

The Genie



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY

ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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

THE GENIE

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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: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~laaltga/join.htm> 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 thegenie.editor@gmail.com. Please note that *The Genie* cannot be responsible for errors or inaccuracies, but will hasten to publish correction.

Copyright Laws: All who submit material from other sources should be aware of copyright restrictions. When articles are obtained from another source, permission should be obtained from the author, compiler, or owner of the material being submitted and a statement to that effect provided. Also, we encourage use of source citations when applicable.

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President's Message

"Time is free, but it's priceless. You can't own it, but you can use it. You can't keep it, but you can spend it. Once you've lost it, you can never get it back." Harvey MacKay is an inspirational author of three best sellers and a syndicated columnist. His thoughts above on time ring true. Perhaps as we grow older each year, we become more cognizant of the swift passing of time. The last two years have flown by! A reflection on these two years brings to mind meeting some of the finest people on earth! Members of our organization are hardy and have a passion for family research. Also, they want to learn more ways to find that lost ancestor and more resources to use to find him! They love to share their tips and secret places to dig for genealogy "gold." However, members are faced with a dilemma. They would love to "do" genealogy all day long, but life just gets in the way. After three hours researching, or writing a remembrance, or scanning, the clock has been ticking and what seemed like 30 minutes has been multiplied many times! Where does the time go when you are having fun?

During these two years, we have purchased vertical file drawers for the library, welcomed new members, held programs which we felt were interesting and informative, reached out to regional libraries, demonstrated new sources of technology, encouraged beginners, hosted two all-day seminars presented by genealogists, completed the sorting of library donation materials, participated in library offerings to help genealogists during their lock-ins and expo, and much more.

While time has not stood still, Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association has attempted to use the time we have been given in an efficient manner. We have not forgotten our goals to assist our members in becoming better family historians than even they thought possible.

Technology has brought the past to the present, right before our very eyes! Let us continue to forge ahead in learning how best to use the abundance of images and records that are now available to us. Let us take advantage of this "timely" opportunity to improve our skills.

Thank you so much for your diligent efforts to support this association! Your input and encouragement have been invaluable. Time and again you have outdone yourselves with your presence in support of our programs, with your participation in lending a helping hand as needed, and with your comments of appreciation. Thank you for being a part of our team and our vision.

Glenda Efferson Bernard

Vice President's Message

It is always my pleasure to report the activities of the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association. We have never had a more vibrant, dedicated leadership. Our Education Committee continues to do an incredible job of entertaining and educating all comers in the best practices of family research.

In October, 2016, Leonard Gresens presented "Old Tokens and Other Nostalgia of Shreveport." Tokens are similar to coins, but they are manufactured by commercial concerns as a kind of private currency. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, businesses in America were generally small and family owned. These small shops were often run on shoestring budgets. To alleviate cash-flow problems, small business owners often used tokens as change for purchases. Tokens were similar to modern coupons serving at once as "seed money," advertisement, and bait for return business. A baker might offer a token for a 5-cent loaf of bread. A restaurant owner might issue a token to cover a cup of coffee. Grocery stores, cigar stands, taverns, pool halls, and penny arcades often dispensed tokens. Larger businesses and banks also distributed tokens, and plantation workers were commonly paid in tokens that were good only at the company store.

Mr. Gresens began his collection with a single token that was good for a ride on the Shreveport trolleys. He found information on this trolley token in a short survey entitled "A Tentative Guide to Shreveport Exonumia" that was written by enthusiast Eddy Hill. Much later, an article on local tokens, written by the late Shreveport historian Eric Brock, motivated him to collect these cultural artifacts seriously. Gresens' token collection focuses on Shreveport and North Louisiana to give insights into our local culture and history. He now owns about a thousand pieces.

Mr. Gresens presented several photographs of tokens from his collection and told their stories. The Shreveport High School lunch token was once considered rare, but when the land for the Shreveport city jail was excavated, Eric Brock discovered scores of them at the site. One of the most interesting stories concerned the Meridian Fertilizer Factory, which opened in Bossier City in 1913. Many of Meridian's employees lived in Shreveport, and their only way to the plant was by way of the toll bridge which crossed the Red River at Traffic Street. Meridian issued employees tokens to spare them the 5-cent toll. The rare Meridian Toll Bridge token is a centerpiece of Gresens' collection.

Gresens described his search for tokens as an obsession. Many years ago his quest was limited to coin shops, antique stores, flea markets, and estate sales. The World Wide Web has greatly facilitated his hunt for these esoteric items. Online forums facilitate discussion of such arcana as tokens, and eBay is the world's market for everything we never knew we wanted. Family historians understand this kind of collector's obsession. We know what Leonard Gresens was saying when he spoke of seeking a holy grail. We never know what treasure we might find until we look, either as a collector or as a genealogist. The search is everything in either case.

On Saturday, November 12, 2016, The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association participated in the Genealogical Expo that was sponsored by the Genealogy Department of the Shreve Memorial Library and held at the Broadmoor Branch. GenCom, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and library staff presented topics of genealogical interest, as well. Subjects of presentations varied from Ancestry.com, MyHeritage.com, and DNA Research to Revolutionary War Ancestry, African American Research, and Dating Old Photos. Brenda Randall instructed

participants on providing information in Findagrave; Sonja Webb demonstrated hand-held scanners and the Flip Pal scanner; Jim Johnson gave a clinic in military research. (I feel that I must not have recognized all of our members who participated. If I have left anyone out, I am sorry.) The Genealogy Expo at Shreve Memorial was well attended. We in the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association shined and made many new friends.

Members of the Association who participated at the Expo at the Broadmoor Library in the morning dashed across town to the Moore Center in the afternoon for our regular meeting. The Education Committee re-convened for a second full session as they presented "Maps 101 and Genealogy." Glenda Bernard gave an excellent introduction that surveyed many types of maps from topographic to land-ownership. She explained how family historians might compare many different maps of a single area to learn of their ancestors. Peggy LaCour discussed the importance of maps and geographical information that have been published in book form in her presentation "Gazetteers and Atlases." Jim Johnson told of the wealth of information that was available at the website for the Bureau of Land Management. Jim also remarked on the Arphax Publishing Company website, which offers subscribing customers the information that has been presented in the Family Maps series of books. Sonja Webb explained how the great trails that offered access to distant lands shaped and directed our ancestors' lives. Indian paths often became migration trails which, in many cases, later became the routes for interstate highways.

Together the Expo at the Library and "Maps 101" session made for an extraordinary, educational day. Our volunteers acquitted themselves extremely well. Glenda Bernard, Sonja Webb, Peggy LaCour, Jim Johnson, and Brenda Randall (and others no doubt) are all to be commended for their wonderful work that day.

The Association held its annual meeting in December, 2016. Our officers for next year bear a keen resemblance to those who served this year. That is just because we elected the same people. Sylvia Powers has agreed to take on the mantle of editor, which was our one unfilled position. I would like to welcome her to the board. Peggy LaCour hosted her version of "Genealogy Jeopardy" for the December meeting. Her questions tested two teams of contestants who rang in to answer. Correct respondents were richly rewarded and everyone was entertained. The main event for our December meetings is always the good home cooking. As always, it was all good.

2016 was another great year for the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association. Next year is already shaping up to be as good. Caroline Pointer has been tapped to lead a day-long seminar on April 1. Look for more information on this event in this issue of *The Genie*. Plans for our annual August seminar are also well under way. It is really great to be us.

I wish you all the warmest, most joyous holiday season and health and happiness in 2017. Stay curious.

Reed Mathews

Vice President

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.

Stalkin' Kin in Old West Texas. The San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society publishes their *Stalkin' Kin* twice a year from San Angelo, Texas. *Stalkin' Kin* focuses on Tom Green County, but it embraces neighboring counties in a wider "west Texas," as well. The Summer/Fall 2016 issue is staple-bound with a card-stock cover. It contains 117 numbered pages including a table of contents and a surname index. The table of contents divides materials into features, abstracted records, and society news and notes; although, articles from the different sections are interspersed throughout. Black and white copies of photographs, original documents, and maps illustrate many of the articles. Many articles include end notes.

One of the SAGHS' many publications is a book which is entitled, *No Country for Dull Men*. It is a claim that is more than substantiated by this issue alone. This wild Texas frontier produced the most colorful characters. Tom Green County was primarily a cattle-raising area until John Arden brought more than 2,000 sheep there in 1876. He was the first man to see the potential of sheep ranching there. Tina Delong tells the Arden family's story in "The Arden Family: Pioneers of Tom Green and Irion Counties" and "Katheryn Arden, Pioneer, Mother, Teacher, and the History of Arden, Texas."

Although the family prospered, John Arden signed his last will on the morning of March 26, 1881. That evening he shot himself to death with a Winchester rifle. His suicide was widely reported. *The Galveston Dailey News* stated that Arden suffered from asthma and that he was temporarily insane. Nevertheless, a judge ruled that he was "of sound mind." The town of Arden that had grown up around the family home is now a ghost town. Details of the story abound, but the mystery remains.

In "Nathan Lorenzo 'Rans' Stewart and Amanda Calidonie Warren Stewart," Marion Fikes Stewart tells her family's tortuous tale. Nathan L. Stewart was born in 1864 in Missouri and married Donie Warren there. The two migrated to what became Coke County, Texas. They lived in a primitive dugout house, but by 1888, they had constructed a two-story rock home. In 1895, a winter storm decimated the family's flock of sheep and ruined Nathan Stewart's health. For a time, he practiced the trade of leatherwork in the town of Ballinger.

Nathan Stewart recovered from his illness. In 1899, he was offered the opportunity to work as a cook on a cattle drive to New Mexico. Donie, who was pregnant with their eighth child, protested; but, Nathan Stewart left for the drive anyway. He did not return to his family. Censuses find him in Arizona and California. In 1910, he was sentenced to 15 months in San Quentin Prison for shooting a man. He returned to the family about 20 years after he had

abandoned them. No one wanted anything to do with him. He died in 1936 in New Mexico, having remarried. Donie lived in Coke County with her father and later with her son, Marvin. She died in 1957. The story reads like a Russian novel, rich and detailed, dark and real, but never predictable.

There are more stories that are equally colorful. In "Fort Concho Medal of Honor Recipients," Evelyn Lemons presents biographical sketches of fourteen members of the U.S. 4th Cavalry who fought Indians and desperadoes from their base at Fort Concho. Each in turn was recognized for his gallantry. "The Ole Rock House" is Mary Everson's and Cynthia Everson Neely's account of their family, the Mireses, but more than this, it is the story of their family home. The two-story rock home that Patrick Mires and his brother-in-law, Jack Miller, built shortly after 1879 was for many years a landmark near Christoval, Texas. However, by the 1990's, the home place had fallen to ruin. Family members are very thankful that new owners Nolan and Pamela Venable have fully restored the old Mires home.

Stalkin' Kin in West Texas won the first place in the official genealogical periodical category for 2015 from the Texas State Genealogical Society. This is an honor that editor Joe Weaver and all the San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society well deserve. They have done wonderful work to preserve these stories.

Unfolding the Past. *Unfolding the Past* is the semi-annual publication of Central Louisiana Genealogical Society which is based in Alexandria. Geographically, the CLGS covers 12 parishes including Rapides, the parishes that border Rapides, Sabine, Winn, Catahoula, and Concordia. The spring 2016 issue has 101 numbered pages including a table of contents and a surname index. It is staple-bound with a card-stock cover. Copies of original documents accompanied James Hilton's "Rapides Sales Documents 1792-1811," but there were no other illustrations.

In his article "Rapides Sales Documents 1792-1811," James Hilton gives the full text of five land conveyances that he discovered in sales letters among Louisiana State Land Office Sales Documents, Southwestern District. It appears to be a bound volume as the pages are numbered. As Hilton notes in his introduction, these conveyance records are important because "almost no conveyance records for Rapides survive due to the burning of the courthouse in 1864." The earliest in the set, dated 15 Jul 1792, is "the oldest that ... [Hilton] has found written in English for Rapides." Another is "definitive proof that the town of Alexandria, as laid out by Alexander Fulton, had been settled in the course of the year 1805." Hilton points out that as few and far between as they might be, these documents give a hint at what was lost when the courthouse in Alexandria burned.

