

The Genie

*To inspire interest in family history through education, preservation and service.
We're in the family business.*



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY

ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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

THE GENIE TABLE OF CONTENTS

Click on the "Content" item to jump to it.
Click on the "TOC" button to jump back to this page

Purpose

Organizational Structure

President's Message

Contributed by Leonard Gresens

Winter Months with My Grandmother

Contributed by Glenda Efferson Bernard

My Revolutionary Ancestor

Contributed by Elaine Johnson

Highlighting Our Members

Contributed by Johnnie Covington

The Nineteenth Amendment

Contributed by Paula Roper

Bits and Pieces

Contributed by Sonja Webb

Preserving Historic Gravestones

Contributed by Sonja Webb

Land Grants and Three Soldiers of Fortune

Contributed by Isabelle Woods

A Family Mystery

Contributed by Ken Shivley

My Love of Museums (Part 2)

Contributed by Leonard Gresens

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 Broadmoor Branch Library, 1212 Captain Shreve Drive, 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: altgenealogy.com/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.

Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association

Board of Directors for 2020

President	Leonard Gresens	leonard.gresens@gmail.com
First Vice President	Kathryn Benson, Ph.D	catherinebenson@bellsouth.net
Second Vice President	Sarah White	zeagler606@aol.com
Treasurer	June Scholes	jscholez@aol.com
Recording Secretary	Barbara Fuller	prayzingHim@gmail.com
Editor	Sylvia Powers	thegenie.editor@gmail.com
Trustee	Glenn Moore	ferreter7@me.com
Trustee	Reed Mathews	reedmathews@yahoo.com
Trustee	Sonja Webb	sdwebb@bellsouth.net
Trustee	Johnnie Covington	jhcov@aol.com
Trustee	Martha Fitzgerald	fitz3902@gmail.com
Past President	Glenda Efferson Bernard	Glenda646@gmail.com

Publications (*The Genie*)

Editor	Sylvia Powers	thegenie.editor@gmail.com
Distribution	Leonard Gresens	leonard.gresens@gmail.com
Compiler	Elaine Johnson	elaine.johnson@suddenlink.net
Exchange Coordinator	June Scholes	jscholez@aol.com

ALTGA Committees

Membership	June Scholes	jscholez@aol.com
Publicity	Jim Johnson	jjohnson747@suddenlink.net
Programs	Jim Johnson	jjohnson747@suddenlink.net
Finance	June Scholes	jscholez@aol.com
Seminar	Jim Johnson	jjohnson747@suddenlink.net
Education	Sonja Webb	sdwebb@bellsouth.net

Other ALTGA Key Points of Contact

Refreshments Coordinator	Sarah White	zeagler606@aol.com
Name Tags	June Scholes	jscholez@aol.com
Reception/Greeter	Suzanne Stimits	slstimits@yahoo.com
Website	Jim Johnson	jjohnson747@suddenlink.net

Visit our Website: altgenealogy.com

Visit Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALTGA/>

Email us at: altgenassn@gmail.com

Email articles for *The Genie* to: thegenie.editor@gmail.com

The President's Message

Second Quarter 2020

Contributed by Leonard Gresens

If you read last quarter's **president's message**, I compared first quarter 2020 to a nightmare game of musical chairs. Well, the nightmare continues!

We were shut down for all of second quarter, as was just about everything else, and we were not able to conduct any open public meetings. So that is about all I have for this quarter's **president's message!!!!**

Ok, well maybe not. There is a lot to say about the second quarter. Historically speaking, what an experience! I had to think back to our March 2019 meeting where Rusty Beckham spoke on the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic. Little did we know that we would, in a few short months, be experiencing some of the same things that took place in 1918. As a historian, you have had an opportunity to record your thoughts and experiences for future generations. Think about the gift you can hand down to your progeny.

Though we couldn't get together in person, we did keep busy. We sent out reminders for our members to utilize this down time by getting organized, getting started, and just **plain** "getting after it," by letting our hobby afford creative ways for us to stay in touch with our work. Many of the online sites, such as *Ancestry.com*, *My Heritage*, and many webinars and seminars featuring our favorite speakers, were available to keep us engaged. We were fortunate to have one of our own, Phil Adderley, put together a great video PowerPoint that taught us about Immigration and Naturalization. Again, we **cannot be more thankful for Phil's** contribution.



Because of the restrictions, we have had to reconnect in different ways. We have continued to use our Facebook page to post

updates and have sent our newsletter out regularly. The board has met a couple of times by way of ZOOM. That has been an experience and a great way to get to see our friends. We have learned “virtual” ways of staying in touch. Our family has House Party on our phones, which has allowed several of us to get on the phone at the same time to see each other and talk. There are new terms like Zoom, “social distancing,” **PPE (personal protective equipment, which I had never heard of before), and “shelter in place.”** **There are** new requirements for washing our hands; do you sing Happy Birthday for your time reference? We have become accustomed to the multiple daily briefings on new cases and new drive-through testing sites. And my favorite is curbside pickup! In addition, let us not forget our new wardrobe accessories, which I was fortunate to get in my favorite LSU colors to enhance my LSU wardrobe. (My wife told me to smile for this picture, can you tell?)

I do not, however, want to forget the hardships that this pandemic has caused: the difficult realization that too many were taken during this time, the restrictions on visiting family in nursing homes and hospitals, and the misfortune of not being with a love one when they died.

As I write this message, the Shreve Memorial Library system has re-opened. At present, we are not sure when we will be able to use the meeting rooms. Even when that time comes, we will be looking at some restrictions. Currently, we are in phase 2 of re-openings, and hopefully, we will see some return to normality soon.

I must say this has been an experience that I really would not like to re-live. However, I am grateful for experiencing it because it does allow all of us to see where our strengths are, and it makes us realize that the resources we have available to us must not be taken for granted.

If you have been journaling about this historic time, the Spring Street Museum is collecting this information to be used by those who follow us in the future. Please consider sharing your thoughts with them.

At present, I am not sure what the third quarter will bring, but one thing I plan to do when we finally get back to our meetings is to have a good game of REAL musical chairs.

I hope to see all of you soon.

Winter Months with My Grandmother

Contributed by Glenda Efferson Bernard

Many days I would come home after school during the winter at our house in Baton Rouge and enter our house at the back door as usual. My grandmother, Myrtle Watts Smiley, lived with us during those cold months. She and I shared my very small bedroom. It didn't seem to bother me too much. As I walked inside the screened back porch, the smell of teacakes beckoned me further inside. A huge, round, wooden bowl was brimming full of those thin, crisp, almond flavored wonders. My grandmother must have been baking for hours!

She was an excellent cook, as well as a lady who could make any imagined dress, skirt, or blouse without a pattern. This in itself was an unusual feat in the mid-1950s. She would make dresses for me to wear to school, as well as dresses for herself and my mom to wear. I can't recall shopping for a "store-bought" dress until I was in high school.

She was a quiet lady; I don't recall her spending much time with me personally. She was kind but a little distant. My dad didn't seem to mind her living there at all. His own mother died giving birth to him, and I believe that my grandmother was a form of mother figure to him. Both parents loved her. Mom and Dad didn't want her to be alone in the country when it was so cold, so she moved in with us before Christmas until things warmed up again in the spring. She just seemed to "be there" during this time of the year sewing and baking.

I can remember only one thing that frustrated me about Grandmother Myrtle while she lived with us during the winter months. When it came time to catch the school bus in the mornings, she never failed to remind me to wear a sweater or a coat. She didn't want me to be cold. I was young and rambunctious, I'm sure, and I didn't want to take the time to go back to the bedroom for additional clothing. Ahh, the trivial thoughts of a child!

I suppose, all in all, it must have been a rather workable arrangement for the four of us. I just regret that I didn't have enough maturity at the time to take the initiative to get to know her better. Her life had been difficult.

She and my grandfather seemed to have had little in common. They lived in a small, sawmill town heavily populated with my grandfather's family. To my knowledge, this was not a major problem, but nonetheless, I can imagine that she felt outnumbered. With the exception of New Orleans, most of south Louisiana was heavily rural in the 1920s and 1930s. Small farms were basically self-sufficient, which meant that it took a great deal of work from everyone just to survive.

They had lost a six-year-old son to diphtheria. She kept what my mother called an “immaculate” home. (That may have been Mom’s perspective, however.) She was “dressed to perfection” each day until the day she died.

