the children of Solomon Sr. and M. Elizabeth remained in Bradley County up to 1880 with the exception of their next-to-oldest son (Thomas Bailey), who moved back to Georgia after service during the Civil War with the 19<sup>th</sup> Arkansas infantry (Hardy's Regiment).<sup>7</sup> The only child to remain in Bradley County all his lifetime was their 3<sup>rd</sup> child, Henry Harrison Beckham, who was also a Civil War veteran.

Around the mid 1880's some children moved west to establish homes in Arkansas' Hempstead Co., Nevada Co., and eventually into Louisiana and Texas. Even Solomon Sr.'s youngest child and namesake, Solomon Jr., (the writer's grandfather) moved to Hempstead Co. and married his first wife in the spring of 1885.<sup>8</sup> A handwritten letter<sup>9</sup> by the late Herschel Patterson (a great grandson on the Skinner branch of the family) to Lewis Griffin (a direct descendant on the Culpepper side of the family) written in 1995, describes recollections of his grandmother, Martha (Beckham) Skinner. H. Patterson heard her tell that M. Elizabeth moved with Martha and husband, Thomas, to Hempstead Co. near Shover Springs sometime after 1880. No mention is made of Solomon Sr. moving with them.

Moreover, an abstract of a warranty deed from Bradley County, dated October 19, 1885, reveals that 166 acres of Solomon Sr.'s original patent land was sold to a Mr. Johnson for \$300.\(^{10}\) The document contains the signatures of M. Elizabeth, all her children and the signatures of all their surviving spouses. Some of the signatures were attested to by a Justice of the Peace of Hempstead Co., indicating residences established outside Bradley County before the date on the warranty deed. Notably absent on the deed is the signature of the patriarch, Solomon Sr. It is logical to assume that Solomon Sr. had passed away prior to the fall of 1885 (perhaps as early as the end of 1880) and that the original homestead was being divided. A few children bought land in Hempstead Co. and remained there the rest of their lives.

No obituary, newspaper article, or other document has been located describing the date of Solomon Sr's death and no record shows his place of interment. It is reasonable (if not compelling) to assume that Solomon Sr. died on or near his pioneer home, was buried without fanfare in the family plot near his home, and that he lived between 71 and 75 years of age. An exact date of the death of Solomon Sr. may never be determined beyond the speculation above, but it is with a high degree of certainty that we conclude he is buried on "Walnut Hill."

As to the matter of his wife M. Elizabeth, we have fewer clues to her death and burial. Herschel Patterson's letter states, "I know where she [Elizabeth] is buried." He lists two cemeteries in Hempstead Co., a few miles southeast of Hope, AR. They are "Ross Cemetery" and "Oak Grove Cemetery."

History of Arkansas' 19<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Confederate Infantry, Arkansas 1911 Census of Confederate Veterans (Vol. 1 - A to D), B. McLane & C. Glazner, Ed.

<sup>8)</sup> Marriage Records of Hempstead County, Book H, p. 217

<sup>9)</sup> Letter of Herschel Patterson to Lewis Griffin, March 23, 1995

<sup>10)</sup> Warranty Deed Abstracts, Bradley Co., Record J, page 610

<sup>11)</sup> Letter of Herschel Patterson to Lewis Griffin, March 23, 1995

On February 15, 2016, I spoke by telephone with Diane Davis, historian and caretaker of Ross Cemetery located near Shover Springs, AR in Hempstead Co. D. Davis said that to her knowledge there were four unmarked graves in Ross Cemetery among the 25 or so there. She said that there were only family members buried there and that as far as she knew, no Beckham was among them.

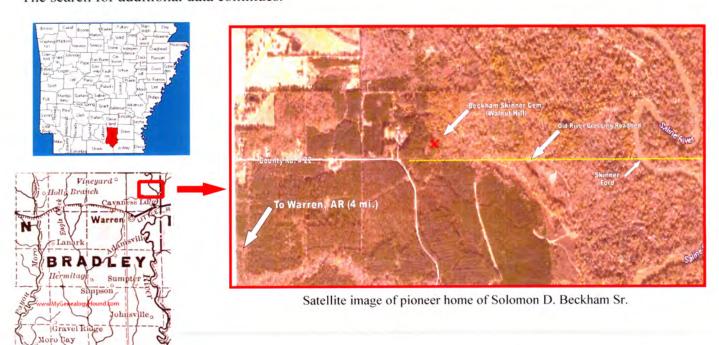
On May 4, 2016, I spoke by telephone with Diane Davis' mother, Barbara Impson, who is 89. Ms. Impson is a historian for the Oak Grove Methodist cemetery, which is about one mile north of Ross Cemetery, near Shover Springs, AR. B. Impson said that the first burial in Oak Grove was in 1905 and that there were no unmarked graves there. She was certain that the only Beckham buried in Oak Grove was M. Elizabeth's daughter, Rebecca (Beckham) Johnston, who lived until 1949. However, Ms. Impson said that there were two unmarked graves at Ross Cemetery, but she had no knowledge that any Beckham was buried there.