Pat Boone discusses his trouble in tracing Rebecca Jane Caylor's family in his article "Who was Rebecca Jane Caylor?" Rebecca Jane Caylor married Henry Harrison Saunders at the age of 15, in Grayson County, Texas, in 1866. Her life after this time is well documented, but her life up to this point was a mystery. Censuses show she was born in Georgia but that both of her parents came from North Carolina. The Saunders family Bible indicates that she was married at the home of her parents, but it does not identify them. Her 1918 death certificate has no information on her parents.

The only person who could give information on Rebecca's past was one of her granddaughters, who said that Rebecca's mother was named Rachel Miller. Boone discovered that a Rachel Miller had married Jephtha Caylor in Macon County, North Carolina. Jephtha Caylor died in Murray County, Georgia, in 1852. He also discovered a biographical sketch of Peter M. Bruce, which said that he married a Rachel Miller of Macon County, North Carolina, in Grayson County, Texas. Peter and Rachel Bruce had actually been identified as witnesses to Rebecca Caylor's marriage to Henry Harrison Saunders in the Saunders family Bible. They were the parents of the bride who hosted the wedding.

Burials from several cemeteries are included in this issue. Frances Hazmark submitted "Czech's buried in Louisiana Cemeteries" and "Bolton High School Seniors 1925-1950."

The Central Louisiana Genealogical Society is an active group. Their African American Family History workshop that they sponsored in conjunction with the LDS Church in Alexandria this fall was a wonderful educational day. Family historians will find much in the pages of *Unfolding the Past*.



Genealogy Trivia:
If you figure there's 25 years between each generation, 500 years ago there were 1,048,576 people involved in creating YOU!
YOU are special!

The graphic features a background of a faded, historical group photograph of people, likely a church or community gathering, with the text overlaid in a clear, sans-serif font.

GEN EXPO at Shreve Memorial Library

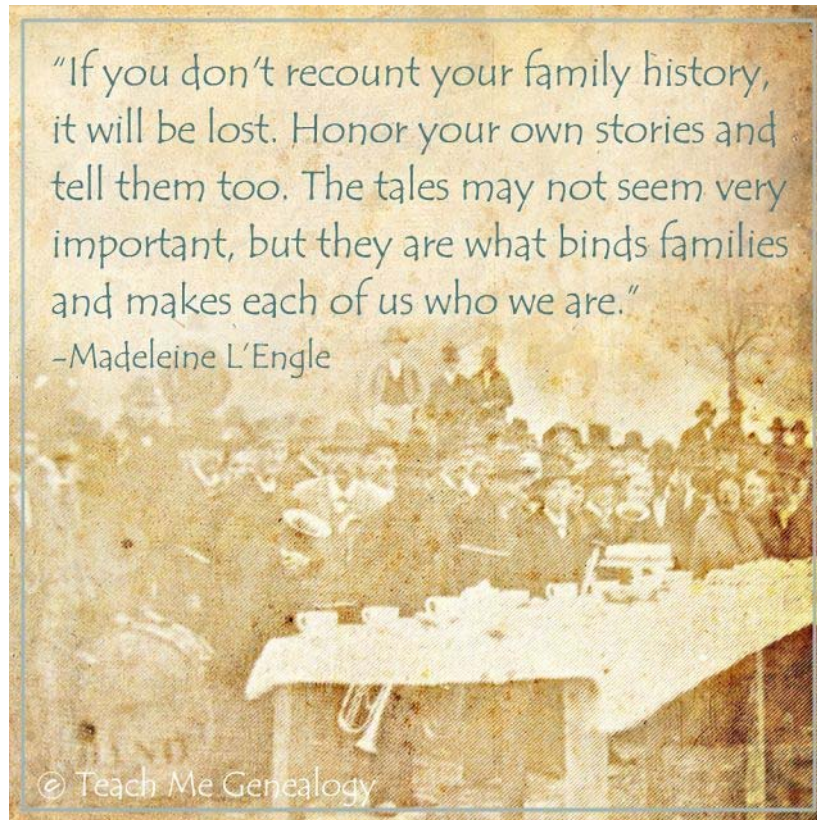
The Genealogy Department at Shreve Memorial Library's Broadmoor Branch coordinated three genealogy groups in the Shreveport-Bossier area for a GEN EXPO event November 12, 2016. Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, along with GenCom and Friends of Genealogy took great pleasure in demonstrating many different aspects of genealogy. Some of the topics included the DAR, military research, mobile scanning techniques, DNA, African American research, FindAGrave, Ancestry.com, and Family Tree Maker software.

Library visitors were free to browse any or all of the demonstrating stations. Our Ark-La-Tex association volunteers were Jim Johnson, Brenda Randall, and Sonja Webb. Member Reed Mathews, representing the library that day, was also a presenter. Thank you volunteers for sharing your expertise with those seeking information and doing such a great job! Several other members, including Barbara Dean Kronenberg, Leonard Gresens, and Peggy LaCour were on hand to meet and greet visitors.

Our participating members left the library at noon to continue the day with our regularly scheduled November meeting at Randle T. Moore Center. Ten of those present at our 1:00 p.m. meeting that Saturday left the library to attend our "Mapping 101" program. We were delighted to have them and hope that they return again soon! It was a great day for genealogy education!

Glenda Efferson Bernard





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.

Lord, help me trace the ancient roads
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.

-- Unknown Author

Mapping 101

Contributed by Glenda Efferson Bernard

“Mapping 101” is the name of a four-part presentation that was given to the general session of the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association on 12 November 2016. This first part was a general introduction to the value of maps for genealogy research.

Maps are ingenious tools that have been used by man for centuries, and for genealogists, they are invaluable. They help locate lost ancestors, even down to the exact plot of land that they owned, as well as track migration trails in search of their beginnings on this continent.

There are several ways that maps can help us find success in our genealogy research.

1. Maps provide clues to find where ancestors may have lived. Consult the Bureau of Land Management for an excellent way to search for pieces of land; this site will show a map of the approximate piece of land which your ancestor may have owned.

<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>

2. Since place names and boundaries constantly changed, maps are required to find these locations. As county lines changed, the home of the ancestor may never have moved, so we need to find the name of the county in a state which was the jurisdiction of the ancestor at the time he lived there. This is very important as many genealogists have failed to locate vital records because they were looking in the wrong county. A book which is very helpful is *Map Guide to the U. S. Censuses, 1790-1920* by Thorndale and Dollarhide.¹

3. Maps show whether mountains impeded migration. If they did, trails or roads through a mountain pass or around the mountains may not have been possible at the time. The most popular guide used by libraries today is the *Rand McNally Commercial Atlas*.²

4. Bridges built today may not have been in existence long ago. Old maps can help genealogists have a better idea as to why their ancestor may not have traveled farther than he did due to his inability to cross over the waterway.

5. Maps may show waterways used to migrate, bring goods to market, or to attend school or church. When overland forests and brush were too thick to cross, settlers were forced to use the waterways. They were the primary means of moving west when early settlers were looking for

¹ Thorndale, William, and William Dollarhide. *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920*. Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co, 1987.

² *Rand McNally ... Commercial Atlas & Marketing Guide*. Chicago: Rand McNally, 1983.

rich farming land. Settlers also were dependent on these waterways for transportation within the county.

6. Ancestors may have lived in the same spot for years, but jurisdictions may have changed often. Records were rarely shared with the succeeding county, so maps display for us the neighboring county seats to search for records. *Land and Property Research* by E. Wade Hone is an excellent source for locating ancestor land ownership.³

There are several types of maps available for use by everyone. Even illiterates can “read” a simple, hand-drawn map, but some maps are better suited for research in genealogy than others.

Political maps – state and national boundaries, capitals, & major cities

Physical maps – show physical features – mountains, lakes, rivers

Topographical maps – show changes in the terrain

Road maps – show highways, roads, airports, etc.

Plat maps – show township, section, and range in the public land states and those who lived around them

Old maps – antique maps may be the only source for non-existent place names

Ward maps – used in conjunction with city directories in large cities

Sanborn Maps – detail of building size, number of floors, location on streets. These are excellent maps which use color to help distinguish the specifications mentioned above. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps were created to fulfill a purpose for a business, but if available, they will give the researcher great insight into an ancestor’s residence, church, school, or business.

These last four types of maps are especially useful to genealogists in helping locate where ancestors may have lived. Several popular sites are used for genealogy research:

The Library of Congress www.loc.gov

The U. S. Geological Survey www.usgs.gov

www.mapofus.org

Maps are one of the first resources genealogists can use to get on the right track to finding those elusive ancestors!

³ Hone, E. W. *Land & Property Research in the United States*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 1997. Print.

Gazetteers & Atlases

By Peggy Suzanne LaCour

Gazetteers are often used in conjunction with individual maps and/or atlases to assist genealogists in their family research. Atlases are collections of geographically related maps, for example, all the counties in a state, all the states in the U.S., or all the countries in Europe. A gazetteer is a geographical index or dictionary of place names in alphabetical order providing at a minimum the location of the settlement, village, town, city, state, or country. Additional information provided varies somewhat depending on the type of gazetteer, with some entries being longer than others. Types of gazetteers include world, thematic, and descriptive.

A world gazetteer includes an alphabetical listing of countries with pertinent statistics; some include cities, town, villages, and settlements.

A thematic gazetteer's entries reflect a common element or theme.

Example: **Domesday Book** initiated by William I of England in 1086 was a survey of all administrative counties in order to assess farmsteads and landholders for taxation purposes. The **Domesday Book** can be located online at www.domesdaybook.co.uk and in the Genealogy Department at the Broadmoor Branch of the Shreve Memorial Library.

Example: Adams, Louis A. *Adam's Directory of Points and Landings on Rivers and Bayous*. New Orleans: W.L. Murray, 1877. Digital image www.internetarchive.org: accessed 31 Oct 2016. A typical entry - Bagley's Landing located on the Red River above Cane River not above Grand Ecore.

A descriptive gazetteer may include lengthy descriptions regarding industry, government, geography, historical information, maps, and photographs.

Example: Haskel, Daniel and Smith, Calvin J. *A Complete Descriptive and Statistical Gazetteer of the United States of America with an abstract of the Census and Statistics for 1840, Exhibiting a complete view of the agricultural, commercial, manufacturing, and literary condition and resources of the country*. Originally published NY, NY: Sherman & Smith, 1843. Digitized 12 Jul 2006 by University of Michigan, <https://books.google.com>: accessed 31 Oct 2016.

The entry regarding Caddo parish on p. 94 reads as follows:

Caddo Parish La situated in the N.W. corner of the state, between Red River on the E and the Sabine River on the SW. The surface is level or slightly uneven and the soil moderately good. It has Caddo Lake, a considerable body of water in its N part and Red River on eastern boundary. Capital, Shreveport. There were in 1840 cattle 5310, sheep 144, swine 14,929, 177,515 bushels of corn produced, potatoes, cotton, 16 stores, 1 tannery, 3 sawmills, 1 printing office, 1 weekly newspaper, 2 academies, 45 students, 3 schools, 42 scholars, population total 5,282 with 2,416

white, 2,837 slaves, and 29 free colored. Imagine how this description of Caddo parish could enhance your research as well as to allow you to write a vibrant picture of your ancestor living there in 1840.

Gazetteers can be helpful to genealogists by assisting in locating the name of a place at the time the gazetteer was published, including former places no longer on current maps. Details useful to family research are provided, such as the boundaries of civil jurisdiction, distance between cities, longitude and latitude, topographical information, and information on parishes/churches, schools, and civic offices. "What is a Gazetteer?" article posted 19 May 2011 by Amanda, Social Media Coordinator. www.geni.com/blog/what-is-a-gazetteer: accessed 31 Oct 2016.