My grandmother became a postmistress in 1927, an uncommon feat in those days. Their home was reconstructed to include an area for the post office with a door available for public use. My mother once told me that her mother took the position because she wanted to provide a few of the “extras” for her children. Three of the four remaining children were high school graduates. One of them completed Business College, and one received a Doctor of Education degree from Louisiana State University. It is hard to imagine managing these varied roles during two world wars and the Great Depression!

In retrospect, I wish I had asked her for the details. I wish that I knew how she had felt as a little girl, as a young mother, while operating a post office on her own, during the death of her son, and much later, more about my grandfather. I had had a golden opportunity during these winter months of her staying with us.



Myrtle Eve Watts, about 16 years (in her own handwriting)



Mrs. Myrtle Smiley, June 1975

My Revolutionary Ancestor

Contributed by Elaine Johnson

(Authors Note: Transcriptions have not been edited; they are word-for-word, including any punctuation or spelling errors.)

I have been researching my ancestors since 1986. About 1995, my mother asked me if I could find information about her grandmother, Lela May Burpee. My mother and grandmother both gardened a lot and always used Burpee seeds. She was curious to know if they were related to the Burpee Seed family. I did a lot of research on the Burpees and found that while they were related, it was very remotely. They were not direct descendants, but they were very distant cousins. However, Mama was pleased that they were related at all.

Because of Memorial Day, I was thinking about my veteran ancestors, although none actually died during service. My fourth great-grandfather, Nathan Burpee (great-grandfather of Lela May Burpee) served during the Revolutionary War but died many years after the war. He was married to Lucinda Pearson, who was a twin. In 1995, as I was trying to go farther back, I collected a few more nominal facts. Really all I had on him was his name, date of birth, and place of death as Michigan.

About 1998, after I had researched him, I was contacted by Glydia, who was a descendant of Lucinda's twin Dorinda. Glydia mentioned that Dorinda's husband, Asa Farrar, had served during the Revolutionary War. That made me wonder if perhaps Nathan had also served during the Revolutionary War. The first confirmation that I found was this:

New York Pensioners of 1835
County: Livingston Co.
Name: Nathan Burpee
Rank: Private
Annual Allowance: 36.66
Description of service: Massachusetts militia
When placed on the pension roll: June 6, 1833
Commencement of pension: March 4, 1831
Age: 75

In 1998, **Ancestry.com** was just getting started, so I found nothing else there regarding Nathan's war service. So I went to the Dallas Public Library and found his pension records on microfilm.

Please note that his pension record was quite extensive (including his widow's pension after he died January 5, 1836, in Atlas, Genesee County, Michigan). This document only contains his application and the statements of Joseph Pearson, Josiah Pearson (brothers of his wife Lucinda Pearson), and Nathan's brother Elijah Burpee. Also included is a statement by Nathaniel Taylor, an unrelated person that served with him.

When I initially found the information that he had died in Michigan, I really doubted it. I had no idea that people were so mobile during that time frame. Because Lela May Burpee and her parents Benjamin Pearson Burpee and his wife Elizabeth Ford had died in Michigan, I thought someone just assumed that Nathan had died there, too. I now know for certain that the information is correct.

Nathan Burpee's Revolutionary War Pension File: Number W 27391. (This is a transcription.)

State of New York
Livingston County

On the first day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared in open court before the Judge of the County Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Livingston in the State of New York **Nathan Burpee** a resident of the town of Avon in said county, and state, aged seventy four years and upwards who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated towit: That sometime in the year of our Lord 1776 and he believes in September of that year he entered the public service in the War of the Revolution under a draught in the town of Lancaster in the County of Worcester in the State of Massachusetts under one Captain Goss, whose Christian name he does not recollect, in a regiment commanded by Colonel Ephraim Sawyer to serve for the term of two months according to his best recollection [and not for three months as is supposed by the deposition of Nathaniel Taylor by the declaration annexed] that he well recollects that Nathaniel Taylor served with him in the same Company, that they marched through Hartford in the State of Connecticut by Horse-Neck and thence by Dobb ferry on the North River in the State of New York, that after remaining there a few weeks they crossed into New Jersey and after remaining a day or two they recrossed and marched to Tivertown where they remained until the term of his engagement expired, when he was discharged and returned home in company with said Taylor.

That afterwards and on or about the first day of December of the said year 1776 he volunteered to serve in the militia for the term of three months at the town of Sterling in the said state of Massachusetts, in a company commanded by one Manasseh Sawyer. He recollected that the Lieutenants name was Sawin, that within about a fortnight they marched to the town of Dorchester in said State of Massachusetts near to Boston, when they were mustered in Col. Nicholas Dykes Regiment, and remained until the term of his engagement had expired. He well recollected that Elijah Burpee now of Sterling aforesaid, the brother of the declarant, volunteered at the same time for the same term and served with him in the same company during the said term of three months, and returned home with him after their discharge.

That afterwards, in the year 1777, and as he believes in the month of August of that year and shortly after the battle at Bennington, he volunteered at the town of Sterling aforesaid to serve for three months, he entered service under Captain Greenleaf in a regiment commanded according to the best of his recollection by Colonel Cushing, his First Lieutenants name was Edward Newton, the Second Lieutenants name was Moses Newell. They were marched through New Salem directly to Bennington in Vermont. He recollects that the horses which had been killed at Bennington were in a state of offensive putridity when they marched over the battle field -- that they were marched to different points in the advance of the British Army under Burgoyne, the particular place, his memory does not serve him to date. He well recollects to have been at Bhemus Heights, that the regiment to which he belonged was equipped and paraded for action and posted as a reserve according to his understanding, expecting momentarily to be brought in action, he recollects to have witnessed the burying of the dead after the action at Bhemus Heights -- that after the surrender of Burgoyne at Stillwater, the regiment to which he belonged was marched down the

North River, he recollects that they were on board of a sloop for one day and one night on their descent down the river, but at what points they embarked or disembarked he cannot recollect. He recollects that they marched several days by land and encamped on frozen ground without tents, and finally arrived at a place called Horse-Neck where he had been in the year 1776. They remained there a few days and drew provisions as well, then marched to Trenton, where he had been discharged in 1776, at which place he was again discharged, his term having expired after having been there about a fortnight.

That afterwards in the year 1780 and in the month of July of that year he volunteered under Captain David Moore at Sterling in the county of Worcester in said state of Massachusetts as a private soldier to serve for three months. His Lieutenants names were Houghton and Bailey -- they were marched to Northborough in said county of Worcester and were there mustered and marched from thence through Newlton to Bristol in the State of Rhode Island when they crossed at Bristol Ferry into Rhode Island and were stationed at a place called Butts Hill and there employed by the rebuilding the fort which had been previously destroyed by the British. And continued thus employed until his term expired when he was discharged at that place. He well recollects that Joseph Pearson whose deposition is annexed served with him and returned in company with him to Sterling, Massachusetts.

And this declarant in answer to the interrogatory posed to him by the said court declared that he was born in the town of Sterling aforesaid on the thirteenth day of December in the year of our Lord 1758, that there is a record of his age in the town of Lancaster in said State of Massachusetts, but whether the same is kept by the Town Clerk or what office he cannot say. That he lived in that part of Lancaster in said State of Massachusetts which afterward formed the said town of Sterling, at the time of his first entering the noble service. That since the Revolutionary War he has resided for about fourteen year at the town of Chittenden in the State of Vermont, from whence he removed about thirty seven years since to the town of Hartford now Avon in the now County of Livingston where he resided for about five years. From thence he removed to the town of Wooster in the State of Ohio where he resided until about seven years since, when he removed from Ohio and returned to the said town of Avon where he now resides. He always entered the service as a volunteer, except his first tour of duty of two months, when he was draughted into service. That he cannot give any more particular descriptions of the names of the regular officer who were with the troops when he served, of the regiments continental and militia or the general circumstances of his services then as he has before related them. He never received any written discharge. That Joseph Pearson, Luke Whitmore, Edy Cumby, Charles Coffin and many others of the said town of Avon can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his having served in the war of the Revolution. The said declarant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

His
Nathan X Burpee
Mark

I, William Scott, of the town of Avon, in the County of Livingston do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Nathan Burpee who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration. That I believe him to be seventy four years of age. That he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution, and that I concur in that opinion -- And

further, that he is a quiet, peaceable man of fine moral character, and worthy of full credit -- Sworn and subscribed this day and year aforesaid in open court.