Herschel Patterson's letter of 1995 is informative and offers insight into Beckham/Skinner family histories, Several of his recollections are in error, however, and his suggestions of the possible locations of M. Elizabeth's burial may be wrong as well.

M. Elizabeth lived with at least two of her children in her later years both in and outside Bradley Co. She may have eventually moved back to Bradley Co. to live with her son Henry or other family members. Since no obituary or other written record exists concerning her death, she, like Solomon Sr., may have been buried in the Walnut Hill family plot. Her death would have occurred after 1885. She probably lived between 65 and 80 years.

In June 2016, the **Beckham/Skinner Cemetery "Walnut Hill"** was entered into the listings of Arkansas cemeteries on *Find A Grave* [.com] with the satisfaction that the pair of lost ancestors is now somewhat anchored in time and space. They are definitely revived in the memories of their descendants.

The search for additional data continues.



\* Ken Dailey is an amateur genealogist for the Dailey/Beckham families. He lives near Emerson, AR on the 1900 Dailey homeplace. He would like to receive information about the mentioned families or any corrections to his research.

Contact: ksdailev@outlook.com

1849 Bradley Co.

's Hill

## Genealogy Seminar Contributed by Jim Johnson

Our annual seminar held on August 13, 2016, was a huge success. We were fortunate to have Diane L. Giannini, CG<sup>sm</sup> as our guest speaker. Ms. Giannini was certified by the Board of Certified Genealogists in 2008 and received her re-certification in 2013. She enlightened the audience with a wealth of information on numerous genealogy topics. We were also fortunate to have Barnes and Noble Booksellers with us again this year hosting the book fair. Their local management team had assembled and offered a large selection of genealogy and history books for sale.

Ms. Ginnini's first lecture was titled "Confirming Family Stories Using Special Collections." She explained what type of documents and materials typically may be found among special collections and the various institutions where these collections can be found. She further explained that documents found in special collections may be used to confirm, disprove, or add interest to a story, as well as enable the researcher to learn more about a subject. Documents located therein may also be used to corroborate research previously done.

The second lecture was "I've Found a Document, Now What?" Ms. Ginnini suggested that research documents should be analyzed with the following questions in mind: Why was the document created? What information does it provide? Does it lead you in a direction for further research? When conducting a document analysis, the researcher should consider the history and laws for the time frame being researched to better understand the significance of clues found.

In the next lecture, "Mapping your Genealogy," Ms. Ginnini explained that locating your ancestor's land, pinpointing where they lived, and mapping their movements can be a part of your family's story. Knowing about land surveying types, resources for finding maps, and tools available to place where your ancestors lived can help you incorporate maps into your family history. This can be accomplished by creating a database of the locations where your ancestors lived, making use of census records and city directories to locate exact places, and using land platting tools along with free tools available at Google Earth.

The last lecture of the day was "Finding the Impossible - Case Study of the Lost Courthouse." This lecture described the collaborative efforts of Ms. Ginnini and a team of experts, including land surveyors, archeologists, and local historians to locate the site of the first courthouse built in Charles County, Maryland. This courthouse was established in 1674 and abandoned in 1727. Finding the site involved a thorough analysis of early surveys and land records, comparing historic and current maps, and researching probate records of those who had lived in the area. This lecture demonstrated the importance of establishing a research goal, collaborating with others, and analyzing each document for clues.

This year's seminar brought attendees from all over the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. Ms. Ginnini did a wonderful job of illustrating how researching special collections, document analysis, mapping the movement of our ancestors, and the importance of collaboration can enhance the success of our research.

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### A Conversation with Lisa Louise Cooke Sonja Webb



The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association billed a special event featuring Lisa Louise Cooke's "A conversation about the modern face of genealogy and technology," originally scheduled for March but rescheduled for June 2016. The program had a strong turn out, and the speaker was outstanding. Lisa Louise Cooke, a family historian, produces the *GenealogyGems* podcast as well as a podcast for **FamilyTree** 

**Magazine**, where she is a frequent contributor of articles which deal with the integration of technology with genealogy research. She has authored four books.



Cooke has become an expert on how to use the **Google** search engine for genealogy research. Her presentation style was conversational, and she easily related to her audience. The attendees immediately warmed to her, asking questions which created meaningful dialogue.

Lisa's topics focused on the use of technology to help solve research problems. She emphasized the features of **Google** and awed us with what this tool is capable of doing when the researcher knows how to utilize Google maps, images, eBooks, and YouTube, all of which offer the genealogist a wealth of resources. Mrs. Cooke offered many practical examples as she illustrated the individual Google features.