There are many online gazetteers in addition to those referenced above. A few examples:
<http://geonames.usgs.gov> Geographic Names Information System (GNIS),
www.getty.edu Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names,
www.ghosttowns.com
www.library.ucla.edu
www.nationalmap.gov

There are also many gazetteers located in the Genealogy Department, Broadmoor Branch of the Shreve Memorial Library, for example:

Bahn, Gilbert A. American Place Names of Long Ago. Baltimore, Md: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1998. Reprinted from the 1898 edition of Cram's Unrivalled Atlas of the World. (GEN 917.3 Ame)

Fanning, __. Fanning's Illustrated Gazetteer of the United States giving the Location, Physical Aspects, Mountains, Rivers, Lakes, Climate, Productive and Manufacturing Resources, Commerce, Government, Education, General History of the States, Territories, Counties, Cities, Towns and Post Offices in the American Union with the Population and other Statistics from the Census of 1850. NY,NY: Ensign, Bridgman & Fanning, 1855. Reprinted 1990. (GEN 917.3 Fan)

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Making the Most out of Census Records

Contributed by Jim Johnson

		Newton E	Son	W	7th	Sept	1906	3	S		
		Waldy William	Servant	W	7th	May	1937	63	A		
195	196	Jetter Emmauel	Head	W	9th	Jan	1872	28	M	2	
		— Amanda	Wife	W	2	May	1870	20	F	2	22
		— Kestle J	Daughter	W	7	Dec	1898	1	S		
		— Virgile O	Son	W	7th	May	1900	0	S		
		Roush George	Wife - law	W	7	June	1874	55	WA		188
196	197	Snyder John	Head	W	9th	Dec	1857	48	M	19	
		— Keller	Wife			May	1862	38	M	19	22
		— Lula	Daughter			July	1881	19	S		
		— Leland	Son	W	7th	June	1884	15	S		

One of the most important sources for searching your family history is the U. S. Federal Census records. However, some of us have experienced occasions where, even after an in-depth search, we were not able to find our ancestor in one or more census schedules that occurred during that ancestor's lifetime. By having some knowledge of the problems and limitations with census records, it may become easier to understand why some individuals are not found in a particular schedule, or it may be easier to understand why a bit of knowledge may afford hints or steps that the researcher may take to make the search more successful.

The census was conducted under less than ideal conditions, and this can explain why an ancestor's name may not appear in, at least, the earliest census schedules. Some examples include insufficient enumerator training, difficult travel conditions for the enumerator, and unclear boundaries of enumeration districts, which resulted in some residents not being counted. Other errors might have occurred because of language differences between the enumerator and the resident or informant, which often resulted in misspelled names. In later years, spelling errors may have occurred because those transcribing the original handwritten records wrote the information down incorrectly. In many cases, the ancestor was actually included in the census, but the name was misspelled because the enumerator may have spelled the name the way it sounded. So it is important to try other possible spellings of the surname if the search is not successful the first time.

The Federal Census schedules from 1790 - 1840 contained very limited information compared to later schedules. Nevertheless, they offered clues about the ages, location, and number of people in the household during those years. Beginning with the 1850 Federal Census, the names of each person living in a household were listed, and there were progressively more detailed questions in the census schedules of later years.

The 1880 Federal Census was the first census record to show the relationship of each person in a household to the head of household. This was a significant addition, which allowed the researcher to reach a firm conclusion about the kinship of persons living in the household. The place of birth for the parents of each person enumerated was also listed.

The 1890 Federal Census records were destroyed by fire in 1921. However, the 1890 veterans' schedule survived and was used to enumerate Union veterans. Some Confederate veterans were listed as well. Names of surviving soldiers, sailors, marines, and widows were listed on this census. Persons listed on this schedule may even have received a military pension.

The 1900 Federal Census offered some significant new information:

- Month and year of birth
- Number of years married
- Mother of how many children
- Number of these children living
- Year of immigration to the U.S.
- Owned home or rented
- Mortgaged or owned free

This information will help when searching for birth, marriage, or immigration records. Whether the home was owned or rented and the mortgage status on that home can lead to land records and mortgage records.

The 1910 Federal Census also asked if the individual served in the Civil War. Knowing if the ancestor served in the Civil War could lead to the possibility of more records including service and pension records.

The 1920 Federal Census asked about the language spoken by the person enumerated and the parents.

The 1930 Federal Census listed the value of the home, if owned, or the monthly rental amount. Also listed was whether a radio was owned. Home ownership records could lead to real estate and tax records.

The 1940 Federal Census asked where the person lived on 1 April 1935, which could help track the ancestor who had moved after the 1930 Federal Census. It also asked if the person had a social security number, since that program had recently been enacted.

Becoming aware of these clues when searching in the Federal Census records, the researcher can better utilize the information in each census schedule that, hopefully, can lead to new records or can help differentiate between individuals with the same name.

Sources:

<http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1850-1930.html>
<https://colonialroots.com/2016/11/census-records-1890-to-1940/>

Migration Trails

Contributed by Sonja Webb

Migration Trails was part of the group hornbook Mapping 101. Migration trails are those footpaths our ancestors walked or rode along as they moved from the eastern seaboard westward seeking new homes and land. After the American Revolution, Americans felt free to move into the Ohio Valley and deeper into the South. Many of the trails they traveled were old Indians paths or early postal roads. In the early 17th century, the Boston Post Road was a major route between New York and Boston. Eventually, the road was extended north into Maine and south to Philadelphia.

A major artery into the south was the Fall Line Road also known as the Southern Road. The Fall Line began in Fredericksburg, Virginia, with a later extension north to New Jersey and culminating at the South Carolina/Georgia border. A later extension of the road, known as the Federal Road, crossed Georgia into Alabama. The road followed the geographic fall line. Trade cities developed around the various rivers' headwaters. Ships navigated as far inland as possible until shallow water was reached. Communities developed at these shallow points along these rivers, and trade became an important livelihood for early settlers. Goods were brought to these fall-line towns to be loaded on ships. Roads were carved out of the wilderness to connect the cities from one river to the next. Starting with Trenton, New Jersey, to Augusta, Georgia, there were 15 towns connected by the road and five more with extension into Alabama. The fall line is also known as the geographic place where the Piedmont region meets the edges of the mountains. Many immigrants from New England and the Mid-Atlantic regions traveled this route.



If there are ancestors to be found in Alabama or Georgia, it is more than likely they came on the Federal Road. The Federal Road picked up where the Fall Line Road ended. The federal road was a horse path that became a narrow postal road in the early 1800s. Around 1811, it was widened for military needs. Stagecoach stops, inns, and taverns sprung up along the road. The Federal Road was the road into the Mississippi Territory.

The best known trail was the National Road, also called the Cumberland Road. This road was the route west into the Ohio Valley. Travelers from Pennsylvania and the New England region

migrated west along the National Road. Congress, in 1811, funded the road's construction that began in Cumberland, Maryland, and culminated in Vandalia, Illinois, in 1839. This was the first federally financed highway in the United States. Today, it is part of U.S. Highway 40.

Thousands of travelers walked one of the longest migration trails when they left Independence, St. Joseph, or Westport, Missouri, or Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, to go to Oregon and the Willamette River Valley. The travelers on the Oregon Trail covered 2000 miles of terrain in six months. It was a daunting task with most with 34,000 emigrants dying along the route. In the early 19th century, the Oregon Trail was a major highway to the west. The early 1840s saw the greatest number of travelers on the trail.



Wagon ruts along Oregon Trail
Photo by SWebb

The Natchez Trace, a north–south route through Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee, was an Indian path. The Trace stretched from Natchez, Mississippi, to Nashville, Tennessee. Today much of the Trace is part of the National Park system. President Jefferson built the road along the trace for military purposes.

There are many more trails that interconnected with the Fall Line Road, the National Road, the Federal Road, the Natchez Trace, and the Oregon Trail. In search of land, emigrants moved along these major routes and the connecting roads to reach the far West, the Deep South, and the Ohio Valley. These roads passed through dozens of counties and towns. The emigrants may have stopped for short periods of time along the way in any of the towns on the trail.

Study the trails. Locate the counties and towns on the trail. Check records for these locations. One of the best resources is **The Handbook for Genealogists, United States of America** by Holly T. Hansen. This book is a valuable tool. The maps and descriptions are outstanding.

Sources:

American Migration Facts, Beverly Whitaker, Kansas City, Missouri,
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gentutor/facts.html>

Family Tree Magazine, Maps, “Popular Overland Migration Routes,” pg.33. April 5, 2013.
Family Tree Magazine, Map, pg. 26. March 2008.

Historic Maps in K-12 Classrooms <http://publications.newberry.org/k12maps/>

National Parks: <http://imgis.nps.gov/html/?viewer=nht> (takes a minute to load)

The Handbook for Genealogists, United States of America. Holly T. Hansen, pp M-55 to M-72, Everton Publishers, Logan, Utah. 2006.

www.50States.com

Encyclopedia of Alabama <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-2999>

Suggestions:*Major Map Collections:*

1. David Ramsey Historical Map Collection <http://www.davidrumsey.com>
2. Perry-Castaneda Library Maps Collections at UT: <https://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps>
3. Newberry Library Map & Cartography www.newberry.org/maps-travel-and-exploration

Web Sites:

1. www.mapsofus.org
2. www.nationalmap.gov
3. www.glorerecords.blm.gov
4. www.whatwasthere.com
5. www.fhwa.dot.gov

**ALTGA will host two Genealogy Seminars in 2017!**

April 1 Spring seminar with Caroline Pointer, a professional genealogist, family historian, freelance writer, and author

Location: Miciotto Center at St. Jude Catholic Church, Benton, LA (Cost: \$40 including lunch. Registration is open now. Click [here](#) for details).



August 12 Summer seminar featuring Cari Taplin, CGSM, Certified Genealogist and lecturer. Location: Pearce Activity Hall at Broadmoor United Methodist Church, 3715 Youree Drive, Shreveport. (Details to be announced soon).

Bureau of Land Management and Family Maps Books

Contributed by Jim Johnson

As a part of the Maps 101 program in November, an overview was presented of the General Land Office and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) website, <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx>. Included in this presentation was a review of the series of Family Maps books that is based on the database of the General Land Office records. Both are excellent resources for providing information on the first transfer of land from the government to early settlers.

The U.S. General Land Office (GLO) was established in 1812 to handle the business associated with the sale of public lands for private ownership. The GLO is now an agency of the BLM.

The BLM - GLO website provides a free, searchable database of Federal land conveyance records for the thirty states that are designated as public land states. It does not include land records for the original thirteen colonies and their territories. These records are excellent for researching homestead records, bounty land grants, and other records for ancestors who purchased or received land in those public land states. These records are searchable by state, county, and name. Information available on this website includes the date the land was acquired and the land description (township, range and section). Also included is the type of land patent and the legislative authority in which the land was obtained. Another feature of the website is the ability to view and print the General Land Office certificate granting the land to the individual. These land transfer documents are the responsibility of BLM-GLO and not normally found in the county or parish courthouse. However, if a search of those records indicates an ancestor received a land patent from the General Land Office, any subsequent sale or transfer of that land would be recorded at the Office of the Clerk of Court of the appropriate county or parish courthouse. This might also lead the researcher to search that clerk's office for other relevant records, such as land and mortgage deeds, probate, as well as marriage records.

The Family Maps books published by Arphax Publishing Company are an excellent complement to the BLM-GLO website. These books are published by county and parish and include township maps based on the information in the BLM-GLO records. The township maps include names of those original land owners and maps out the location of their land. The books are indexed and are easy to follow. The books may be purchased directly from the publisher or may be found in many libraries. Arphax Publishing Company has also established a subscription based online resource, <http://www.historygeo.com/>. This site provides unlimited access to all information in the counties and parishes included in the series of Family Maps books.

Sources:

<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx>

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Land_Patent_Search

<http://arphax.com/>



RUTH REMEMBERS
FORT ROSEBUSH

©2016 by Ruth Roberts Frank Berlin

“Stop! Stop!” Marilyn shouted as she ran down the lane waving her arms. “Stop!” she called again to the men who were working to clear a piece of land of forty or more years of uncontrolled growth.

“You must stop,” she called, panting for breath, “You are destroying our fort!”

Mr. Twitty and his two-man crew halted their work when Marilyn first called to them. They stopped cutting trees and slashing vines and stood there bewildered and awe struck. They could not imagine the ruins of a fort being among the tangled brush on a single home lot in Greenwood, Louisiana.

Marilyn, my sister, approached the group of startled and now idled men. She was laughing and out of breath.

“You have chopped down our wonderful make-believe fort that was here in an old rose bush,” she told them. “As children, we spent many happy hours playing in that fort.”

And so, the men learned the history of the rose-bush fort.

Our great-grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Carney Vaughan, who came to Greenwood from Morehouse Parish with her only living child, John Benjamin Vaughan, planted a wild rose to help prevent erosion of the soil on the property near her home.