Signed: Wm. Scott
S. G. Haven, Dep. Clerk.

And the said courts do hereby declare their opinion, after their investigation of the matter, and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, that the above named applicant was a revolutionary soldier and served as he states -- and the court further certifies that it appears to them that William Scott who has signed the preceding certificate is a resident inhabitant of the town of Avon in said county and is credible person, and that his statement is entitled to credit.

I, Chauncey R. Bond, clerk of the court of Commissioners in and for the county of Livingston, do hereby certify that the forgoing contains the original proceedings of the said court in the matter of the application of Nathan Burpee for a pension.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal of Office this first day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three.

Signed Chauncy R. Bond, Clk.
By S. G. Haven Dep. Clerk.

Note by Elaine: Following is a statement by Joseph Pearson -- Nathan's brother-in-law (brother of Lucinda Pearson)

I, Joseph Pearson, of Sterling in the County of Worcester and commonwealth of Massachusetts of the age of seventy three years testify and say that the latter part of July 1780, I volunteered as a private soldier for the term of three months in the company of militia commanded by Capt. David Moore then of Bolton in said county. Lieut. Houghton of Harvard in said county and Lieut Bailey of said Bolton were the Lieutenants. I in company with Nathan Burpee then of the West Precinct in Lancaster in said county, now of the town of Avon in the County of Livingston and State of New York, marched from said West Precinct to Northborough in said county where we were mustered, then marched through Mendon to Bristol in the State of Rhode Island then crossed at Bristol Ferry on to the Island and were stationed at Butts Hill where we were employed on building a fort. Said Nathan Burpee continued and performed serviced in said company through the term aforesaid and at the close of said term, which was on the evening of the last day of October 1780, said company was dismissed.

Signed: Joseph Pearson

Note by Elaine: Following is a statement by Nathan Burpee's brother Elijah:

I, Elijah Burpee, of Sterling in the County of Worcester and Commonwealth of Massachusetts of the age of seventy one years testify and say that about the first of December 1776, I volunteered as a private soldier for the term of the three months in the company of Militia commanded by Capt. Manasseh Sawyer then of the West Precinct of Lancaster in said county, one of the Lieuts name was Samuel Sawin then of Westminster in said county and marched with Nathan Burpee who then as well as myself lived in said West Precinct, now Sterling (said Nathan Burpee now lives in Avon in

the county of Livingston and State of New York) to the town of Dorchester near Boston where we were mustered in Col Nicholas Dike's Regiment where we remained until the close of said term which was about the first of March 1777; said Nathan Burpee continued in said Company and performed services through said term, when we were dismissed. He and myself returned home together.

Signed: Elijah Burpee

Note by Elaine: Following is a statement by Josiah Pearson -- Nathan's brother-in-law (brother of Lucinda Pearson)

State of Vermont
Rutland County

On the 15th day of November A.D. 1832 personally appeared before me, Robert Pierpoint, Justice of the Peace for said county, Josiah Pearson of Pittsford in said county to be personally known and a credible witness and made oath that in the year 1777 he knew Nathan Burpee now of Avon in the State of New York and said Burpee was attached to Capt. Greenleaf's company of Massachusetts Troops. And said Burpee joined the army soon after Bennington Battle (16 Aug, 1777) and continued in the army until after the surrender of Burgoyne and then marched down the North River and was discharged I think near Tivertown. There said Burpee served three months that time. Burpee lived in the same town with the deponent and this deponent was in the army soon after said Burpee joined the army was discharged before said Burpee but he knew when said Burpee went from home with the troops and when he returned home.

R. Pierpoint, Jus Peace.

Note by Elaine: Following is a statement by Nathaniel Taylor. As far as I can determine, he was not related to Nathan Burpee.

I, Nathaniel Taylor of Sterling in the County of Worcester of Commonwealth of Massachusetts of the age of seventy seven years of age, testify and say that in the year 1776 sometime in the latter part of the summer, the month I cannot recollect I volunteered my services in the Revolutionary War of the United States as a private soldier in a company of militia commanded by Capt. Goss then of Lancaster in said County in Col. Ephraim Sawyer's Regiment for the term of three months I think, and marched in company with Nathan Burpee who then lived in the part of said Lancaster which is now said Sterling and who now lives in the town of East Avon, County of Ontario, I believe and State of New York and was a private soldier in our company; on our march we passed through the town of Hartford in the State of Connecticut, thence to a place called Horse-Neck and thence to Dobb's Ferry in the State of New York, where we were stationed where we remained about three weeks. Thence we crossed the River in to the State of New Jersey where we remained about two days and then recrossed the river. Thence we marched to Tivertown where we remained until we had completed the term aforesaid and I was then discharged. Said Burpee did service in said company during the whole aforesaid term and at it competition we returned home together.

Signed: Nathaniel Taylor

WAR DEPARTMENT
Revolutionary Claim

I certify that in conformity with the law of the United Sates of the 7th June, 1832 Nathan Burpee of the State of New York who was a Private in the Revolutionary Army is entitled to receive thirty six dollars and sixty six cents per annum, during his natural life, commencing on the 4th of March, 1834, and payable semi-annually on the 4th of March and 4th of September, in every year.

Given at the War Office of the United States
this 6th day of June
one thousand eight hundred and thirty three

Signed John Robb
Acting Secretary of War

Examined and Countersigned:
J.D. Edwards,
Commissioner of Pensions.

Payments to be made at New York
by Agent for paying
Pensioners in the Agency of

New York.

Recorded in the Pension Office
in Book E, Volume 4, page 45

Note by Elaine: Following is a statement by Nathan Burpee after he moved from Avon, New York to Atlas, Genesee County, Michigan.

County of Lapeer

On this Second day of December 1835 before me, the subscriber, a Justice of the said county of Lapeer, personally appeared Nathan Burpee who, on his oath, declares that he is the same person who formerly belonged to the company commanded by Captain Goss in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Goss in the service of the United States; that his name was placed on the pension roll of the State of New York from where he has lately removed; that he now resides in Michigan where he intends to remain, and wishes his pension to be there payable in future. The following are his reasons for removing from New York to Michigan:

I removed from New York to Michigan with the intent of spending the remainder of my life with my children who moved from New York to Michigan at the same time I did.

Signed: Nathan Burpee

Note by Elaine: The following letters were in Nathan Burpee's Revolutionary War Pension File.

April 2, 1937

Veteran's Administration
Department of Revolutionary War Pensions
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

Please inform me if my ancestor, Nathan Burpee received a pension for his services in the Massachusetts Troops in the Revolutionary War, and if so what your record is.

Did his widow, Lucinda Burpee also receive a pension?

This information is for the Genesee County, D.A.R. who are placing an official marker.

"Nathan Burpee born in Westminster, Mass.
Dec 12, 1758
died in Atlas Michigan
Jan. 5, 1836"

"Lucinda Burpee born in Westminster, Mass
Jan 22, 17--
died in Atlas Michigan
Oct. 27, 1842."

McFarlan Cemetery Genesee County, Michigan.

Sincerely yours,

Louise R. Locker
(Mrs. H.W.)

Note by Elaine: Following is the response to her letter:

May 6, 1937

Mrs. H. W. Locker
15364 Oakfield Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

RE: Nathan Burpee
W. 27391
BA-J/MLB

Dear Madam:

Reference is made to your letter in which you request the record of Nathan Burpee who, you state, was born in Westminister, Massachusetts, in December 1758, served in the Massachusetts troops in the Revolutionary War, died in Atlas, Michigan, January 5, 1836, and that his wife, Lucinda Burpee, was born in the same place as he, January 22, 17--, and died in Atlas, Michigan, October 27, 1842.

The record of Nathan Burpee follows as found in pension claim, W. 27391, based upon his service in the Revolutionary War.

Nathan Burpee was born December 13, 1758, in Sterling, Worcester County, Massachusetts; the names of his parents are not given.

While residing in that part of Lancaster which later became Sterling, Massachusetts, Nathan Burpee enlisted in September, 1776, and **served two months** as private in Captain Goss' company, Colonel Ephraim Sawyer's Massachusetts regiment. He volunteered about December 1, 1776, and **served three months** as private in Captain Manasseh Sawyer's company, Colonel Nicholas Dike's Massachusetts regiment. He volunteered in August, 1777, and **served three months** as private in Captain Greenleaf's company, Colonels Cushing's Massachusetts regiment. He volunteered in July, 1780 and **served three months** as private in Captain David Moore's Massachusetts company at Rhode Island, where he was engaged in rebuilding a fort at Butts Hill which had been destroyed.