**Google**'s wide range of features will keep a researcher busy searching the web for material, but that is a good bounty. Among the many points Lisa Cooke discussed about **Google** with us, I found the following exceptionally useful:

### 1. Search the sub menu

Sometimes we over look submenu choices. Type a topic in the search box and after a list is displayed, click on **Images** and then click **Search tools**. There is so much to find under the **Search tools** that can give the researcher much more material.



There are more choices under **Image**. Notice the small drop down arrow next to each word. Click on the arrow next to **Type**. There are choices as to the types of images available. Wow! Choices.



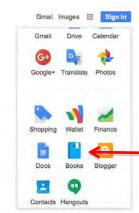
## 2. Google Books

**Google** has digitized millions of books. Many of these books are out of print, and there are many that are no longer copyrighted. **Google Books** will locate current books and point to a vendor. Go to **google.com** and click on the tiny square of dots on the right side of the screen.



www.rootsweb.com/~laaltga 37

From the drop down menu, scroll down and select **Books.** Type in a title, family name, or topic; next click the search button. A suggested list will pop on the screen. Click on the **Search tools**, click on the small arrow next to **Any Books**, and select **Free Google eBooks** 





## 3. Google Translate

Go to **translate.google.com** or go to **google.com** and type the word "**translate**" in search box. Select **Google Translate**.

Type or paste the English words in the box on left side of the screen. Select the language to translate **to** from the box on the right. It's easy to copy text from a foreign language website and then paste it into **Google Translate** to get an English translation. One may need to send an email to a German cousin. Type the message in English, translate to German, then copy and paste into email. This is not always perfect, but my German cousin tells me it's close, and I've made an effort to communicate in her language. Try it.

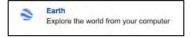
## 4. Google Earth and Maps

**Google Earth** is a virtual view of the mapping of the planet. It's possible to travel the globe sitting at the computer viewing locations in an aerial view and a street view.

This tool is particularly exciting for the genealogist and one I am trying to master. Overlaying old family homestead and historical maps on modern maps is appealing. The family historian can visualize the location of the home place in context with today's modern world.

**Google Earth** is a free software program. Go to **goggle.com.** Click on the square of tiny dots in the top right hand corner of the screen. From the drop down menu, scroll to the bottom and click on **Even More**. From the big screen, scroll down to **Earth**.

Click on the blue Earth and follow the steps.



## 5. Search by Image

The world-wide web is loaded with million of photos. A photo can be uploaded to Google, and Google will search the web for similar pictures. This search could aid in identifying photos. If a similar match fails, don't despair; try again later because millions of photos go online daily.

Go to **google.com**, click on **Images**. A small camera appears on the right side of the search box.

Click the camera. From the pop up window, click on **Upload an image**.

Click on the button **Choose File**. From this point, navigate to the location where the photo resides.

Google uploads the picture and searches for matches. Possible matches are presented. I uploaded a group of pictures of Civil War soldiers, and I got a picture list of World War II grouped soldiers. It's not perfect yet. Google matched my picture by the way the men are grouped. It did not match by uniform. But, I keep trying.



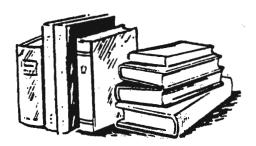
Reprint of Some Articles from *The Genie* – 1990 to 1999

\*\*Brenda Custer Randall\*\*

Over the years, many current and former members of ALGTA have contributed to the quarterly publications of this organization, *The Genie*. From the ten-year period shown above, we have selected several which should be of interest to new members, as well as those who have breached a "brick wall" which revealed a new surname.

Included in this selection of articles are the following:

- 1. "Bossier Parish Inquest Book I" from 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, 1990
- 2. "First Post Office Opened Here in 1838" from 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, 1992
- 3. "Record of Physicians & Midwives, Book 1 Caddo Parish" from 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, 1997



# BOSSIER PARISH INQUEST BOOK I

Ethel Krause has abstracted the following information from a very worn book found in the Office of the Clerk of Court of Bossier Parish in the courthouse at Benton, Louisiana. Given here is information from Book of Inquests, Volume I, including the page number on which the information is to be found, the name of the deceased, the determination of the inquest and the date. The earliest date here given is January 1872.

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29	Lavina FRUMAN. Epileptic. 29 Feb 1897								

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- 82 Jno LIST. Explosion Boiler Room-Shreveport Oil Mill Co., Bossier City, LA
- 66 Wm. LITTLETON..c..Accidental drowning..10 Jul 1897
- 96 J. F. LAY.. Shot & killed.. Bideau, LA.. 20 Aug 1900
- 71 Lindy LINCOLN..c.. Shot & killed by Geo. FORD.. Midway, LA.. 27 Feb 1898

Democrat LINSEY..c..Female..Jumped from pier Red River Bridge & drowned.. Bossier City, LA