It was a lovely rose. It had six great white petals and a bright yellow center which sprinkled pollen on lower petals. The stems were thick and bore large thorns slightly curved on the end and, therefore, were difficult to remove from skin or clothing

The rose branches grew through the years. As they crept across the ground, they also climbed over one another and grew in height as well as in width. By the time our generation came along, the rose bush covered an area equal to a large home and was well over ten feet tall. It was a foreboding sight, but beautiful in the spring when it was covered with bright white blossoms.

The lane, by which the rose had been planted in years past, now wound around the ever expanding rose bush. Ed McClurg had to walk this route on his way home. Mr. Simmons’ cow pasture was also steadily being swallowed up by the lovely wild rose. But to us children--Glen, Ed, Jimmy, Mary Lou, Anne, Erin, Jimmy, Jr., Marilyn and me—the rose was a wonderful gift from past generations. We used our imaginations, our expertise in construction, and our strong wills to tame the rose bush and convert it to our needs.

We discovered that the green of the rose bush was only on the outside of the gigantic mound, the part where the plant could be seen by the sun. The under part of the rose bush was a thicket of lifeless stems. They were brittle old rose stalks. They could be easily removed from the bush and not damage or mar the exterior appearance of the tremendous rose bush. A good strong whack with a stick could break the dead rose stalks and reveal a prospective tunnel into the rose bush’s interior.



White Rose Bush

Our problem was to gain access to the underneath part of the bush to use it as a hiding place - a fort - from the enemies of Fu Manchu or Flash Gordon, or even Germans and Japanese.

So, armed with hedge-clippers and heavy sticks, we undertook to tame the rose bush. We beat out tunnels in the bush to a height where we could crawl. We engineered a design that a mere prairie dog or field mouse would envy. From the ever present thorns and briars in the rose bush, we hacked out secret entrances, special dead-end runs, and a large meeting room. In the center of the meeting room stood a tall hackberry tree that Ed climbed to look over the world in search of spies and/or invading armies.

We were master craftsmen at this trade, but bloody children in reality because we re-entered the real world covered with red and bleeding scratches and torn clothing

We spent weeks converting the voluminous rose bush into an acceptable bastion of defense. We stocked it with proper weapons: sticks were futuristic ray guns, half-broom handles were magnificent swords, old kites were transformed into shields, and horse apples from a nearby bodock tree were destructive hand grenades. We expected enemies; so we prepared for war.

But weaponry was not enough; we even had a Red Cross Unit. Old sheets were ripped apart and used for bandages and slings. Old sheets also provided aprons and caps for our nurses. Often, when scratched or snared by a thorn when crawling about in the fort, we realized our defenses had been penetrated by the violent rays from weapons of our enemies. The rose bush was a sanctuary, but not without a cost to its occupants.

It is surprising that we never encountered a snake or a rabbit as we worked and played in the fort. Our joyous noise must have frightened them away. But our happy memories of the good times playing in the rose bush have not left us.

“Go ahead, Mr. Twitty, and clean up the undergrowth on Ruth’s lot,” Marilyn said. “Just remember, in there some place is a fort where children laughed, played, and let their imaginations carry them beyond the bounds of the community. They forged friendships which have lasted to the present day.”

POSTSCRIPT

In 1954, Ruth bought this piece of property with money she saved from teaching seventh and eighth grade students at Colton Junior High School in New Orleans, Louisiana.

When the City of Greenwood decided to be responsible for the maintenance of “The Lane,” as we had known it, it was never again the same. No longer was “The Lane” just a dusty, two-rut, path leading past our home, past the old home of my mother, grandfather, and great-grandmother, then winding around the rose bush to Ed’s house.

No, the street department straightened “The Lane,” laid asphalt, dug drainage ditches, and then called it, “Magnolia Street.” Their work destroyed the basic root system of the beautiful rose. It is no longer in existence. It remains only in the memory of the children who played there.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!!!

Claiborne Parish Library moved to its expanded/remodeled building in July 2014. A local history room was an essential area of our space planning. We needed a room separate from the other collections to house our genealogy, local history, and Louisiana materials. Now we have that wonderful local history room! It is located in the far south corner of the library, with beautiful relaxing views from the windows. It is not uncommon for patrons using the room to see deer coming to graze, an occasional fox, raccoons, and the ever-present stray cats.

We do not have a vast amount of genealogy materials. Most of our collection consists of family genealogy that local people have shared from their research. It is great to see those historic family names lined up on the shelves standing as a testament to our families and to Claiborne Parish. The communities they helped build and the houses where they lived may have vanished, but these families will be forever associated with those particular communities in Claiborne Parish history.

Claiborne Parish's cemetery books are still our "go-to source" for cemetery information. Many of these were compiled by Elinor Seward, John Frazier, and Wanda and John Head, as well as several others during the last few decades. We are now on our third or fourth copies of these books because of wear from much use. Sadly, some of the cemeteries recorded are no longer to be found; we are so thankful for at least a written record of them. It would be a great endeavor to update these, but maybe someone will pick up the challenge to do this. One additional resource for us is the pictorial data base compiled by Jackie Wylie in the 1990s. We don't share this database via the internet; we want people to come into the library to access it. It is a beautiful piece of work and a wonderful resource to have; between these two sources, patrons can usually find their tombstone quest.

One other unique genealogy database for us is a collection of historical photographs of Claiborne Parish and a few maps of the parish. We are constantly adding new photos to this resource. Located in the cabinets and drawers in the local history room are our newspapers on microfilm. We want to "go digital," but we are still old school in this regard until some funding becomes available. The *Haynesville News* microfilm begins in 1924. *The Claiborne Guardian* is the oldest newspaper on microfilm dating back to 1875. We also have the history of Mt. Paron Primitive Baptist Church on microfilm, as well as Harris and Hulse's *History of Claiborne Parish*.

We are very proud to have in our collection materials that were donated from the estates of Marguerite Garland Nations, Mildred Winn, John Malone, Jackie B. McDonald, and Wanda Volentine Head. These local genealogists inspired many others to take up their own quest to find family roots.

Our collection of *Historic Claiborne* books published by the Claiborne Parish Historical Association is intact, and these have been indexed so information is easier to access. We plan to scan these in the near future as a way of preserving this information. There are no copies available to purchase, and Historical Association is no longer in existence. These little jewels, while not always accurate, still give the best look at Claiborne Parish's past.

In August 2016, the library sponsored a beginning genealogy workshop. John Head, Mary Wynn, Venita Anglin, Judy Fowler, Betty Zachary, and I coordinated this effort quite successfully. We plan to have another at some point in future. There is interest in forming a genealogy group for our area. It is great to see a resurgence of interest in genealogy nationally. As you know, this comes and goes with the years.

We invite you come and browse our local history room. It's a small collection, but who knows, you might find some little snippet of information you have not come across before.



*History remembers only the celebrated.
Genealogy remembers them all.*



Cousin Love

This pair of first cousins remained best friends until their passing from this earth in their 90's.

In this photo taken about 1921, are Sally Smiley and Grace Simeon, with another first cousin, Woodie Wall, in Livingston Parish, Louisiana.

Contributed by Glenda Efferson Bernard

GenExpo

Presented to the General Session of the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, July 2016

One of life's essential skills is learning how to learn. When we acquire knowledge or know where to look, we empower ourselves, are in control, and our minds feed and grow with knowledge which gives us a sense of confidence that allows us to tackle our ancestor search.

The Education Committee continues to seek a variety of ways to impart genealogy knowledge and skills. We're looking for formats that will engage our members in practical learning experiences so that each can learn a new skill. We're seeking activities for learning that lead to genealogy discoveries. It is encumbered on us as a genealogy association to provide programs, exhibits, demonstrations, and guest lecturers to further our genealogical education. Remember, we are all life long learners. The better informed we are, the better researchers we will become. So, with those thoughts in mind, the Committee planned what we called a GenExpo for the July meeting.

GenExpo featured eight mini exhibits displayed throughout the Randle Moore Center. At each station, a member demonstrated a genealogy topic/theme. After a brief meeting, President Glenda Bernard released the members to move about the building visiting the eight tables to watch a demonstration, ask questions, or take part in a hands-on activity in a small setting.



Located in the library were **Elaine Johnson** and **Glenda Bernard**. Elaine highlighted the benefits of *RootsMagic* software, which is a database program that allows one to localize family information on a home computer. Glenda showcased the value of using newspapers for research, pointing out useful major websites to use when beginning *newspaper* research.



Four tables were set up in the main meeting room. **Brenda Randle** explained how to explore and upload data to the *Find-A-Grave website*. **Tamara Thomas** and **Elise Taylor** shared their expertise as Broadmoor librarians. Tamara had an extensive collection of

cabinet cards, tintypes, carte de visite, and daguerrotypes on display. Her collection dated to the 1800s and early 20th century. Tamara worked with members showing them how to *date old pictures* by recognizing the features of each picture type and the period clothing. Lise drew attention to the features of internet-based *MyHeritage*, which is a major subscription-based source for genealogy records available to library patrons.



Mary Ann Heinshon and **Peggy LaCour** manned a table which introduced members to the advantages of using the social media website FaceBook for genealogy work. Mary Ann and Peggy steered members from the more commonplace uses of FaceBook to the more practical uses, including how to locate genealogy groups and search for family groups.



At **Jim Johnson's** table, members learned about searching for *military records* online. Jim guided members through FamilySearch, Ancestry, and Fold3 for various military records. FamilySearch is a free website. Ancestry and Fold3 can be accessed for free at the Broadmoor library.



At **Sonja Webb's** table, she displayed and demonstrated the use of *portable scanners*, including FlipPal and VuPoint Magic Wand. These scanners are easy to carry to a library or courthouse for scanning

documents, books, and maps. Several members brought documents and practiced using the scanners.

This was the first time to try this type of program format. Our goal was to provide an environment in which all members can learn. The members' response was positive and, hopefully, the number of presenters will increase. All of the presenters were volunteers. We urge other members to share their knowledge and skills in the next future GenExpo.

Sonja Webb
Education Committee

Presidents of the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association

Contributed by Jim Johnson

The following individuals have served as the President of the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association since its founding in 1955.¹

<u>Year(s)</u>	<u>President</u>
1955 – 1957	Lester White
1958	Fern Ainsworth
1959	Lester White
Louise Barnett, Vice President, presided over most meetings in 1959	
1960 – 1964	Louise Barnett
1965 – 1966	Ben E. Achee, Jr
1967	R. T. Colquette
1968	David Washburn
1969-1972	E. M. Tipton
David Washburn died in office. Waldo Moore, Vice President, served briefly and resigned. E. M. Tipton served the remainder of term, 1969.	
1973	Dr. T. V. Holmes Jr
1974 – 1976	M.L. Nance
M. L. Nance served unexpired term of Dr. T.V Holmes, Jr., 1974.	
1977 – 1980	Veda Thornhill
1981 – 1984	Fern Ainsworth
1985	Margery Wright
1986 – 1990	Marguerite Loftin
Marguerite Loftin served unexpired term of Margery Wright, 1986	
1991 – 1992	Carroll H. Goyne Jr.
1993 – 1994	Victor C. Rose
1995 – 1996	Charles H. Pratt
1997 – 1998	Reed C. Mathews
1999	Allan Barlow
2000 – 2001	Marguerite Loftin
2002 – 2004	Victor C. Rose
2005 – 2006	Raymond Owens
2007 – 2008	Willie R. Griffin
2009 – 2012	James A. Johnson
2013 – 2014	Philip B. Adderley
2015 – 2016	Glenda E. Bernard

¹ “Presidents of the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.,” Vol. 39, No. 4, Dec. 2005, p. 155

Minden, Webster Parish History Focus of New Books

Press Release by Dorcheat Historical Association and Museum

<http://museuminminden.blogspot.com/>

The Dorcheat Historical Museum is releasing three new books about the history of Minden and Webster Parish.

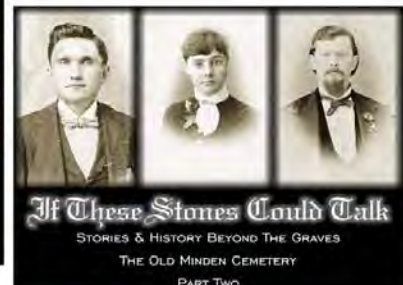
If These Stones Could Talk, parts one and two, and *If These Trees Could Talk* are available at the museum. Parts one and two are available for \$25 each, and the book, *If These Trees Could Talk*, is \$10.