After the war the soldier resided about fourteen years in Chittenden, Vermont, and about 1796 moved to that part of Hartford which later became Avon, Livingston County, New York, where he remained about five years, thence to Worcester*, Ohio, where he resided until about 1826 when he moved back to Avon, New York. Nathan Burpee was allowed pension on his application executed February 1, 1833, at which time he was residing in Avon, New York. In 1835, he was a resident of the State of Michigan where he had moved with his children from New York. He died January 5, 1836.

The soldier married April 8, 1787, in Sterling, Massachusetts, Lucinda _____. The date and place of her birth or age, maiden name and names of her parents are not shown.

Nathan Burpee's widow, Lucinda, was allowed pension on her application executed July 14, 1840, while a resident of Atlas, Genesee County, Michigan.

The following names of children of Nathan Burpee and his wife, Lucinda are shown on the claim:

Otis Burpee born January 28, 1788

Pearson Burpee, born January 14, 1790 (Note by Elaine: My ggg grandfather)

Elizabeth Burpee, born September 24, 1793

Samuel Burpee, born April 4, 1796

Melita Burpee, born August 29, 1799; died Sept. 2, 1803.

Nathan Burpee, Jr., born September 24, 1804

Nehemiah Sleeper Burpee, born June 29, 1807.

In 1841, Lucinda Burpee, soldier's widow, stated that the names of her children were found in a family record kept by her in a "Bible printed in Worcester, Massachusetts, by Isaiah Thomas in the year 1785, and presented to her by her father, John Pearson who has been dead for many years."

In 1832, Nathan Burpee's brother, Elijah, then aged seventy-one years was residing in Sterling, Massachusetts, and stated that he volunteered December 1, 1776, and served with Nathan in the same company three months.

In 1841, Dorinda Farrar, twin sister of Lucinda Burpee, stated that she was living in Sterling, Massachusetts, at the time of her sister's marriage to Nathan Burpee and attended their marriage, she, Dorinda, being married at the time, but she did not state the name of her husband or of her parents. In 1835, one Pearson Farrar made affidavit in Lapeer County, Michigan, in behalf of the soldier, Nathan Burpee and in 1840, one Asa Farrar made affidavit in Genesee County, the same state, in behalf of soldier's widow, Lucinda Burpee. Their relationship to Dorinda, or to each other not shown.

In 1832, one Joseph Pearson, aged seventy-three years, was living in Sterling, Massachusetts, and stated that he served with the soldier, Nathan Burpee, on his tour in 1780, no relationship stated between him and John Pearson to whom reference was previously made, or to the soldier or his wife.

Very truly yours,

A.D. Hiller
Executive Assistant
To the Administrator.

** After researching the 1820 Census and a book called "Washington County, Ohio Marriages 1789-1840", compiled by Bernice Graham & Elizabeth s. Cottle, I found that this is really Wooster (Now Waterford) Township in Washington Co., Ohio. (Elaine Johnson 9/24/1998)*



Before the days of *Find a Grave* there was a mail list that you could subscribe to and ask for copies of tombstone photos. In 1998, I wrote and asked for photos of the tombstone of Nathan Burpee. The person that responded was so nice. He sent me an entire roll of film showing many shots of the tombstone of Nathan Burpee and his wife Lucinda, as well as some other related family members.

Many years later (in 2011), I posted a couple of those photos to *Find a Grave*. The photos included his tombstone as well as markers indicating that he was in the Revolutionary War.

In 2012, my husband Jim and I took a trip to Michigan. One of things that we did on that trip was go to the cemetery where Nathan Burpee was buried. It's a fairly small cemetery, but his tombstone was very easy to find as it is the tallest one in the cemetery. Even though I already had photos, I, of course, took more photos. It was kind of surreal to stand there and realize that he was my ancestor and that he had been in the Revolutionary War.

In July 2013, I was contacted by the Chaplain of the Genesee DAR Chapter about the tombstone of Nathan Burpee. She noted that I had posted photos of his tombstone on *Find a Grave* that included the DAR emblem. She said it was no longer there and wanted to know if I could tell them when the

photo was taken so they could form some kind of timeline as to when it went missing. I told her the photo was taken in 1998, that I had been there in 2012 and that the emblem was missing at that time. After much back and forth (including their searching their warehouse to see if they had possibly stored it for some reason), they decided that they wanted to add a new plaque and have a rededication ceremony. I was invited to attend and speak on the behalf of his descendants.

It took another full year for them to get everything together, as they had to file paperwork with Washington, D.C. and get the plaques made. They also tracked down a couple of other descendants. The ceremony was conducted on June 21, 2014. The DAR, SAR (Sons of the Revolution), re-enactor groups, TAPS, and veterans groups met at the grave for the rededication service. Jim and I videoed the ceremony. It is something I will never forget. It was just one of those things that make family research so much fun, and lots of good memories for Memorial Day.

OLD TOMBSTONE PHOTO WITH DAR EMBLEM:



Old Plaque dedicated in 1937

Tombstone Inscription

NATHAN BURPEE
Born in West Minster, Mass
Dec 12, 1758
DIED IN ATLAS MICH.
JAN 5, 1835

LUCINDA BURPEE
Born In West Minster, Mass
Jan 22, 17545
DIED IN ATLAS, MICH
Oct 27, 1842

Re-dedication Ceremony June 21, 2014 (and new plaque).



On the next page is a newspaper account of the original 1937 dedication by the Genesee County DAR.

Miss Carol Pierson and Mrs. James Parker to Officiate

The Flint Journal

Genesee chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, has announced plans for marking the grave of Nathan Burpee, Revolutionary soldier, on Tuesday, Sept. 4. Appropriate services will be conducted at 2:30 in the MacFar- an cemetery at Grand Blanc.

Miss Carol Pierson, regent, and Mrs. James S. Parker, chaplain, will officiate, and Mrs. A. A. Floyd, historian for the society, will read the account of Nathan Burpee's life and army record.

The ceremony will be of particular interest to the older residents of Atlas and Goodrich, where the soldier lived and died. Mrs. William Davis of Goodrich and Mrs. Howard Locker of Detroit are descendants of Nathan Burpee.

Born in Massachusetts

He was born Dec. 13, 1758, in Sterling, Worcester county, Mass. While residing in that part of Lancaster which later became Sterling, Mass., Nathan Burpee enlisted and served two months as a private in Captain Goss' company, Col. Ephraim Sawyer's regiment. He volunteered again in 1776, in 1777 and in July, 1780, again served three months in Rhode Island where he was engaged in building a fort at Butt's Hill which had been destroyed. He died on Jan. 5, 1836, at his home in Atlas.

The Michigan D. A. R. has officially located and marked over 100 graves of Revolutionary soldiers and Genesee county chapter, inaugurated in 1897, now has eight graves permanently designated with bronze markers to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved American independence.

Mark Historical Sites

The D. A. R. has also played an active part in the preservation by marker, or monument, of historical sites. Among the spots marked

Genesee chapter is the site of the "Ford" at the end of Grand avenue street, the old Indian trail between Detroit and Saginaw. A tablet also commemorates the first log house erected in Flint which was built in 1819 and was used by Jacob Smith as a trading post. The post was located on the northwest corner of South Lyon and Beach streets.

Six other places marked by the chapter include: The Old military road, old Indian campground, Todd's tavern, site of burning of a white man at the stake by Indians, the last toll gate, Republican wigwag and the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of George Washington.

In addition the D. A. R. also sponsors awards for students holding highest records in American history and student citizenship and attributes to civic projects and historic shrines.

In case of rain the ceremony Tuesday will be held in the home of Mrs. Thomas Jenks, 536 Perry



Soldier of Revolution Honored—Three descendants of Nathan Burpee, who served with George Washington in the war which made this a free nation, were present Tuesday afternoon when member Genesee chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, dedicated Mr. Burpee's grave in McFar- an cemetery at Grand Blanc. Mr. Burpee died in Atlas, January 5, 1836. He enlisted in the revolutionary forces in Massachusetts in 1776 and served until 1780. Marking the grave is a bronze tablet inscribed "Nathan Burpee, Revolutionary soldier." Taken during the ceremonies, this picture shows, left to right, Mrs. James S. Parker, chaplain of the D. A. R.; Mrs. A. A. Floyd, historian and Miss Carol Pierson, regent; Mrs. Howard Locker, a descendant of Mr. Burpee; Martha Locker, daughter of Mrs. Locker; Mrs. Mhala Rockafellow of Goodrich, another descendant. Mrs. William Davis of Goodrich, another descendant of Mr. Burpee, was unable to be present. (Journal Photo).