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- Ned MOBLEY..c.. "Hung".. Vanceville, LA.. 9 Jan 1872
- Thos. McCARTHEY..c..Shot & killed by Sam'l THOMPSON..c..Plain Dealing, LA 14 Sep 1900
  - 29 Walter MITCHELL..c..Idiocy..9 Jul 1894
  - 29 Cornilius MITCHELL..Imbecile..5 Apr 1895
  - 69 Catherine McDONALD..c..Insane
  - 45 Wm. E. MORRIS..Constable of Ward 2, Bossier City, LA..20 Jun 1896
- 49 Jas. MANNING..c..Shot..Willow Chute, LA..13 Sep 1896
- 63 Sarah MOON..?
- 110 M. G. McLAND..c..Prisoner-died in jail..Benton, LA..20 Jun 1901

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- 32 Paul OLIVER..Shot & killed by Wm. MORRIS..Bossier City, LA..26 Sep 1889
- 29 Thos. OZALEE.."Crank"..5 May 1891-10 Apr 1899
- 70 Greene OWENS..Shot & killed by Billy HICKORY..Mks Bayou, LA..30 Dec 1897

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- 61 Lou PITTS..c..Killed w/shovel..near Plain Dealing, LA..2 Dec 1896
- 30 Jos. PATTERSON..Body found..Willow Chute, LA..27 Dec 1898
- 88 Walton PEARSON..c..Gunshot Wound..Brownlee, LA
- Mary Jane PLAYER..Struck in head w/stick..John Point Plantation, 14 Mar 1902
- 130 Allen PRIM..Natural Causes on Caney Creek..10 Jun 1906

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- 32 William ROCHILLAND..c..Shot & killed by Price CHRISTIAN..25 Mar 1890
- 61 James ROBERTS..c..He fought & killed Lou PITTS..near Plain Dealing, LA 21 Dec 1896
- 32 Jno ROBINSON..c..Explosion Shreveport Oil Mill Co., Bossier City, LA 31 Jan 1899
- Jno RICHARD..c..Hung for murder of Col. VANCE, Jr..on Riverside Plantation..6 Dec 1898
- 91 Ike RICHARDS..c..Killed by a blow..Hickman Plantation-Bodcau Station, LA 2 Apr 1900

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- 42 Isham SMITH. Shot & killed, Benton, LA.. 7 Jun 1896
- 72 Geo. SMITH..c..Dead after argument..Red River Valley near Adkins, LA. 20 Mar 1898
- 107 Geo. SPICKS..Shot & killed by Lena DICKERSON..near Bossier City, LA..
  21 Apr 1901
- 111 Dilla STAFFORD..c..Shot..Dillard Plantation
- Lucien SAMS..By violence inflicted by unknown parties..Alden Bridge, LA 9 Sep 1907
- 137 Speaker SMITH..Bullet Wound..Bossier Parish, LA..24 Dec 1912
- J. A. SUTTON..He drew a pistol on John CALUP & killed him in self defense.. Bossier City, LA
- 81 Harris STEWART..Fell off a mule..Bodcau, LA..1 Jun 1899

- '85 Crawford STEWART..c..Shot..Alden, LA..8 Jul 1899
- "Prophet" SMITH..c..Were prisoner-died in jail..Benton, LA..20 Jun 1901
  - 69 Gideon SALOON..Insane..Bossier Parish, LA..9 Jul 1903

114711

- Jno THOMPSON..Stabbed by Richard GREENE..c..Pandora Plantation..23 Jul 1890
- 118 Nelson TAYLOR..?
- Roland THOMAS..c..Died of Haemorage of Lung..Buried Wilson Church..22
  May 1899
- 88 Frank TAYLOR..Shot & killed by Peter THOMPSON..17 May 1899
- 114 Georgia TURK..c..Cause of death unknown..Atkins, LA..31 Mar 1902
- 132 Lugene TURNER..Gunshot Wound, shot by Alex BLANKENSHIP..c..6 May 1910
  - Moses THOMAS..c..Insane..27 Aug 1900
- 100 TRAMP..see "A"
- Frank THOMAS...Hung for killing Crawford STEWART..Benton, LA..3 May 1901
- 78 Unknown Man..Coroner's Office-Hughes Spur, LA..21 Oct 1898

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- 31 Oscar WILDE..c..Shot at colored ball on Nigger Run Chute, LA..25 Nov 1888
- 29 Isaac WILLIAMS..c..Insane..26 May 1891
- Geo. WASHINGTON..c..Shot by D. LASSITER..Lake Plantation near Benton, LA. 11 May 1896
- 63 Peggy WILLIAMS..c..Was on train track & was killed by train..Willow Chute,
  LA..8 Mar 1897
  Mary Jane WILLS (No Page)
- 70 Pink WESLEY..c..Poisoned..Pat Cash Plantation-Brownlee Station, LA..1897
- 114 William & Ann WALLER..c..Shot wife and committed suicide..26 Nov 1901
- 121 Henry "Hy" WIGGINS..Stabbed by Geo. CADE..Benton, LA..4 Oct 1903

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

## FIRST POST OFFICE OPENED HERE IN 1838

## GROWTH IS REVEALED BY RECORDS

Peak in receipts was reached in 1929, but business has been improving for the past three years. Twenty-eight postmasters have served.