**If These Stones Could Talk
Part One
History Of Just A Few Of
Minden's Famous People That
Are Buried At
The Minden Cemetery
Cost \$25**



**If These Trees Could Talk
History Of Just A Few Of
Minden's Famous Trees
Cost \$10**

**If These Stones Could Talk
Part Two
History Of Just A Few Of
Minden's Famous People That
Are Buried At
The Minden Cemetery
Cost \$25**



Director Schelley Francis states, "These projects, like so many others, have been on my mind for years, especially since I began my job as director of the Dorcheat Historical Association Museum in 2007. I became involved with the Minden Cemetery Association in 2003. In 2004, Earlene Mendenhall Lyle and Ann Mays Harlan surveyed and compiled a book, *The Minden Cemetery*. This book alone has served as a wealth of knowledge and valuable information for so many."

Webster Parish Historian John Agan has made history real for so many of Francis' projects.

"It's been said about Agan, 'We didn't have much history until John told us we did,'" she said. "That statement holds true, and many of my projects could never have been done without John Agan's help and his love of history."

The history of Minden's trees is something Francis has been working on for a while. With recent questions about the Arizona Ash tree, the time is now. With research and with digging into the archives, Francis was able to piece together a small book.

This series of cemetery books began for Agan and Francis in March 2015. The questions began the day she went to the Old Minden Cemetery many years ago searching for the people that built the home she had purchased on East and West Street. Finding the graves of the Bakers and Susannella Schoenbrodt opened up the beginning of a desire to find out more about all the people buried on that hallowed ground.

In 2005, the first Ghost Walk at the Minden Cemetery took place and continued every November until 2011.

"Ghost Walk, more than anything, opened my eyes to all the amazing people that were buried here and the stories that needed to be told," she said. "It also opened my eyes to the need to donate time and money to the Minden Cemetery. These books will preserve those stories and maybe one day will be a guide to future generations when they need to tell stories of Minden's earliest citizens."

Francis said she learned very fast that history keeps her going, and she will keep digging until it's all linked together.

"That's what we hope these books do for those that read them," she said. "Close some links and finds some pieces of the many puzzles that are part of our lives. Preserving history is a labor of love. In my heart, I know that the time is now to get as much recorded. Every day we lose a member of past generations along with valuable information. I hope you enjoy these books as much as John and I have enjoyed collecting and piecing it all together in book form."

To donate money to the Minden Cemetery Association, send a check to Minden Cemetery Association, 1000 Broadway, Minden LA 71055. To support the Dorcheat Museum, send a tax deductible donation to Dorcheat Museum, P.O. Box 1094, Minden La. 71058.

Greenwood Cemetery in Greenwood, LA
Carol's List as of 2007
African-American Section
Closest To Paved Road

NOTE: This is part three of a three part series.

<u>Section 1 - South, East of Road</u>	<u>FHM= Funeral Home Marker</u>		<u>(Read South to North in rows)</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Death</u>	<u>Inscription</u>
1. BROKEN STONE, NO NAME	Born ? 18 18??	Died Jan. 19 1923	
2. Rest in Peace (FHM in front for Emily Goss, M_THE_) next to:			
3. Goss, Allen Jr	Born Jan 30 1885 (may be 1886)		
4. Amanda, WIFE OF Mart_an Thompson		died April 2, 1903 AGE 54 years, 5 months	(concrete obelisk shape stone)
5. Glover, Emma	Mar 22 1870	Oct 19 1916	(BROKEN STONE)
6. Mae, Mrs. Retha	Jan 3 1930	Jan 27 2005	Good Samaritan FHM by Concrete slab;next to:
7. Dotson, Hardy III	Sunrise Nov 8 1924	Sunset Dec 4 1997	
8. Dotson, Harty	Nov 11 1897	Jul 24 1984	
9. Dotson, Elbert	May 29 1898	Nov 15 1983	
10. Dotson, Birt	Aug 18 1902	Oct 11 1997	
11. Stewart, Willie McArthur	1948	1975	SP4 U S ARMY VIETNAM
12. Okray, Herease	Feb 5 1912	Oct 28 1975	
13. Durden, Margie Delouse	Apr 27 1949	Dec 2 1954	AGE 4
14. Durden, Bro. James Allen	Dec 17 1928	Apr 23 1985	
15. Hill, Janie Baily	1887	1951	
16. FHM Durden, L.W. (MAY BE LEWIS OR LUTHER)			
17. Durden, Mattie M. Goss	Nov 12 1903	Sept 15 1949	
18. Durden, Allen E; Annell; James A. Janie			

19.	Anthony, George		died May 15 1946	AGE 77 BROKEN STONE
20.	Okroy, Jabe	Apr 2 1916	Sept 17 2004	(Winnfield FHM)
21.	Watkins, Thomas	3-22-1919	2-20 1995	(Winnfield FHM)
22.	Watkins, Willie Terry	Jan 30 1944	Feb 9 1974	
23.	Dotson, Thomas E. Jr (UNMARKED GRAVES = 8)	Sept 25 1943	Oct 9 1963	
24.	Dotson, Virgie Mae	Sept 4 1936	Jan 21 1957	
25.	Dotson, Florenda		Nov 2 1944	(B. ca. 1888)
26.	Dotson, Sarah Lizzie	b. Aug 12 1932	d. 1944	AGE 12
27.	Devers, Elbert	Apr 10 1876	Apr 10 1941	
28.	Dotson, Lenora		Died Nov 31 1947	AGE 1 yr 2 mos
29.	BROKEN STONE		Died Apr 5 1941	COULD BE LOUISE BRIDGETT, ERNESTINE MIERS, OR MARY PATTERSON
30.	Devers, Rufus	Jan 10 1886	Apr 13 1956	AGE 73
31.	Devers, Mary Lizzie D.	b. 1885	d. May 29 1967	
32.	Dotson, Charles Edward Mosley	b. Dec 6 1952	d. Sept 18 1979	
33.	Dotson, Sister Elvira	May 14 1886	Oct 13 1979	
34.	Dotson, Jessie Mae D.	Mar 7 1935	Nov 3 1940	
35.	Dotson, Harty		d. Sept 15 1935	AGE 60
36.	Watkins, Opal Lee	Mar 8 1932	Jun 1 1976	
37.	Dotson, Bolden, son of Elvira Dotson	1929	1949	AGE 20
38.	Thornton, Clara	Oct 22 1889	Oct 10 1952	AGE 63 YRS
39.	Fisher, Aquila	Aug 20 1906	(D. Houston, Aug 1981)	
40.	Orrie B.;	May 12 1911	Nov 20 1976	DOUBLE STONE
41.	Macon, Mattie B.	b. Apr 22 1900	d. Nov 3_ 1930	OR AGE 53
42.	Baily, Hannon		d. Sept 30 1960	AGE 40 YRS.
43.	Murry, Charles		d. May 10 1953	AGE 80
44.	Vinson, Burma	Sept 5 1889	May 20 1962	
45.	Brooks, Ernest	Jul 1 1910	Feb 2 1945	AGE 35
46.	Hamilton, David	BORN 1900	1944 (Aug 31)	
47.	Vinson, Alice	b. 1853	d. Jan 26 1931	
48.	Marshall, Columbus	Jul 9 1921	Feb 18 1974	Louisiana SGT U S ARMY World War II

49.	Marshall, Alice	Jul 11 1904	Feb 22 1937	dau. of Margaret Gardner
50.	Brook, Walter	Feb 26 1909	Dec 6 1937	son of Margaret Gardner
51.	Hawkins, Beneta	b.1927	d. 1943	
52.	Wyandon, Robert James	June 24 1896	May 12 1990	
53.	Shaw, Alice	Mar 15 1901	May 16 1986	
54.	Wyandon, Edna Henderson	June 26 1904	Dec 30 1981	
55.	Winans, Ellen	Nov 26 1889	Nov 29 1963	
56.	Calvore, Martha	b. Sept 16 1886	Apr 20 1946	AGE 62
57.	Hellem, Henry SR	born 1838	d. Dec 31 1901	
58.	Wyandon, Henry H.	Dec 20 1894	Jan 30 1933	AGE 38
59.	Wyandon, Robert H.	Dec 12 1921	Oct 14 1935	
60.	Wyandon, Charles Henry	Apr 12 1919	Jan 21 1951	Louisiana Tec 5 107? OM Service Co WWII
61.	Wyandon, Eula C.	1897	Jun 11 1957	
62.	Birdsong, Clarence	Jan 20 1921	Mar 25 1970	
63.	Birdsong, Johnnie Mae	Aug 29 1931	Jan 23 1981	
64.	Birdsong, Ed Jr	Aug 11 1906	Oct 21 1986	
65.	Birdsong, Michael Wayne	Jul 2 1958	Jul 18 1992	AGE 34; FHM hard to read
66.	Birdsong, Sister Maggie B. Anderson	Dec 6 1912	Jul 16 1993	
67.	Gardner, Margaret Vinson	Apr 12 1881	Jul 16 1974	daughter Charlotte (of ?)
68.	Hamilton, Amanda	1882	1965	son Robert O. Hamilton died 1960
69.	Fields, Spencer	b. Jan 31 1899	Jul 11 1962	
70.	Fields, George Lee	b. Jan 27 1944	Aug 25 2006	(Heavenly Gates FHM)
71.	Fields, George Sr	Jul 4 1902	Mar 3 1977	
72.	Fields, Richard Edward	Jul 6 1928	Oct 16 1982	Louisiana Cpl 9 Infantry Div Korea
73.	Fields, Mary	Jun 18 1904	May 9 1982	
74.	Mays, Beatrice Draper	Jul 10 1913	Jun 23 1996	
75.	Fields, Marjorie	Oct 4 1941	Oct 15 1954	AGE 18?
76.	Mays, John E.	May 27 1923	Nov 10 1944	Louisiana Pvt 452 AAA AW Battalion Cac WWII
77.	Mays, Luberta	Jul 16 1903	Jan 30 1953	
78.	Mays, Ellis	Dec 17 1898	Aug 27 1978	
79.	Mays, Ellis Jr	Dec 17 1898	Aug 27 1978	[#78 & #79 appear to be two stones]
80.	Mays, Clarence	Jun 2 1927	Aug 17 1976	

MAKING SORGHUM SYRUP

An article written and shared by member, Ms. Isabelle Woods, of presentations at the Family History Club, Bastrop, Louisiana.

Friday, October 21, 2016, was a magnificent day in more ways than one.

We enjoyed a beautiful day among friends with endless conversation for the whole two hours. When we departed, we were more knowledgeable of not only the processing of sorghum into syrup but of other subjects shared by our membership.

Conversation especially flowed from the time our speaker, Mr. James Free, took the mantel and made an excellent and impromptu presentation. Bereft of a speaker at this meeting, he “stepped up to the plate and hit a home run!”

Inspired by this exquisite fall day, Mr. James Free recalled memories of “Making Sorghum Syrup.”

As a kid on the farm with a day like this beautiful October day, one of the things Mr. Free did was make sorghum syrup. The Free family normally made sorghum syrup in October after part of the cotton had been picked.

Perhaps sensing a grimace, Mr. Free countered: “I know how some people think about sorghum: *That’s that black strap stuff you can’t eat.* Well, I’ll tell you, if you knew someone who could make syrup out of it, it was very good.”

His Dad always planned a year in advance. The Free family lived on bottom land, where they could not raise sugar cane. So they raised sorghum. Sorghum grew well when planted after spring floods. Each year, the Free family planted sorghum along the pasture’s fence. They passed this fence whenever they went to the house for lunch or for some other purpose.

Therefore, his father reasoned, “If the grass got short in the pasture during the cotton picking season, we’ll cut some of this sorghum. We’ll throw it over the fence to the cattle to help them survive the dry part of the summer.”

However, before they cut sorghum in the summer (i.e., before the start of cotton picking time), they had to cut wood to cook the syrup. He remembered how he and his Dad looked for wood. When his Dad said, “This old locust thorn tree would make good wood,” they cut it with a crosscut saw, split it, stacked it up, and let it dry. When the time came, they hauled the wood they amassed to the mill.

The sorghum also had to be harvested at a certain time—before the frost. When the frost hits it, the sorghum turns sour. Then it is difficult to make anything out of either sorghum or sugar cane.