Highlighting Our Members

Contributed by Johnnie Covington

Member Janie Binderim retired as the director of accounting from LSU Medical School on January 1, 2018. Before that, she worked as an accountant for 17 years at Bossier Medical Center. Janie and her husband, Richard, live in South Shreveport. Richard is an avid golfer and goes to the course every day, Tuesday through Friday. They have a son who lives in Bossier City and three wonderful grandchildren. Playing with the grandchildren, cross-stitching, quilting, reading, and dabbling in genealogy keep Janie busy.

Janie was adopted when she was ten days old, and she said she had the best parents ever. She was, however, curious about her birth mother. DNA led her to a brother who is five years her senior. They take turns calling each other monthly and hope to meet in person soon. He never knew he had a sister but was able to answer a lot of Janie's questions about their mother, who worked at Barksdale AFB in the 40s. Janie is interested in learning more about the names Farr, Toland, Kottler, Sessions, and Johnston.



ALTGA member Greta Travis lives on the outskirts of Jonesboro, Louisiana and is working from her home during the pandemic. She is a mental health counselor and meets with her clients using telemed. Greta is looking forward to retirement this year and plans to get back into things she really likes, including genealogy research, photography, scrap booking, sewing, dancing, and working out. She likes to drive and enjoys visiting her son and granddaughter in Chicago.

Greta received her degree in education from Chicago State and a master's degree specializing in human services from Spertus, also in Chicago. She worked for 26 years in the Chicago Parks and Recreation District.

Greta's ancestors are from Webster and Claiborne Parishes. Family names that she is interested in learning more about include, Battle, Coleman, Pace, Norton, and Williams, especially a Chaney or Channie Williams. She said the name Harper is her brick wall.



The Nineteenth Amendment

Contributed by Paula Roper

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

On June 4, 1919, Congress passed the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, and it officially became law with ratification on August 18, 1920, which marks its 100th anniversary.

The members of the National Woman’s Party (NWP) worked diligently from 1848-1919, until the 19th Amendment was passed. Success of the Women’s Movement was marked by the contributions of such notables as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott, Alice Paul, Sojourner Truth, and Carrie Catt Chapman. Lesser-known Suffragettes, those not in the national limelight, also worked actively to gain women’s right to vote. Though there were many women in the movement whose stories have not been written, they likewise were instrumental in promoting the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

One such woman from Northwest Louisiana was named Willie Grace Johnson, a state officer in the National Woman’s Party, who was prominent in civic work and in her own successful business. She is buried in the historic Oakland Cemetery in Shreveport, Louisiana. Willie Grace Johnson participated in the final “watchfire demonstration” in Washington, D.C., in February 1919. She was arrested and incarcerated for five days in a District of Columbia jail. During her incarceration, she went on a hunger strike. After being released from jail, Johnson and twenty-five other National Woman’s Party demonstrators sponsored a cross-country train tour known as the “Prison Special.” The speaking tour was to inform audiences about their experience as political prisoners. The “Prison Special” arrived in New Orleans at Lafayette Square. Pictured on page one of the *New Orleans Item*, February 23, 1919, is Willie Grace Johnson among the proud train travelers with the caption, “Miss Willie Grace Johnson of Shreveport, ... recently served sentences for participation in the burning of President Wilson in effigy.”

After Johnson’s return home to Shreveport, she gave an interview to the *Shreveport Times*, which was published February 26, 1919, about her activities in

Washington. She stated, "I was persuaded of the wisdom of the militants' ideas only more than a month ago, after becoming acquainted with their methods. I was convinced of the necessity of the women [*sic*] doing something startling, so as to get through to the press, to the people of an Idea [*sic*] of what the Suffrage Movement meant and to get the people thinking. I am a Democrat and am anxious to do all that I can to bring pressure to the leaders of the party to get action in favor of the Susan B. Anthony Amendment."

Through the diligent efforts of Willie Grace Johnson and thousands of other women across the United States, the law allowing women the right to vote was passed. We honor her and her fellow participants for fighting for our equality.

"PRISONETTES" ENTERTAIN ORLEANIANS



Times-Picayune, New Orleans, Louisiana February 23, 1919

Bits and Pieces

Contributed by Sonja Webb

Bits and Pieces of information that may be of use in one's research or a tip that leaves to a clue for research.

Websites: Each site has many features; only a few are listed here. Visit site to get the full picture of the site's offerings

Alabama Mosaic: www.alabamamosaic.org

- *family histories
- *school yearbooks
- *Civil War diaries

Arizona Genealogy: genealogy.az.gov

- *births certificates 1855 to 1943 Free
- *death certificates 1870 to 1968 Free
- *originals birth and death certificates

University of California: www.calispere.org

- *millions of photographs
- *millions of documents & letters
- *diaries & oral histories

Florida Heritage: palmm.digital.flvc/islandora/object/palmm:fhp

- *family papers
- * diaries
- *maps & photographs

Georgia: www.georgiaarchives.org

- *death certificates 1914 to 1927
- *Confederate pension applications
- *colonial wills

Kentucky: www.kyhistory.com

- *oral histories
- *manuscripts
- *photos some of AfricanAmerican life

Louisiana: www.louisianadigitallibrary.org

- *family histories
- *oral histories
- *photographs & maps

Maryland: www.digitalmaryland.org

- *African American funeral programs
- *oral histories
- *slave lists

Minnesota: www.ironrangerresearchcenter.org

- *death cards 1900 to 1903
- *Iron Range newspaper
- *Chippewa census rolls

Nevada Archives: www.nsladigitalcolletions.org

- *territorial census 1861 to 1864
- *land patents 1865 to 2013
- *prisoners and orphans

New Jersey: www.njdigitalhighway.org

- *citizenship papers
- *immigration records
- *biographies

North Carolina: digital.ncdcr.gov

- *Confederate pension applications
- *Bible records
- *newspapers back to 1752

North Dakota : www.digitalhorizonsonline.org

- *photos of homesteaders
- *oral interviews of Germans
- *county histories

Ohio Memory: www.ohiomemory.org

- *newspapers
- *Civil War photos
- *yearbooks

Oklahoma: www.digitalprairieok.net

- *Confederate pension applications
- *landowners

Pennsylvania: www.statelibrary.pa.gov

- *historical newspapers
- *Civil War histories
- *yearbooks

South Carolina: library.sc.edu/p/collections/digital

- *family Bibles
- *church records
- *soldiers' letters

Wyoming: wyoarchives.state.wy.us

- *death records 1909 to 1969
- *oral histories
- *newspapers 1849 to 1923

SOURCE: FamilyTree Magazine, December 2019.



Looking for Female Ancestors: Check Female Clubs & Organizations
Look for Records & Minutes of the following

Daughters of Rebekah, female auxiliary of the Order of Odd Fellow
www.odd-fellows.org/history/genealogy

National Association of Colored Women's Clubs 1895-1992
library.bowdoin.edu

Women's Christian Temperance Union
archives.wheaton.edu/repositories/4/resources/239#

SOURCE: FamilyTree Magazine, January/February 2020



1940 Census

The enumerator put an X in a circle beside the name of the person in household who provided the information for the census record.



FamilySearch

New collection: Free United Presbyterian, United Free and Other Protestant Churches in Scotland 1736-1990

www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2421466

**Birth Certificates and Death Certificates, Caddo Parish**

Obtain Death Certificates registered in La July 9, 2012 to present

Available at Caddo Clerk of Court office

501 Texas Street, Shreveport

8:30 am-5:00 pm

318-226-6642

**Initials that appear on old death certificates**

d.s.p. = died without issue (no children)

Latin: *decessit sine prole*

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

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

d.u.n.m = died unmarried

**Preserving Historic Tombstones**

Contributed by Sonja Webb

(If reprinting, the following credit line should appear on all reprinted articles.)


CREDITS: Originally published in the *Nov / Dec 2017* issue of Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine, Copyright © National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

PRESERVING HISTORIC GRAVESTONES

*HOW TO START, WHAT NOT TO DO
AND WHERE TO FIND HELP*

— By Courtney Peter —





Church and
cemetery in
Lenox, Mass.