The post office in Shreveport was first established under the name of Coates Bluff in Natchitoches Parish, April 10, 1838, with John C. Green as postmaster. Since that time twenty-six other men have held the postmaster-ship. Carey P. Duncan, incumbent is the twenty-seventh since that time.

Records do not disclose where the first post office building in Shreveport was situated. Historians believe it was located somewhere in the 400 block of Texas Street.

The first post office building of brick construction was located on the site of the present edifice. It was the first government post office in Shreve-port. The building was replaced by the present building in 1910. In 1932, the present building was enlarged, the floor space being doubled.

Of the twenty-seven postmasters who preceded Mr. Duncan, only two are alive today. They are Nathan Ratcliff and Clem B. Clarke.

J. T. Tompkins is assistant postmaster and A. E. Stephenson is superintendant of mails. There are 66 clerical employees and 54 carriers employed by in the Shreveport office.

The following have served as postmasters in order named:

John C. Green
Seth Shelton
William Thatcher
Robert W. Legrand
John B. Barry
Wm. R. Douglas
John S. Gooch
Peter Rush
Lewis E. Carter
Henry Hunsicker
T. G. Compton
Joseph Howell
Chas. H. Thompson
William Hefner

Chas. W. Keating
William McKenna
James G. Soape
Thornton E. Jacobs
Pinckney B. Weeks
Andrew Currie
Leon M. Carter
Stephen F. Steere
Allen C. Lea
Frederick H. Gosman
Nathan Ratcliff
Charles W. Page
Clem S. Clarke
Carey P. Duncan

(This article was extracted from the 1835-1935 Shreveport Times Centennial edition.)

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## RECORD OF PHYSICIANS & MIDWIVES, BOOK 1

Caddo Parish, Louisiana Act 81 of 1882

3.1	Act	81 01 188	2	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
P-1	Ms Josephine WAGNER b 1833		P-20	Dr. E. B. HANDS 3 May 1903
0:	Midwife 2 Nov 1	894	P-21	Dr. J. A. FLINN 3 May 1903
£3	Mrs. Janna PORATH			Dr. S. Y. ALEXANDER 26 Oct 1903
2	Midwife 28 May 1	895	P-22	W. V. THOMSON
P-2	Midwife 28 May 1 Bernard SOUR 15 Dec 1	896		Dentist 30 Apr 1903
	J. M. CALLOWAY 15 Dec 1 A. S. REISOR 15 Dec 1	896	P-23	Dr. V. B. LINDLEY 7 May 1904
P-3	A. S. REISOR 15 Dec 1	894	ź	Dr. T. P. FLOYD 7 May 1904
C.	E. C. FLANAGAN 15 Dec 18	894	P-24	Dr. J. L. DAVOS 3 May 1903
P-4	Dr. H. L. ALLISON 15 Dec 18		P-25	Dr. L. H. PIRKLE 22 Oct 1904
32	Dr. T. E. SCHUMPERT 3 Dec 18			Victor Irvin MILLER
P-5	Dr. Thomas LAWSON 15 Dec 18			Dentist 18 Apr 1899
P	C. C. McCLOUD (Dent-	160	P-26	
<b>*</b> 0'	ist 29 Dec 18			Dr. F. A. BAKER 5 May 1905
P-6	Dr. Morgan BILLIN 15 Apr 18		P-27	Dr. Earnest BLUME 5 May 1905
100 m	Dr. R. H. GRAY 16 Apr 18			Dr. J. R. MAHONE, Jr 5 May 1905
P-7	Dr. A. F. PHILLIPS 16 Apr 18		P-28	Dr. D. A. MAHLER 11 May 1906
	Dr. W. Dixon NORWOOD 15 Oct 18	896		F. T. JONES 4 May 1906
	Dr. J. S. ALLISON 15 Oct 18	896		J. M. BODENHEIMER 4 May 1906
400	Dr. Dn R. McDUFF 15 Apr 18	897	P-29	S. T. SHERMAN 18 May 1906
	Dr. Green Alexander			Dr. W. D. WILSON A May 1006
	CAIN (Nashville, TN) 7 Feb 18	393	P-30	Dr. W. WALLACE 4 May 1906
	B 11 Jan 1859 Oktib-			Dr. J. J. FRATER 4 May 1906
62:-	ba Co., MS-Sworn 26 Jan 18	382 <sup>66</sup>	P-31	
16.	15 Apr 1893 at New			LIAMS 4 Nov 1901
EC	Orleans			Dr. Wm. GAZEY 5 May 1906
P-10	Dr. F. J. FRATEN 1 May 18	399	P-32	
	Dr. A. M. DAVIDSON 1 May 18			Dr. F. B. WAITS 4 May 1906
P-11	Dr. J. D. WOOLWORTH 1 May 18	399		Dr. J. Ashton
	Dr. G. W. ROBINSON 5 May 19	900		BLANCHARD 5 May 1906
P-12	Dr. G. M. HUCKABAY 5 May 19	000	P-34	
				GARRISON-Dentist 31 May 1906
P-13	W. J. GILBERT 2 May 18	898		Dr. J. E. HENDERSON 5 May 1905
	Dr. H. B. FARMER 31 Jul 19	398 300		Fred RATZBURG
R.	ANDROVAC /R IND INGA			Dentist 13 Jun 1906
P-14	Dr. H. R. HITCHINS		P-35	Dr. A. P. CRAIN 10 May 1907
4	(Dentist) Approved 26 Jun 18	894	- 00	Dr. S. S. TURNER 10 May 1907
6-7	Dr. J. A. SELBY 2 Dec 18			A. S. REISOR 10 May 1907
P-15	Mrs. M. J. GRAHAM			Dr. A. A. HEROLD 10 May 1907
	Midwife-Approved by			Dr. J. O. GURNEY 10 May 1907
50	F. M. THORNHILL M.D.26 Feb 19	001		Dr. O. O. DENSWORTH 10 May 1907
	W. M. LEDBETTER 1 May 19			•
P-16	Marion Absalom			Act 88 of 1900
	LEDBETTER (Dentist)3 Jun 19	02		Simeon Simpson WAITS
P-17	Dr. Young Moses MILAM			Grad U of Vanderbilt, TN
	Univ of Vanderbilt,			Dentist 7 Jun 1907
	Nashville, TN 24 Apr 18	89		John Head GAYLE
P-18	Dr. A. D. HATCHER 25 Oct 19	02		Dentist-U of MD 8 May 1904
1	Dr. Milton F. SMITH 25 Oct 19			Dr. J. L. FULLER 16 Oct 1907
P-19	Dr. B. F. BRUNER 3 May 19			Dr. W. W. SMITH 16 Oct 1907
	Dr. T. D. BOAZ 31 May 19	03		Dr. S. L. WILLIAMS 1 May 1899
P-20	Dr. O. BLUME 3 May 19		P-39	Dr. J. S. PAUL 3 May 1903