When it was time to harvest the sorghum, they used an old blade to knock off leaves from the stalks, loaded the stalks on a wagon, and hauled them out to the mill. Mr. Roberts, one of their neighbors, had a syrup mill.

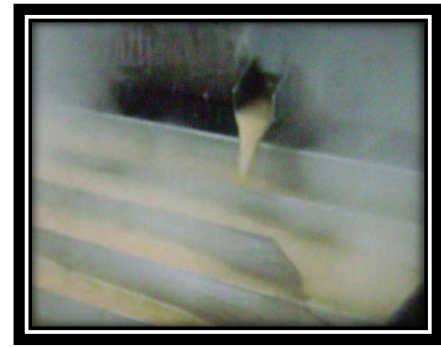
Mr. Free asked everyone to envision the mill as a picture of a mule walking around and turning the squeezer. That was just part of the work, he assured us.



At their neighbor's mill, the squeezer's juice ran through a pipe, then down into a pan. The pan was about ten feet long and four feet wide with baffles. These baffles (thin upright ridges of metal) ran down one side almost to the edge of the pan, then up the other. When this juice was flowing smoothly, someone sat nearby and fed the squeezer.

Mr. Roberts, the syrup mill operator, heated the juice to remove some of its moisture.

This is the most skillful work of this whole process—cooking the juice. The fire underneath must heat the juice just right. The syrup also had to be constantly moving. The design of the baffles coupled with the ebb and flow movement of the cook's paddle kept the syrup mobile.



Sorghum Baffle Pan

The cook had to possess highly refined skills to produce good sorghum syrup. He had to keep the froth skimmed off the top of the heated sorghum juice's surface to remove the juice's bitterness. He also had to be careful not to scorch the heated juice if the fire underneath the pan got too hot.

Mr. Roberts took his little paddle and moved it back and forth between the baffles, depending on the temperature of the coals on the fire underneath. He occasionally dipped off the froth constantly forming on the surface of the heated juice. So Mr. Roberts knew how to move the juice down and how to move it along.

The end product of this process was sorghum syrup. This syrup now had a thicker consistency than when originally squeezed. Heating reduced its liquid content, increased its sugar content, and gradually changed its color from vivid green to caramel.

The sorghum syrup then passed through a pipe to the canning area. On this side of the mill's complex, Mr. Roberts began pouring the sorghum syrup into cans.

Mr. Free's mother saved gallon jugs and put sorghum syrup into the gallon jugs. From stored jugs in the barn, the Free family enjoyed syrup for the rest of the year.



Here's what's also interesting. Years after his dad quit farming, Mr. Free browsed through the old barn, which was falling down. He found about a dozen jugs of sorghum syrup. So he picked up one of them. This picture is that jug of sorghum syrup which was cooked in 1948. Only the jug's cap has been replaced.

Mr. Free said his family ate a lot of sorghum syrup. Being a kid next door where Mr. Roberts operated the syrup mill, he was often with Mr. Roberts' son around the mill where neither of them should have been.

Mr. Free remembered his dad strongly advised him, "Don't drink the juice that comes out of that mill."

"You know," admitted Mr. Free, "my teeth got tired of chewing to get the juice out of the ribbon cane. So I had to personally experiment. I got a glass, caught the syrup, and drank it."

Laughter burst from the audience and then subsided when Mr. Free mentioned the price he paid for ignoring his father's advice. "I was as sick as I've ever been. Nobody ever had to tell me, 'Don't drink it!'"

"On the farm," Mr. Free continued, "we kept all the seed tips, put them in the barn, and used them for chicken feed. Poorly made sorghum syrup is called blackstrap and is fed to cattle. That's why some call blackstrap good for cattle feed; if it is properly made, it is called sorghum syrup.**"

According to Mr. Free, especially during World War I and World War II, sugar and other items were rationed.

Like any kid growing up near a syrup mill, Mr. Free enjoyed sweets. He remembered his mother taking a biscuit, pouring some sorghum syrup on it, and cooking it. "Anyone ever eat any?" He asked. (A few persons nodded in the affirmative.) "They called it a *sticky*. It was a biscuit saturated with sorghum syrup. Sometimes we were lucky to have one to eat at school."



Sorghum Plant

From intermittent questions, Mr. Free informed us that sorghum and sugar cane are different plants with similar stalks. Sorghum has a seeded top. Sugar cane resembles a corn stalk.

Mr. Boone offered that sugar was sometimes added to water to make syrup

When Mrs. Means recalled her mother poking a hole in the middle of a biscuit and pouring syrup into it, a chorus of voices admitted to having enjoyed this same sweet treat.

Mrs. Glosup shared her experience of cutting sorghum stalks with a *machete*, loading them on a wagon, and taking the sorghum to the mill for processing. However, her mother refused to allow her to get near sorghum syrup cooking in a pan.

Mrs. Bowe surmised that Mrs. Glosup's mother was probably aware of a few accidents having occurred at syrup mills.

Mr. Boone and Mr. Farrar then explained how farmers paid to have their sorghum processed.

A few local farmers in many communities had a syrup mill to which other farmers brought their sorghum for processing. The farmer reciprocated by giving the operator of the syrup mill a share of the product that the operator processed for the farmer. According to Mr. Boone, Mr. West Christian of Jones, Louisiana, was one of the last syrup mill farmers in Morehouse Parish, Louisiana.

Mr. Boone said that today, a tractor, not a horse or mule, rotates old syrup extraction machines which now squeeze the juice from sorghum stalks inserted through its rollers, then remove the debris discarded, and finally drop the juice of the sorghum plant into a container.

In conclusion, Mr. Free lamented the view that tourists are afforded of the processing of sorghum and sugar cane. While once residing in New Hampshire, known for its maple syrup, he enjoyed seeking out and conversing with the person who processed maple syrup the old-fashioned way.

In unison, everyone agreed that today's youth and/or adults are unlikely to survive, having lost so much knowledge of how things were done in the past. Very few individuals are sharing real-life experiences with today's generation similar to that which Mr. Free did today.

Thank you, Mr. Free, for sharing one of your experiences with us!

****Note:** "Molasses is a byproduct left behind after sugarcane or sugar beets are refined into sugar. Blackstrap molasses in particular is made by boiling three times, thus creating its bitter flavor. It contains a large variety of vitamins and minerals, such as vitamin B6, calcium, magnesium, iron and manganese.

"Due to this, blackstrap molasses is sometimes sold as a dietary supplement. It is used in the production of many foods and drinks, such as rye bread, cookies, and rum. It also has a lower sugar content than sorghum syrup, with 55 grams per 100 grams of molasses.

"Sorghum syrup is a natural sweetener made from boiled down Sorghum bicolor Moench, a type of grass. It is sweeter than blackstrap molasses, with a more mild caramel and coffee taste. However, it contains fewer vitamins and minerals. It is typically eaten with breakfast foods, such as hot biscuits, pancakes, and grits. It also has a higher sugar content than blackstrap molasses, with 75 grams per 100 grams of syrup." (Source: <https://www.reference.com>)

TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENIE*The Conclusion Covering the Years 2000-2012*

During this year of 2016, we have selected articles from *The Genie* for your pleasure from the beginning of its publication, some of which you may have missed at the time. Have you enjoyed going back in time with us? If you are new to our organization, you might have been delighted to find a surname mentioned in one of the articles from the past!

To have survived so many years and editors is an amazing thing. The legacy of *The Genie* is rich in research and history. Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association is fortunate to have had so many make such wonderful contributions through these fifty years. We thank all of you!

This is the last installment of this four-part 50th anniversary series. However, if you would like to review all of the past copies of *The Genie*, you may do so by visiting Broadmoor Library's Genealogy Department. It should not be long before the scanning of these copies is complete and can be accessed from your home.

We salute the enduring influence of *The Genie* to our genealogical research!

Glenda Efferson Bernard



Photo courtesy of clipartkid.com

RED LAND, LOUISIANA

By Dale Jennings

The community of Red Land in northeastern Bossier Parish has been held together by the fabric of its old families long after the demise of the little town. But now the tenacious old community itself has become depleted as its population has dispersed or died out. A great many residents of Bossier Parish and elsewhere trace their roots back to that once thriving place. The Salem Baptist Church and Red Land Community Center building near the corner of Highway 157 and Redland Road is the site of old Red Land. Begun in about 1859, the town was named for the color of the region's soil, reddish from its high iron ore content. The name, "Red Land," was first appropriated by the planter Jerome Bonaparte Mading in establishing Bossier Parish's first post office in November 1846. The post office was located on his property four miles northwest of the future site of Red Land, which would not receive its own post office until 1879.

The Salem Baptist Church was the first church in Bossier Parish. A small group of believers calling themselves the Salem Church began meeting in about 1842. The Salem Baptist Church was constituted in November 1844 by H. M. Hargis and its first pastor, Moses S. McDonald. Its first members were McDonald, his wife Mahalah, Frances Roden and Margaret Covington, the wife of Miles Covington. Its other early families included Allen, Boggs, Mading, Winham, Leggett, Martin, Campbell, Barnett, Dixon, Swindle, McWillie, Cavett, Curry, Kirkland and Wallace. Other early pastors after McDonald were Allen Winham, W. S. Leggett and Robert Martin. Salem's first church building is said to have been a log structure erected in 1848. It was on the common grounds of the Salem Cemetery near the north end of the present Salem Cemetery Road. In 1878 Salem Baptist Church was relocated from the cemetery site and rebuilt in Red Land almost two miles to the northeast. The 1859 supporters of the Red Land Seminary – some being the old church families – were also instrumental in establishing the town of Red Land.

Bossier Parish was created from western Claiborne Parish in February 1843. It extended to Arkansas on the north, and from Dorcheat Bayou on the east to Red River on the west. The clearing of the ancient log "raft" from the Red River in the 1830's had opened the river to navigation and the region to settlement. While still Claiborne, the land nearest the river was the first to be sold from the public domain beginning in 1839. Next was the upland "hill land" extending eastward across the northern expanse of the parish. The farmers, or planters, emigrating from the other southern states wrested farm land from the virgin wilderness. A great many of the upland settlers having sold their holdings elsewhere had the funds to buy sizable acreages of this unimproved land. They had slaves, either brought over or obtained here, but not on a scale equal to the river plantation owners. Another task for the early inhabitants was to establish a seat of government to be located centrally in the new parish. This would become Bossier's first town, Bellevue, some twenty miles south of the Red Land location. While the larger planting operations were along the river, cotton, corn and other crops were extensively grown in the more populous upland and along its bayou bottoms. The western side of the parish was oriented on the new town of Shreveport across the river in Caddo Parish. For the first few years the western residents got their mail from the Shreveport

post office. Those in the interior and eastern areas received their mail from Minden, which was on the other side of Dorcheat Bayou in Claiborne Parish. Bellevue got its post office in April 1847, not long after Mading's.

With the establishment of roads and ferries came mail routes and a few crossroad stores with co-located post offices. Jerome Mading had probably acquired a post office at his home as a convenience to his neighbors. He soon sold his property and became a large land owner farther to the southeast. The Red Land post office was closed in 1853. The vast 36-section Township 23, Range 12, extending from just below the Salem Church to the Arkansas line was late to be developed. Its survey was not approved until September 1852. The village of Red Land would evolve on its Section 28.

Martin Martin bought the 160-acre Northwest Quarter of Section 28, T23-R12, from the U. S. government in November 1852. Parson McDonald acquired the Southeast Quarter in December of the same year. The Northeast and Southwest Quarters would not be purchased until 1858 and 1859. The Northwest Quarter of Section 32 containing the Salem Baptist Church was not purchased by Gideon Allen until November 1859. During the late 1850's the Louisiana State Legislature sanctioned male and female "seminary" schools at several locations in Bossier Parish, to include Fillmore, Cottage Grove, Bellevue and one near Benton. (The Pineville Female Seminary at Pineville (Collinsburg) was established in the early 1850's) These private institutions were an alternative to an unsatisfactory public school system, or individual private tutoring: A group of the Red Land area's civic leaders applied for and received approval for such a school. Legislative Act 41 dated March 12, 1859, established the Red Land Seminary as a "body politic" and corporation with a governing board of trustees having the capacity to make contracts, hold property through purchase or donation, and to dispose of the same. Appointed as trustees were Samuel A. Boggs (President), John G. Allen, Martin Martin, Augustus Martin, B. H. Nelson, James Engram, Robert E. Wyche, Dr. John J. Scott, Jerome B. Mading, John B. Campbell and John Hamiter.