Few objects illustrate the passage of time more starkly than a gravestone. Inscribed with the dates on which a life began and ended—sometimes with additional, although tantalizingly scant, details—they relate the bare-bones version of an individual's story. When combined with the context clues carved into relatives' and neighbors' surrounding stones, they become part of a larger narrative. Gravestones can provide genealogists, historians and researchers with data that supports the existing historical record of a family or a community, or even with previously unknown information that enhances our understanding of generations past.





Yet these symbols of eternal rest are not immune to the effects of time. At many older graveyards and cemeteries, markers that are leaning, broken or nearly unreadable outnumber intact gravestones. Often, it is still possible to preserve both the stones themselves and the information they convey—provided the necessary manpower, expertise and funding can be summoned. Opportunities to take action are all around, from early colonists' East Coast burial grounds to the pioneer cemeteries marking the path of westward expansion. Expert preservationists and volunteers offer the following advice and anecdotes to inform and inspire anyone considering or undertaking a gravestone preservation project.

Slow Down and Study Up

When confronted with a heavily damaged gravestone, or an entire cemetery suffering from deterioration and neglect, the impulse to take swift action can be strong. But resisting the allure of a quick fix allows more time to study the history, needs and condition of a site, as well as appropriate preservation strategies. This is a key step, especially for amateurs.

Shelter Island DAR Chapter, Shelter Island, N.Y., embarked upon a five-year project to preserve more than 100 18th- and 19th-century gravestones in the historic North and South Burying Grounds of a local Presbyterian church, despite a lack of prior experience in gravestone preservation. “The hard part is trying to get people to slow down so you can educate them about the process. A handful of us really took the lead to learn,” said Karen Kiaer, chapter historian and cemetery project chair.

One go-to source is the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, based in Natchitoches, La. As part of its mission to advance the application of science and technology to historic preservation, the center hosts training events and conferences, awards grants, and supplies a wide variety

of articles, podcasts, videos and reference materials online at <http://ncptt.nps.gov>. The Association for Gravestone Studies, another trusted organization, works both at the national level and in localized chapters to expand public awareness and support for the research, preservation and conservation of gravestones and burial places.

Individual experts also offer guidance. Jonathan Appell, monuments conservator and owner of Atlas Preservation, a restoration supply company in Southington, Conn., near Hartford, drives about 55,000 miles each year en route to the 20 to 30 workshops he leads at locations across the country. “When I teach, I try to give people a lot of solutions to problems,” he said. “Different people within the field have different philosophies, opinions and ideologies. In certain subjects that have more variability in the exact treatment protocol, I discuss the way I would do it, but I do mention how other people might approach the same thing.”

Regional organizations and events provide valuable learning opportunities, too. Last fall, a presentation by a representative of Fairfax County (Va.) Cemetery Preservation Association about the challenges of cleaning and researching gravesites in family and church burial grounds inspired many members of Lane's Mill DAR Chapter, Centreville, Va., to volunteer.

For Caroline Scott Harrison DAR Chapter, Indianapolis, Ind., the knowledge four members gained by attending a local cemetery preservation course proved critical to the success of the chapter's multi-year effort to restore and preserve nearby Bell Cemetery, containing 72 gravestones dating from 1841 to 1947.



Jonathan Appell, front left, leads volunteers in digging up tablet grave markers at the North and South Burying Grounds in order to reset them.



Do No Harm

An essential part of a gravestone preservation is knowing what not to do. Understanding the causes of damage and deterioration can be instructive in this regard. Water and pollution are the primary environmental culprits. The former promotes the growth of mold, algae and fungus, while the acid in the latter gradually dissolves marble and limestone. Gravity, tree roots and even mole burrows can cause stones to lean over time. Landscaping equipment such as weed eaters and lawnmowers frequently scar gravestones, and sometimes topple them.

Some preservation takeaways are obvious. The fact that hand trimming, while tedious, is the safest way to clear grass and brush surrounding gravestones, falls under that umbrella. In other cases, seemingly logical remedies are, in fact, damaging. “There are things you can do to make a stone look nice quickly, but they could be shortening the lifespan of what’s left,” Appell said.

For example, resetting a broken historic stone in a modern concrete base works temporarily. But because the concrete is much harder, eventually the stone will break off where the two substances meet—and there may be even less historic material left to work with after a repeated break. A softer mortar formulated for compatibility with centuries-old stone offers a longer-term, more historically appropriate hold.

Fleeting treatments can impart lasting adverse effects. Grave rubbing can inadvertently mark the stone with crayon or pencil. Or, worse, the pressure could exacerbate leaning or hasten a break. Applying chalk or talc to highlight a stone’s carvings is problematic because the substances leave behind residue. The fastest, least invasive way to read an obscured carving is to reflect sunlight onto the gravestone using a mirror.



Members of Caroline Scott Harrison DAR Chapter carefully clean gravestones at Bell Cemetery.

Departed, Exited, Left This Mortal Plane

How many ways have we described the death of a friend or loved one?

Pass through any cemetery, and you’ll notice that the majority of epitaphs include just the basic information: name, birth date and date of death. Some headstones, however, bear more descriptive phrasing, detailing how the person passed away or offering a glimpse into his or her life.

Caitlin Hopkins began indexing the colorful ways early American mourners have used to describe death, collecting them on her blog, *Vast Public Indifference*. Highlights include Anna Barnard’s headstone, which says she “rose upon the Horizon of perfect endless day on the 24th of August 1774,” and Hannah Symmes’ poignant one, which reads she “yielded her spirit to its benevolent Author.”

Other epitaphs get right to the point, explaining that Charles Frost “was killed by a waggon,” or Captain Joseph Melcher “perished in a storm Nov. 7th 1802.” Others offer more intrigue, such as Mrs. Freeloove Ball’s headstone, which cryptically says, “She died April 18, 1836, from stabs inflicted with a knife, in her 44th year.”

Read more at www.vastpublicindifference.com/2008/08/101-ways-to-say-died.html.

—Elizabeth Partridge





A DAR Special Projects Grant helped Shelter Island DAR Chapter restore two tabletop gravestones, including one honoring Brinley Sylvester and Mary Burroughs Sylvester. Plexiglass covers protect the carving on the delicate stone insets.


Deep cleaning gravestones requires time, attention and care, as well as the right tools. Leave wire brushes at home; this is a job for gentler tools. At Bell Cemetery, Caroline Scott Harrison DAR Chapter members used handheld, soft-bristle brushes, and sometimes even old toothbrushes. Plus, they picked up some tricks along the way.

“Initially, we were using wooden tongue depressors and popsicle sticks, but we found that if you use plastic straight-edge scrapers you can get a lot of the protruding biological material off before you begin brushing,” explained Kay Nickey, the chapter Historic Preservation Committee chair.

The choice of cleaning agent is equally important. “In one day, a harsh cleaner can cause as much surface erosion as 50 years of normal weathering,” Susan H. McGahee and Mary W. Edmonds write in the 2007 edition of *South Carolina’s Historic Cemeteries: A Preservation Handbook* (available online). A non-ionic cleanser that won’t erode stone or impart residue, such as D/2 Biological Solution, is a must-have tool for preservationists.


For Appell, the goal is neither to return a gravestone to its original state nor halt the aging process. “Generally, in conservation, you want reversibility, so that if better technology comes along, or if the repair you did fails, it would be possible to rework it,” he said.

ADVERTISEMENT




C.A.R.
Children of the American Revolution

TRAINING TOMORROW'S DAR



Harriet Lothrop, a DAR member and founder of the Children of the American Revolution, had a desire of outreach to all youth in America to educate them on the sacrifices and accomplishments of those brave Patriots who served and aided to make this a free and great country. C.A.R. makes Mrs. Lothrop's dream to educate each new generation of young citizens a reality -- but we need your help! Please join the N.S.C.A.R. in its mission of outreach and education.



ENGAGE WITH THE FUTURE!


For more information on programming and activities

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____


Phone: _____



9,595 members and growing

564 active societies around the world

Please mail to N.S.C.A.R.
1776 D Street, NW, Room 224
Washington, DC 20006
www.nscar.org/engage



Use Your Workforce

Many gravestone preservation projects benefit from outside assistance in some form, be it from subject matter experts, local government officials, manual laborers or community volunteers. Welcoming these people onto the preservation team and coordinating their efforts helps to maximize a project's efficiency and ensure its success. Caroline Scott Harrison DAR Chapter partnered with the Perry Township Trustee's Office to restore Bell Cemetery, and invited local groups, experts and officials to join the project.