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P-39	J. W. GLASS	22 May	1908	P-5	O Dr. George A. HA	RPER	
	Dr. H. W. SCOFIELD	) 22 May	1908		Dentist-Vanderbi		
P-40	D Dr. A. G. WORLEY	20 Oct	1906		of TN		еъ 1887
	Dr. M. A. COLLINS	10 May	1908		Dr. P. W. ODEN		ay 1910
P-4.	Dr. R. McGLATHERY	22 May	1908	P-5	1 Dr. M. H. FOSTER		ay 1910
	Guy WIMBERLY	22 May	1908		Thomas Carlton Ho		ct 1909
	Monte Ralph GARRI-			P-5	2 A. Martin EICHEL	BER-	
	SON-Dentist	12 May	1908		GER-Cert of Perm		
P-42	2 Dr. W. C. MIDD	4 May	1906		licence-Vet-Grad		
	Dr. J. A. HARBE of				Cincinnati, OH 19		
	Dallas,TX-Grad of	1			Dr. A. D. MANGHAN		ay 1910
	Central Coll of P	•			Margery HAYES-Nur		<i>-</i>
	& S, Indiana, TN				Gen Assembly MO		an 1910
	1897	16 Oct	1908	P-53	B Isadore B. ROUGON	1	1)10
P-43	Dr. C. H. PARDUE	1 Oct	1905		(ROGON)		y 1909
	Earl McCRACKEN				Dr. W. B. HUNTER		y 1909
		19 Oct	1908	P-54	P. T. ALEXANDER-		,
P-44	Dr. Paul W. GEDDES				Grad Memphis, TN		
	Osteopathy	10 Oct			1903	19 00	t 1910
	Millard R. PURNELL	26 Oct	1892	÷	George Henry CASS		
	Fred STEWMAN-Vet				Grad St. Louis U,		
	Surgeon	10 Feb	1909		Dept 1903		t 1910
P-45	Joel Bradshaw HUS-			P-55	Dr. George Fred M	ID-	
	TON-Vet Surgeon	•			DLEBROOKS-Washing		
	Baton Rouge	10 Feb	1909		U Medical Dept-St		
		4 May	1906		of AR		t 1910
P-46	R. D. TILLY-Dent-				Dr. W. T. ELLISON		
2	ist	30 Jun	1908	P-56	Dr. T. M. TOLAR		y 1903
	Dr. J. E. KNIGHTON	1 May	1899		Dr. E. W. COFFEY		v 1911
P-47	M. M. WHITE-Vet	: ¿· ·			Dr. (Mrs) Thena RO		•
	Medical Exam	10 Feb	1909		INSON-Baylor U 18		
	Dr. John B. WILL-	-			Dr. Shirley H. BE'		
	IAMS	1 May	1909		Grad U of TX 1911		
P-48	Charles E. REW	21 May	1909 ′	P-58	Dr. Willis P. BUT	LER	
i.e.	Arthur S. WITHERS				Grad Vanderbilt U	21 Oc	t 1911
	Vet Med & Surgeon				Dr. Daniel H. McAl	BEE 6 No	v 1911
	Grad Chicago Vet			P-59	P. A. LAWRENCE	5 May	y 1900
	College 1894	10 Jun			J. T. HENDERSON		
1111	Thomas Bell TOOKE	10 Oct	1909		Northwestern Med (	lo11	
P-49	K. McGOWEN HODGES			. "	1909-Illinois	•	
14	Dentist	1 Jul	1909		William HOWARD-Der	itist	
	Dr. Zachariah Ed-				Grad Maharry Colle	ge State	3
·.	monds VAUGHAN-Reg				of TN	23 Mai	1909
	4 Oct 1883 Caddo Pa			P-60	S. A. CHRISTIAN		
	Dip from U of LA da				Tulane U	l Jui	1912
	1876-now located Wa	-	1000		W. H. BILLINGSLEY		
		30 Oct 1	1909		Grad Tulane 1912		
	A. M. EICHELBERGER	Q T	1020		T. J. LIDDELL		
D_50	Vet	8 Jun	1920	D (*	Grad Tulane 1912		
	James Oliver STEGER		ΛT	P-61	S. E. POTTS	÷ =	1010
	B 28 Apr 1856 Hunts Res Madison Par., L	-			Vanderbilt U 1912	1 Jar	1912
	D.M. Louisville Med				Dr. Edgar B. OTTS	22.0	1010
	Louisville, KY 25 F				Osteopath	23 Oct	1912
		18 May 1			H. H. VAUGHN	10 11	1012
		,			Grad U of TX	12 Nov	1912