Robert Wyche patented the 40-acre northwest one-fourth of Section 28's Southwest Quarter on March 22, 1859. The Red Land Seminary built its school on the east side of this tract. The seminary would later buy the forty acres from Wyche on May 13, 1861, for \$55.00. The school hired as its principal Mr. Thomas W. Abney, who had briefly held that position at the Cottage Grove Seminary. The spring 1859 issues of the parish newspaper, Bossier Times, no doubt would have announced the school's opening, but those issues are not available. During the fall and winter of 1859, the Bossier Banner in advertising the "Red Land Male and Female Institute" revealed much of what is now known about the school. It reads:

"The Second Term of this institution commenced on Monday October 31, and will continue without intermission – except a week at Christmas – for the term of forty weeks. The course of instruction is complete and the corps of teachers efficient.

The large and comfortable new building being finished, we can now offer as many facilities for instruction as may be found in the South-west. The institution is located in a high and healthy region of county (sp) watered by the best of springs – which makes the situation a desirable one. A church is situated near by so that students may attend divine service

regularly. A good physician is also located at this point who will superintend the students in cases of sickness.

CHARGES PER SESSION OF FIVE MONTHS PAYABLE AT CLOSE OF EACH SESSION.

Primary Department	\$15.00
Secondary “	20.00
Academical	25.00
Musical	30.00
Ornamental	10.00
Greek or Modern Languages	10.00

Board in private families from 7 to 8 dollars per month.

By order of Board of Trustees.

V. WALKER, President.

R. A. Cavett, Secretary.

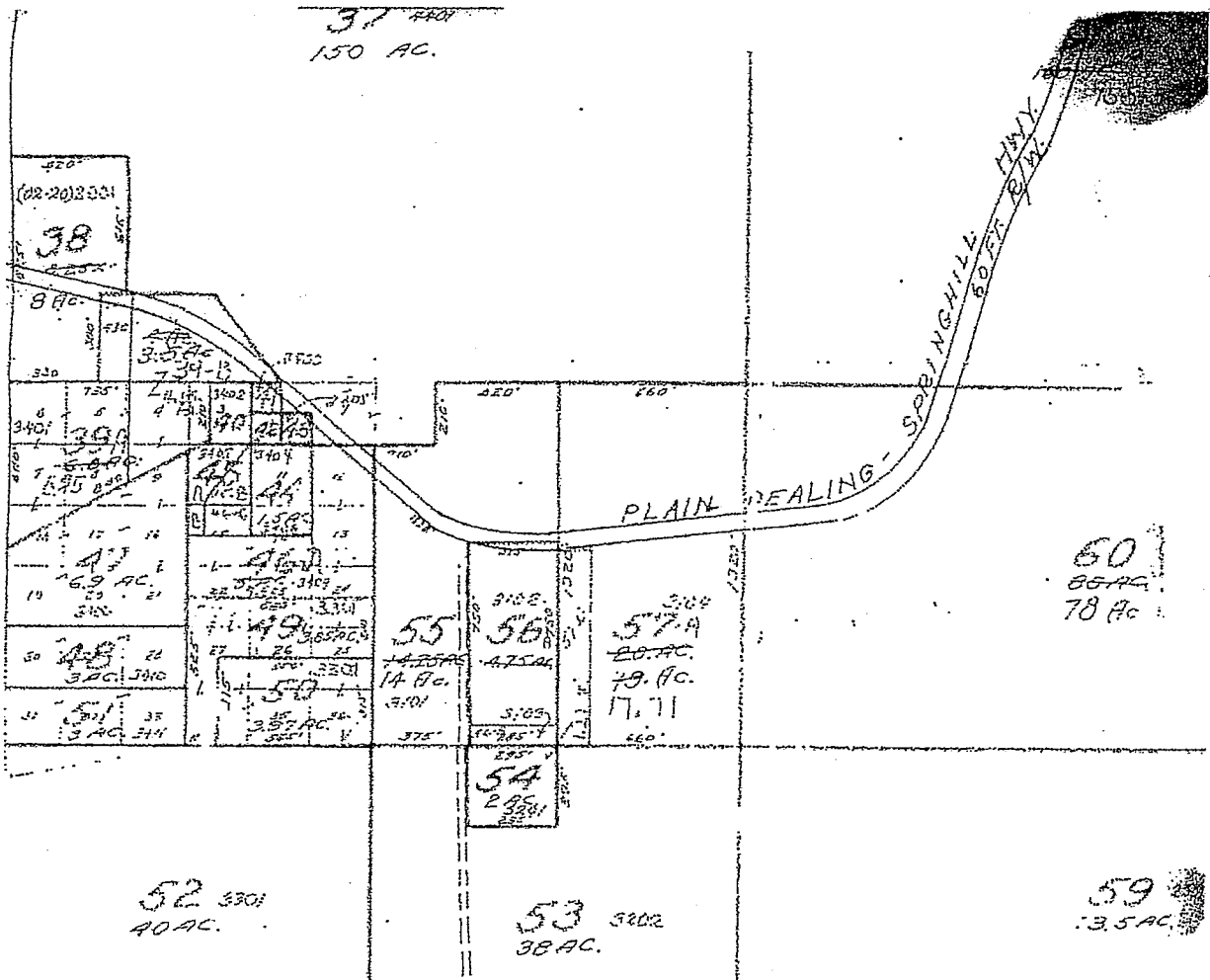
Plainville, Bossier Parish, La.”

The favorable location for the seminary as lauded in the newspaper must have been equally appealing as the location for a village. The establishment of the school apparently provided the impetus for the founding of Red Land at the boundary of Martin’s tract and the seminary tract. Red Land was late in getting a post office, and perhaps the town, because Pine Flat (renamed Plainville in 1859) just to the south had long held that honor.

On June 10, 1859, Martin Martin, a supporter of the Red Land school, helped Doctor John Scott establish his practice. (Martin’s unusual name was probably the result of his parents not wanting to break a traditional generational naming pattern) He granted Scott building privileges without rent for construction of a medical building and out buildings in the southwest corner of his tract, across the half-section line from, and northwest of the school. On October the 29th he donated an approximately 2 ¾-acre lot to the mercantile partnership of Campbell & Cavett taken from an October 26th survey by the parish surveyor, Roswell Elmer. The general store of brothers-in-law John B. Campbell and Moses C. Cavett was just east of Dr. Scott’s office and across from the school as well. The Red Land Masonic Lodge #145 (F&AM), organized in 1857, is known to have had its lodge hall above the store. It is not known when the mercantile partnership was formed or when the store was built. If the store with its Masonic hall dated to 1857, this would have constituted a community center at Red Land at that early date. Martin sold Principal T. W. Abney a 1 ½-acre lot on the west side of Campbell and Cavett’s lot, between the store and the doctor’s office, on July 11, 1860. The Red Land trustees also sold lots from the seminary tract. The combination of these lots and those sold and donated by Martin would make up the commercial area of the town.

The Red Land Seminary trustees had their tract surveyed into thirty-six one-acre lots in the same pattern as the thirty-six sections of a township. A twentieth century Bossier Parish Assessor’s Block Book page for Section 28 shows the Red Land Seminary Lots 1 through 36 (see below). “Ch” can be seen penciled on Lot #11 and “Sch” on Lot #13. Lot #2 shows three of its quarter sections identified as ownership Blocks 41, 42 and 45. A term paper entitled, “Red Land – Social Studies 303,” done at Northwestern State University by

Barbara Beth Burns Vaughn included her 1967 interview with Mr. W. A. (Andrew) Johnson. Mr. Johnson recalled the location of some of the old Red Land business establishments. Other locations have been determined from courthouse conveyance records. Campbell & Cavett's store (later Swindle's) was said to have been on the north side of the road and slightly west of the church. The "Plain Dealing-Springhill Hwy," now Louisiana Highway 157, has had its course changed somewhat since the roadway's early route through Red Land. G. W. Phelps's one-acre lot is on the east side of Lot #1. The school building was located on Lot 13 where the Red Land Community Center building is now situated. On May 13, 1861 (four months after Louisiana seceded from the Union), the trustees sold Lots 1 and 2 to Campbell & Cavett. The \$100.00 proceeds from the sale would have funded the purchase of the seminary land from Wyche on that date. The war was ruinous to the economy and a great detriment to the educational and other cultural gains being made in the state - to include rural Bossier Parish. Few of Louisiana's private schools survived the deprivations caused by the Civil War. The Red Land Seminary almost certainly did not. No other lots were recorded sold by the trustees until long after the end of the conflict.



Bossier Parish Assessor's Block Book Page for Section 28, Township 23, Range 12

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

Commentary by Philip Burnett Adderley, CGSM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Randle T. MOORE

MR. MOORE, through the diversity of his interests, is preeminently known in business, social, educational and religious circles of the city and has held many prominent positions in his career of service to Shreveport.

Mr. Moore attended Centenary College in Shreveport. His educational interests went further, however, and he was later made chairman of the board of trustees of Centenary College; director of the Louisiana Orphanage, Ruston, and member of the board of trustees of the Mansfield Female College.



In addition to his connection with the Commercial National Bank, Mr. Moore is vice president of the Commercial Securities Company, Inc., and actively identified with numerous other large interests, principally among which are Peavy-Byrnes Lumber Company, vice president; Peavy-Wilson Lumber Company, vice president; Frost Lumber Industries, Inc., director; Bank of Commerce and Trust Company, Mansfield, Louisiana, director; K. & N. W. Railway, vice president; Sabine and Natchez Valley Railway, vice president; Christie and Eastern Railway, vice president; Louisiana State Life Insurance Company, vice president; and a member of the Police Jury of Caddo Parish. He was also recently made a director and treasurer of the L. H. Gilmer Company of Louisiana, Inc., a textile mill now under construction, and a director of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Moore is a thirty-second degree Mason, a Shriner, a member of the Shreveport Country Club and of the Rotary Club.

He has also held the following organization offices; Chairman Board of Stewards, First Methodist Church; treasure Shreveport Council of Boy Scouts; director Shreveport Y. M. C. A.; chairman of the executive committee Boy

Scouts; president of the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce; state chairman of the Louisiana Centenary campaign; chairman of the water and sewerage commission of the city; chairman of the Fourth Liberty Loan Drive; vice chairman of the half-million dollar Y. M. C. A. campaign and president of the Shreveport Federation of Community Work. Mr. Moore is also teacher of the Moore Bible Class of the First Methodist Church and prominently identified with the work of the Chamber of Commerce of Shreveport.