“Our restoration was a success because the project was embraced by so many people and volunteer groups in the community,” Ms. Nickey said.

Pax Romana DAR Chapter, Rome, Italy, received assistance from the director of Rome's Non-Catholic Cemetery, who was instrumental in securing legal clearance to work on national monuments in a historic site, which gravestones in the 300-year-old cemetery are designated to be. Subsequently, the chapter rehabilitated the gravestones of four American



Obadiah Havens, one of a number of Revolutionary War Patriots interred at the North and South Burying Grounds, served in many public offices, including overseer of the poor.

women—two mothers and their two daughters—who belonged to the former Rome DAR Chapter.

Shelter Island DAR Chapter tapped a trio of experts to assess and preserve more than 80 gravestones in the Presbyterian church cemetery that most urgently required attention. Southampton, N.Y., town historian Zachary Studenroth measured all 550 gravestones, described their condition and suggested treatment for their preservation. His report helped members decide which stones to tackle themselves and which to save for on-site workdays led by Appell and local preservationist Joel Snodgrass, each of whom visited the cemetery three times. “When Jonathan got here, we already had picked 12 stones to work on, so it was very efficient,” said Mrs. Kiaer. “He’s a real workhorse.”

It takes some heavy lifting to reset tilting gravestones. Even tablet markers just 2 to 3 inches thick are heavier than they might seem, because the aboveground portion is only part of the whole. The stone may extend an equal length or longer below ground to act as an anchor. On Shelter Island, Appell set up a scaffold and hoist system to raise and reset stones with the help of local

Vietnam War veterans.

But volunteers don’t have to possess superior strength in order to be of service. At projects all across the country, DAR members can be found shoveling dirt, pulling weeds, mixing epoxy and cleaning gravestones.

“For our North and South Burying Grounds project, we gave four of our 80-year-old members chairs and sun hats and rubber gloves and had them clean the stones,” Mrs. Kiaer said. “They loved it. They felt they were really contributing.”



At Bell Cemetery, a Caroline Scott Harrison DAR Chapter member digs around a stone base as a volunteer prepares to hoist an obelisk marker into place.

Everyone has something to offer to the field of gravestone preservation. Preparation, organization, collaboration, motivation, problem-solving savvy and a tolerance for the unexpected are just a few of the components involved. As Appell said, “It’s a trade, an art, a craft, a science; it’s a combination.”

Gravestones Through the Years

The earliest gravestones in the Colonies consisted of field stones and wooden slabs. Many have since been moved or disintegrated.

In the 18th-century, 2–4 inch-thick tablet-style stones made of slate, soapstone and sandstone were favored. These tended to be dark in color, though light-colored marble tablet stones were also used.

By the mid-19th century, elaborate monuments, often made of marble, became popular. Marker styles included obelisks, statues, cradles and tabletop stones. Tabletop stones, in particular, became common during the rural cemetery movement of the mid-19th century.

The movement introduced combination cemeteries/gardens on large plots of land outside cities, as an alternative to overcrowded church graveyards. Families actually used tabletop gravestones as picnic tables during excursions to these park-like burial grounds.

As gravestone carving became standardized, mechanized and commercialized by the turn of the 20th century, granite became the material of choice, and the use of local gravestone carvers tapered off. Monuments were available via mail order from sources such as the Sears Catalog.



Land Grants and Three Soldiers of Fortune

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

Volume 3, Issue 6 June 2015

LINEAGE

LAND GRANTS AND THREE SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE

On June 19, 2015, Mrs. Susan Holley shared her love of history with the membership of the Family History Club. We also learned Mrs. Holley has a major interest in collecting books on genealogy.

When on Bienville Street in New Orleans, Louisiana, years ago, she found a store, which sold used books. She purchased a whole collection of the *Louisiana Historical Quarterly*. It was probably someone's collection of bound and unbound books.

According to Mrs. Holley, the Louisiana Historical Society of the 1920's published these journals each quarter. Genealogists and historians wrote the articles in these quarterlies. Therefore, the articles are well-documented, well-annotated, and thoroughly researched. In fact, she added that the notes are sometimes more interesting than the articles therein. She discovered an article about a few pioneers of Morehouse Parish's history within this collection.

Mrs. Holley produced a photocopy of a 1797 map of the Province of Louisiana depicting the Maison Rouge plats of land in the Ouachita Valley and its tributaries. The Baron de Carondelet, with the King of France's approval, ceded four plats in 1797 to the Marquis de Maison Rouge. This area extends north at Bayou Bartholomew to the south until Bayou Calumet along both sides of the Ouachita River. (See map inset)

She also distributed a list of *Land Sales in Bastrop Grant Made by Abraham Morehouse* to members. They scanned these lists for the names of early pioneers of Morehouse Parish. Mrs. Holley suggested they scan the

surnames for ancestors they may have not realized are on their family trees.

She then guided us on an historical journey of the Ouachita Valley of yesterday. Her presentation discussed an article written by Jennie O'Kelly Mitchell and Robert Dabney Calhoun in the April 1937 issue, of the *Louisiana Historical Quarterly* entitled, *The Marquis de Maison Rouge, The Baron de Bastrop, and Colonel Abraham Morehouse: Three Ouachita Valley Soldiers of Fortune*.¹

Mrs. Holley praised the effort these writers made to produce the article without today's convenience of a computer. Each writer traveled to archives



1797 Map of Four Plats Ceded to the Marquis de Maison Rouge by Baron de Carondelet with the approval of the King of France

and court houses, translated documents from French and Spanish to English, and built an extensive bibliography with copious notes throughout this article.

Author Jennie O'Kelly Mitchell was born in 1882 in Monroe, Louisiana, where she and her husband, Charles Monroe Mitchell, eventually resided. She became a genealogist. Mrs. Mitchell joined the Louisiana Historical Society and founded the Camp Bonaventura Chapter of the Campfire Girls in Monroe. Her co-author, Robert Dabney Calhoun, was known for his articles on Tensas Parish and Concordia Parish. He had published an article on the Tensas Indians.

From 1582 to 1851, Mrs. Holley chronologically discussed historical milestones of Northeast Louisiana within the article. She began with data found in journals of explorers like De Soto and La Salle, as they traded with the Indians when the French owned the Orleans Territory.

In the 1700's, Nacogdoches, Texas, was a Spanish post Mrs. Holley stated that church records from the Catholic Church in what is now Nacogdoches, Texas, are missing. A few historians believe these church records may be in Catholic churches on the Island of Cuba.

After the first map of Louisiana was produced in 1710 by French scholars, three French settlements were established on the Ouachita River, where random explorers traded with the Indians. In 1716, the French built Fort Rosalie, once located where Natchez, Mississippi, is now.

The Natchez Massacre occurred in 1731. Many Natchez Indians were annihilated near Sicily Island in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana. Survivors of this massacre were sold as slaves in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in the Greater Antilles.

Although the French made a second map of Louisiana in 1732, the French ignored these Provinces from 1731 to 1763. The French did not issue land grants in this area. Three posts—Natchitoches, Rapides, and Ouachita—were established. Official Indian traders like Francois Bonaventura and Louis Epinet served this area. A close relationship developed between them. A son of Louis Epinet married one of Bonaventura's daughters.

Spain owned west of the Mississippi River and had acquired the Province of Louisiana. By 1763, Cuba was returned to Spain. Spanish scribes accompanied their officials to produce three copies of documents. The nearest church, the King of Spain, and the Ouachita District's Office each received a copy.

By 1795 the Baron de Carondelet, Military and Civil Governor of the Provinces of Louisiana and West Florida, wanted the Marquis to settle thirty families—emigrants of Europe, not Americans—on land in the Ouachita Valley. These farmers were to grow wheat and build mills to manufacture flour for the settlers in the Louisiana and

West Florida Provinces. The Baron de Bastrop and the Marquis de Maison Rouge were issued Spanish grants. The Baron de Bastrop also received a land grant from the Baron de Carondelet, and was expected to settle five hundred families in the area which became Morehouse Parish, and much of West Carroll Parish, Louisiana.