		•								
	P-62	R. R. WILSON				P-74	Sarah Estelle CAVIN RN Nannie May GOODENOUGH	1 12	Jun	1913
٠.		Grad Memphis Hosp	)				Nannie May GOODENOUGH			
,		College 1912	6	Nov	1912		RN	15	May	1913
							Florence Mabel WATSON			1913
		ist-Tulane U 18	May			P-76	Florence Mabel WATSON Jennie Lee BOOTH RN			1913
-		1912	13	Nov	1912		Leta Deborah MAYHEN RN			
		Lillian AUBERT RN	1	. Jul	1912	P-77	Dr. Walter Prescott		0011	1,13
	P-63	Sarah Elizabeth					LAMBETH-Grad Tulane			
		RICHARDSON-COX RN	1	Ju1	1912		1913	27	Tun	1913
		S. H. BACKUS	15	Apr	1897		Viola M. WOODS RN			1913
		Lillian L. HOER- MANN RN		•		P-78	Clara Emily BUBENZER	23	Mar	1913
		MANN RN	1	Ju1	1912		RN	31	Mass	1913
	P-64	Miss Camille LEML	E				Catherine SLOCUM			1913
		RN		Nov	1912	P-79	Maud SLOCUM RN	27	Tun	1013
		Miss Lillian SMIT	H			. ,,	Ida Carrie SEALE RN			1913
		RN		Nov	1912	P-80	Emma PERRY RN			1913
		Susie CROW RN					Dr. Thomas J. FLEMING	21	may	1913
		Fannie Melisia			/		Grad Tulane 1913	1 /	T.,,	1913
		PURCELL RN	-1	Ju1	1912	P-81	Will O'DANIEL JONES	14	Juli	1913
	P-65	Bessie McELVEEN R				1 01	Grad Tulane	1 /	7	1012
		Forney Belle COKE					Florence O. SMITH RN			1913
		RN	_	Ju1	1912	P_82	Dr. John Frank LIEHOR-	24	Jun	1913
		Vessie M. AVERY R				1-02	MAN-Grad Tulane 1913	1 /	7	1012
		Trine F. HESLAP R					Zelia Bess MANGHAM RN			
	P-66	Cora M. BEAL RN				P_83	Fanny Ruth SANDERSON RM			
	- 00	Myrtle Moore HICK		P-	->,-0	1-05	Emma Pauline LIEHE RN			
		RN		T111	1912	D_8/	Rosa Lesebeth RINKE RN			
	P-67	Beatrice Patricia			-/	1-04	Carrey Elizabeth WAL-	10	Jul	1913
	1-07	HUNTER RN		T111	1912		KER RN	10	71	1012
		Louise M. FUCHS RI				D_05		-10	Jur	1913
	P_68	Corinne Cecelia		MPL	1713	1-05	Fannie Marie HAMILTON	10	T1	1012
	1-00	WELLS RN	1	T11 T	1912			10	Jur	1913
		Mai Pearle DUNCKL		Jul	1712		Luline Columba SEL- KIRK RN	10	T., 1	1012
		MAN RN		Feb	1913	D_96	Leila Pauline HAMMONDS	10	Jur	1913
	P_69	Prudie Eula WILSON	J	I CD	1713	1-00	RN	10	T. 1	1012
	1-07	RN		Anr	1913	D 07	Matilda E. SMITH RN	10	Jul	1913
								10	Acia	1012
		RN			1913		· ·	10	Aug	1913
	D70	Mattie Ruth MAN-	,	riay	1713		Dr. A. T. JOHNSON	. 2	T 1	1012
		GHAM RN	7	Mar	1913	D 00	Dentist-Grad Tulane			
		Ida Henry BLOXOM	,	LIGI	1713	1-00	Anges Regina O'BRIEN			
		RN	5	Anr	1913	D_ 80	Mary Teresa O'BRIEN Dr. J. S. BERNHARD	10	Ju1	1913
		Della Lenora SHAW	,	Thr	1913	P-09				
•		RN	7	Mer	1913		Dentist-Grad Tulane	2	77	1012
		Abbie BARNETT RN			1912		4 Jun 1913	3	Jul	1913
,		Miss Ellen COKER	U	1104	1712		Gaylord Floyd McLEOD Grad Tulane	1 /.	Term	1012
•		RN	31	Мозг	1913				Jun	
		Miss Jessie MOORE	JI	riay	1713				May	
		RN	31	Mav.	1913		Louise FILLETTE RN Sister Mary RAPHAEL RN		May	
1		Miss Allie LANN	J.	ay	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,					
•		RN	5	Anr	1913		Ruby HOERMANN RN Cyrus M. ROY -Osteopath	12	Jun	1213
		Lula SHIVELY RN			1912		DeSoto U at Mansfield	15	Oc+	1910
1		Elizabeth BOYKIN	-	- u_	-/		Dr. Thomas E. WILLIAMS	Ľ	0ct	1910
		RN	12	Jun	1913	-	Jefferson Med College			
							State of OH 1915	6	Jun :	1913
							Deate of our 1919	9	oun.	- / - /