The Randle T. Moore Center

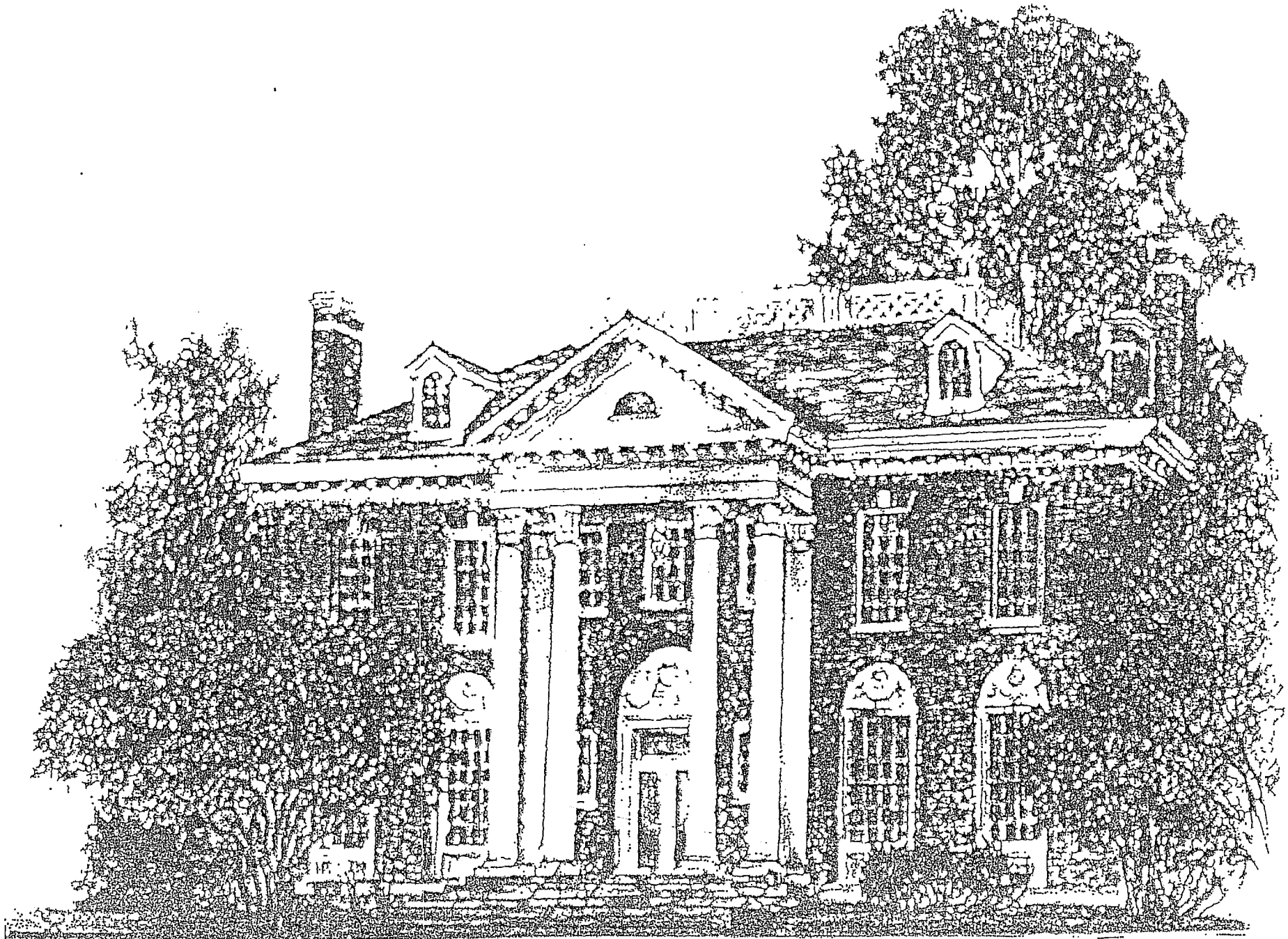
The Randle T. Moore Center was graciously donated by the Randle T. Moore family to the City of Shreveport in 1968. It was their wish for this lovely Colonial Georgian mansion to be used exclusively by the senior citizens of Shreveport for their recreation and pleasure.

This grand mansion was built in 1924. It originally consisted of 12 rooms, 6 baths and 8 fireplaces. When the building opened to the public in late 1968, modifications were made to meet proper city requirements. Even so, the mansion still maintains its mystic warm "family" atmosphere. To date, various organizations of retirees meet at the Moore Center with an average attendance of 1,200 each month! Some of these organizations are civic minded groups who meet on a regular monthly basis, such as: AARP, DAR-Pelican, DAR-Shreveport, UDC, United Gas, Book Review Clubs, Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Potpourri Club, Central High, Telephone Pioneers and the Master Gardeners. Daily and Weekly members enjoy activities such as: Billiards, Bridge, Texas Canasta, Drama, Card Games, Painting, French Classes and Dancing.

The Moore Center, located at 3101 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71106, is operated and maintained by the Shreveport Public Assembly & Recreation (APAR) Department. "Friends of the Randle T. Moore Center", A park advisory group, has been formed for representatives of the membership to assist SPAR with the needs of the Moore Center. General membership meetings are also held semi-annually, giving members a chance to voice their opinions and to express their needs.

The Moore Center is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., excluding weekends and holidays. For nominal rental fees, the Moore Center also accommodates special celebrations for after normal working hours and on weekends. If further information or assistance is needed, please do not hesitate to contact the Center @ (318) 673-7817.

Source: Maude Hearn O'Pry, *Chronicles of Shreveport*, 1928, p.372.
(Martha Serio, Edition, 1978) and *Handout* from the Moore Center.



REVEREND SCOTT C. BLAND

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The Reverend Scott C. Bland (b ca 1849, AL; d July 25, 1923, LA)) was the first pastor of the newly established Saint Luke Missionary Baptist Church in Bonita, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana. He was also once the Pastor of St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, Bonita, and of Shady Grove Baptist Church, Jones, Louisiana. He was born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Agnes and Scott Bland, Sr., of Virginia.¹ By 1878, he had relocated to Bonita, Louisiana.

In Morehouse Parish, Louisiana, on January 9, 1878, he married Malinda Scott (b ca 1860, AL; d 8 December 1928, LA). She was born in Alabama and was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Scott of Virginia.² To this union, nine children were born, five of whom reached adulthood: James, Sam David, Grenson John, Agnes, and Blanche Bland. All their children were born in Bonita, Louisiana, and were married in Morehouse Parish, Louisiana.³

The eldest child, James Bland was born on 29 July 1878 and was a farmer.⁴ He married twice: (1) Mary Milton on February 19, 1907, and (2) Mary Anderson on January 22, 1933.⁵ About seven children were born to these unions: Carrie, Scott, Malinda, Lathenia or Letha, Mandy, Blanche, and John.⁶ James died on February 20, 1936 in Bonita, Louisiana, and is buried at the St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery in Bonita, Louisiana.⁷

Born on 8 August 1880 in Bonita, Louisiana, Sam David Bland was the second son born to the late Mr. and Mrs. Scott C. Bland.⁸ Like his father, Sam became a Minister of the Gospel. Reverend Sam D. Bland married Annie Hughes (b 1888, d March 1971) on March 24, 1906.⁹ To this union, two children were born. One son, Percy Lee Bland, born on September 13, 1906, survived into adulthood. Percy married Lula Buckner, the daughter of Jim and Collie Buckner, on May 3, 1927. He preceded his mother, Annie, in death.¹⁰ Reverend Sam David Bland died on April 1, 1958 in Monroe, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana.¹¹



REVEREND GRENSON BLAND

Grenson John Bland was born on 5 June 1886, Bonita, Louisiana.¹² On January 12, 1905, he married Octavia Hughes (b ca 1890 LA; d April 14, 1930, LA) daughter of Jack Hughes; they had no children.¹³ He was ordained to the Gospel, Ministry, in Bonita, Louisiana, on February 8, 1926, by a Council of Baptist Churches composed of Reverend H. C. Williams, Moderator; Reverend S. Washington, Clerk, in the presence of the following Reverends: H. R. Flynn, E. E. Hollins, S. L. Brunson, and P. C. Keals.¹⁴ At the age of 39, Grenson married his second wife, Omega Carter, on January 22, 1933.¹⁵ He may have married for a third time. A photograph dated November, 1968, reads, "To My Friend Mrs. J. Woods (nee Jerutha Holman), made Nov-68. Rev. G. J Bland & Wife, Florence Bland."¹⁶

When the Reverend Grenson J. Bland died in California on May 4, 1971, his services were held at the North Oakland Baptist Church, Oakland, California. He was buried at the Rolling

ST. LUKE B. C.
BONITA, LA
DEDICATED
JULY 29, 1928
DEACONS
H. A. HILL W. M. NOBLE
J. M. TAYLOR C. FOX
R. GOODEN R. BELL
W. M. WILLIAMS
REV. W. J. MEN, PASTOR
TRUSTEES
J. M. TAYLOR
C. FOX
M. MOORE
J. B. WILSON
T. C. CLACK
H. A. HILL
JAS. BLAND

Above: Oldest Cornerstone at the Saint Luke Missionary Baptist Church, Bonita, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana

Hills Memorial Park in Richmond, California.¹⁷

Agnes Bland (b January 1890) married Norman Carroll on September 10, 1911.¹⁸ Blanche (b 4 November 1892) married Lucious Johnson on December 25, 1910. To this union, a son, Ozie, was born.¹⁹ Blanche died on June 13, 1919 in Bonita, Louisiana.²⁰

Sources:

¹Death Certificate, Page 8025, Volume 19, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

²Death Certificate, Page 15971, Volume 36, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

³In 1880 U. S. Population Schedule Soundex, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana; Volume 7, Enumeration District 58, Sheet 24, Line 7, Shreve Memorial Library, Shreveport, Louisiana, shows Scott Bland, age 31, born in Alabama; Melinda Scott, age 20, born in Alabama; James, son, age 3, born in Louisiana. In the 1900 United States Population Schedule, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana; Volume 21, Enumeration District 83, Sheet 11, Lines 25 through 27; Shreve Memorial Library, Shreveport, Louisiana; Microfilm T-1048, Roll 12. Parents ages and POB are questionable. Mother is about age 10 at birth of first child.

⁴Date of birth from Selective Service Registration Cards, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana, National Archives Microfilm M1509, Reel Louisiana 28.

⁵Direct Index to Marriage Records A-Z, 1870-1900, Morehouse Parish, LA; Shreve Memorial Library, Broadmoor Branch, Shreveport, Louisiana; Microfilm FT 778, Roll No. 39. #1 marriage in Book 14, Page 335, and #2 marriage in Book 27, Page 17.

⁶In the 1910 United States Population Schedule, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana; Enumeration District 97, Sheet 22, Page 203, Lines 65 through 71; National Archives Microfilm T624, Reel 518; and the 1920 United States Population Schedule, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana; Enumeration District 82, Sheet 5A, Page 188, Lines 33 through 39; National Archives Microfilm T625, Reel 617.

⁷Death Certificate, Page 3773, Volume 8, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

⁸Date of birth from Selective Service Registration Cards, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana, National Archives Microfilm M1509, Reel Louisiana 28.

⁹Funeral Program entitled, "Obsequies of Reverend Grenson John Bland," Fouche's Hudson Funeral Home, Oakland, Alameda County, California; dated May 10, 1971; copy in possession of Mrs. Isabelle Woods, Bossier City, Louisiana; 1995.

¹⁰Direct Index to Marriage Records A-Z, 1870-1900, Book 23, Page 406, Morehouse Parish, LA, Shreve Memorial Library, Broadmoor Branch, Shreveport, Louisiana, Microfilm FT 778, Roll No. 39.

¹¹Death Certificate, Page 456, Volume 6, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

¹²Date of birth from funeral Program entitled, "Obsequies of Reverend Grenson John Bland," Fouche's Hudson Funeral Home, Oakland, Alameda County, California; dated May 10, 1971; copy in possession of Mrs. Isabelle Woods, Bossier City, Louisiana; 1995.

¹³Direct Index to Marriage Records A-Z, 1870-1900, Book 13, Page 370, Morehouse Parish, LA, Shreve Memorial Library, Broadmoor Branch, Shreveport, Louisiana, Microfilm FT 778, Roll No. 39. Death Certificate of Octavia H. Bland, Page 5177, Volume 11, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

¹⁴Funeral Program entitled, "Obsequies of Reverend Grenson John Bland," Fouche's Hudson Funeral Home, Oakland, Alameda County, California; dated May 10, 1971; copy in possession of Mrs. Isabelle Woods, Bossier City, Louisiana; 1995.

¹⁵Direct Index to Marriage Records A-Z, 1870-1900, Book 26, Page 135, Morehouse Parish, LA, Shreve Memorial Library, Broadmoor Branch, Shreveport, Louisiana, Microfilm FT 778, Roll No. 39.

¹⁶Photograph once owned by Mrs. Jerutha Holman Woods (deceased) now in possession of Mrs. Isabelle Woods, Bossier City, Louisiana.

¹⁷Funeral Program entitled, "Obsequies of Reverend Grenson John Bland," Fouche's Hudson Funeral Home, Oakland, Alameda County, California; dated May 10, 1971; copy in possession of Mrs. Isabelle Woods, Bossier City, Louisiana; 1995.

¹⁸Direct Index to Marriage Records A-Z, 1870-1900, Book 16, Page 215, Morehouse Parish, LA, Shreve Memorial Library, Broadmoor Branch, Shreveport, Louisiana, Microfilm FT 778, Roll No. 39.

¹⁹Direct Index to Marriage Records A-Z, 1870-1900, Book 16, Page 78, Morehouse Parish, LA, Shreve Memorial Library, Broadmoor Branch, Shreveport, Louisiana, Microfilm FT 778, Roll No. 39.

²⁰Death Certificate, Page 9916, Volume 22, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.