	•				
P-93	Frank H. WALKE				P-99 Cecelia LARKINS RN 17 May 1914
	Baltimore Med Col	1			P-99 Cecelia LARKINS RN 17 May 1914 P-100 Dr. W. E. HERRING 2 May 1898
	MD	3	Nov	1913	Florence WILSON RN 16 Jun 1914
D_0/	Valentine STMMONS				P-101 Dr. N.M. SENTELL
	Tulane 1897	31	0ct	1913	Tulane 1914 6 Jun 1914
	Dr. Sanders FOWLE	3			Dr. Alaric Claudius
	Dentist-Atlanta Co				Dr. Alaric Claudius WHITTINGTON-U of AR
	CA 7 1012	3	T11 T	1013	1914 6 Jun 1914
n 05	D= Unlton LEARO		0 42	.,	P-102 Elizabeth J. HATCH RN 25 Jun 1914 Estelle B. HIRSCH RN 25 Jun 1914 P-103 Claude HUDSON-dentist
r-95	Dr. Walter Burdo				Estelle B. HIRSCH RN 25 Jun 1914
	Dentist-Ransas or	_y .			P-103 Claude HUDSON-dentist
	Dental Coll Mo	12	Anr	1910	Howard U 8 Jul 1914
	7 May 1909	12	Whr	.1910	Magie Marie VERCHER RN 8 Jul 1914
	Margaret GARVIER	-	D	1012	
	RN	0	Dec	1913	
P-96	Dr. R. S. TERRY	20	Jun	1094	
	Ralph A. FRY-Reg				P-105 Walter Eugene EASTA- BROOK U of TN 1914 31 Oct 1914
	Pharmacist	11	Jul	1888	Table 1/4114 on UTNN
	Isidore B. ROUGON	21	May	1909	John William WINN
P-98	Collier K. RAY				Memphis Med Coll 31 Oct 1914 P-106 Arthur Elmer REMOVIS?
	Dentist-Southern				P-106 Arthur Elmer REMOVIS:
	Dental Coll-Atlan	ta			Jefferson Med COLL
	29 Apr 1909	1	Jul	1909	1908
	Dr. C. G. KIRKPAT-	-			Roxie Anna BROOKS RN 13 Jan 1915
	RICK-Dentist-Denta	al			
	Coll Atlanta May				Jefferson Med Coll 1908 30 Oct 1914 Roxie Anna BROOKS RN 13 Jan 1915 THESE RECORDS COPIED AT THE CADDO
	1912	13	Nov	1912	PARISH COURTHOUSE, SHREVEPORT, LA
P-99	Mary Edna DeSOTO				
1-99	RN 1 Jul 1912	16	Jun	1913	
	101 1 001 171			-	

(To be Continued)