Phillip Hendrik Nering Bogel adopted the title of the Baron de Bastrop. He was born in Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana, in 1759 to Conraed Nering and Maria Bogel. In 1782 he married Georgine Lijklama a Nyehold, who bore him five girls. The Baron de Bastrop became a tax collector. Although married, by 1795 he resided in Louisiana, apart from his wife and daughters. His family remained in the Netherlands where they eventually died. The Baron de Bastrop died in 1827 in Mexico.²

Colonel Abraham Morhouse was from New York. In 1790, he married Abigail Young at New York. Their union produced two sons: Andrew Young Morhouse and George Young Morhouse. By then, Abraham had become a Colonel in the New York militia. He deserted his wife and two sons before he met the Baron de Bastrop in Kentucky. Here Colonel Morhouse sold his land grant, which became the future Morehouse and West Carroll Parishes, to the Baron de Bastrop.

Colonel Morhouse later married Eleanor Hook at the Ouachita Post, stating he was a widower. This statement was not true. Colonel Morhouse's union with Eleanor produced five children. His son, Andrew, by his first wife, showed up for a visit with his father at the Ouachita Post in 1809.

Earlier, Spain had ceded the Louisiana Territory to France which, in turn, transferred this Territory to the United States in 1803. Consequently, the period from 1803 through 1850 was one of landowners residing on the Bastrop land grant settling claims of ownership with the Federal Government. In 1851, an agreement with landowners and the Federal Government granted ownership to all persons who had resided in the area for 20 years.

When the time allotted brought her presentation to a close, Mrs. Holley had whetted our appetite to hear more. Yes, she admitted, there's still more to the history of the Ouachita Valley and its soldiers of fortune to be reserved for another day.

Mrs. Holley wove an interesting, intricate, and chronological, journey of Louisiana's history. She interspersed this history with the biographies of three Soldiers of Fortune: the Baron de Bastrop, the Marquis de Maison Rouge, and Colonel Abraham Morhouse.

We welcome an encore to hear "the rest of the story."

¹ Jennie O'Kelly Mitchell and Robert Dabney Calhoun. "The Marquis de Maison Rouge, The Baron de Bastrop, and Colonel Abraham Morhouse: Three Ouachita Valley Soldiers of Fortune," *The Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, Volume 20, No. 2, April 1937.

² Wes Helbling. "Life and Times of the Baron de Bastrop," *Bastrop Daily Enterprise*, Bastrop, Louisiana, posted on its website: www.bastropenterprise.com on November 21, 2009.

Volume 3, Issue 7 July 2015

LINEAGE

Three Soldiers of Fortune, Part II

On July 17, 2015, Mrs. Susan Holley presented a sequel to her speech in June under the same subject to the members of Family History Club. She discussed the article, *The Marquis de Maison Rouge, The Baron de Bastrop, and Colonel Abraham Morhouse: Three Ouachita Valley Soldiers of Fortune* written by Jennie O'Kelly Mitchell and Robert Dabney Calhoun. This article appeared in the April 1937 issue, of the Louisiana Historical Quarterly.¹

Mrs. Holley said some of the information she will share came from the collection of Jay Fair Hardin, Esquire. Born in the 1880's, Mr. Hardin was an attorney and a former resident of Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana. His avocation was collecting the papers of both the Marquis de Maison Rouge and the Baron de Bastrop. His collection consisted of land grants, maps, and a variety of correspondence with Spanish officials.

These papers, Mrs. Holley added, became secondary documents to refute Morehouse Parish, Louisiana, land claims in suits filed about 1844. Depositions and testimonies by owners of land acquired

during the 1780's and 1790's with deeds issued by the Baron de Bastrop were primary documentation for these claims.

She traced the emigration of French citizens into the Province of Louisiana. Early French traders traveled south from Canada into this French province. French and Spanish colonists also left the Caribbean area and headed north into the Ouachita Valley of Louisiana and to neighboring Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi. By 1699, the French had established settlements along the Mississippi River. In 1717, the French founded New Orleans, which became its capital in 1722.² "... In 1762, France ceded all of its territory west of the Mississippi River, including New Orleans, to the Spanish who retained it until 1800 when the entire region was receded to France by a secret treaty."³

By 1785, "Ouachita country, ... was roughly defined by the area between the Red and Mississippi rivers north to the Missouri River..."⁴ Commandant Jean Baptiste "Don Juan" Filhiol, who administered the Ouachita Post (later named Fort Miro), was directed by his superiors to establish settlements herein. Spanish Governor Francisco Luis Héctor, Baron de Carondelet, for

the Provinces of Louisiana and West Florida, recommended Felipe Enrique Neri, the Baron de Bastrop.⁵

The first settlers at Prairie Mer Rouge in the Ouachita District were Captain Josiah Davenport, Walter S. White, and James Barlow.⁶ Captain A. A. H. Knox, the Baron de Bastrop, and Colonel Abraham Morhouse later followed.

The Baron de Bastrop resided at "Belle Grove," a home built on the Belle



BARON DE BASTROP

Grove Plantation at Prairie Mer Rouge, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana. The Baron later sold this acreage to Colonel Morhouse. In 1795, he gave the Belle Grove Plantation to his infant son, Charles Morhouse, reserving the right to continue to cut timber on this property.

On March 17, 1795, the Marquis de Maison Rouge and others petitioned Governor Carondelet for land to induce an influx of emigrant families from

Europe to the Ouachita region. The King of Spain awarded a contact to the Marquis and other individuals "for the establishment on the Washita of the thirty families of farmers destined to cultivate wheat, for the supply of these provinces..."⁷

In 1796, the Baron de Bastrop petitioned Governor Carondelet for a similar contract to induce settlements of 500 American families within three years in the Ouachita District. The Baron also promised to build mills to manufacture flour. "In return the Spanish government expected the Baron de Bastrop to bring in 500 families to settle on the grant with the Crown underwriting transportation expenses, six months' provisions and seeds for the initial wheat crop."⁸ If settlers remained there for three years, they were promised title to 400 arpents (equal to an acre) of land.

The Baron de Carondelet awarded a contract to the Baron de Bastrop with a land grant of 12 leagues. Today, this land grant includes Morehouse Parish and much of West Carroll Parish.⁹ By April 1797, the Baron's land grant was populated by ninety-nine persons comprising 14 families, 10 singles, 1 widow, and 10 black slaves.

In the latter part of 1799, the Marquis de Maison Rouge died. He left a Will drawn at New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Louis Bouligny, his executor, inherited all assets remaining after debts were paid and bequeaths were distributed. A declared bachelor, the Marquis bequeathed a house with five acres of land in Ouachita to his servant, Maria, an Irish woman.¹⁰

Unhappy with the American settlers, the Baron de Carondelet suspended the Baron's project. By 1797 the Crown discontinued financial aid to the settlers. The Crown cut off Carondelet's money for his Marshal, his secretary, staffing, money for transportation of settlers, etc. The Crown declared the contract between the Baron de Carondelet and the Baron de Bastrop null and void. The Baron de Carondelet was replaced by Natchez, Mississippi, Commandant Manuel Gayoso de Lemos. Disillusioned by these events, the Baron de Bastrop sold his remaining grant to Colonel Abraham Morhouse, whom he had met in Kentucky.¹¹

"In Dec. 1799 Mr. Morehouse petitioned for the rights and privileges to the Bastrop grant. Unable to profit from the grant, he deeded it back to the Baron in Sept. 1800 and returned to Kentucky for a time."¹² He later returned to Louisiana

The United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803. After the United States assumed control of the Louisiana Territory, the Baron de Bastrop continued to sell land. The Baron personally owned six hundred (600) acres of land in the Ouachita region.

Ouachita Parish was established on March 31, 1807, when the Territory of Orleans was divided into parishes.

The Baron arrived at Nacogdoches, Texas in 1805. The same year, the Spanish government asked the Baron de Bastrop to bring settlers to Texas from the Ouachita Valley. The Ouachita area was inhabited by the Choctaw Indians, who had repelled the Osage Indians. The Baron could not openly solicit the Indians residing in Ouachita, which was

then governed by the United States.

The Baron later relocated to San Antonio de Bexar, Texas,¹ and became a Spanish citizen. He eventually established a trading business here. He was appointed a Commissioner, then was made a Deputy to act as a liaison between the Spanish government and the colonists.

On October 16, 1813, Colonel Abraham Morhouse, at 53 years old, died at Belle Grove without a will and in debt. His estate was split between his two wives. His residual estate was inherited by his children. He was buried at Sterlington, Louisiana.

In 1820, the Baron de Bastrop assisted Moses Austin (father of Stephen F. Austin) to successfully petition Governor Antonio Martinez of San Antonio de Bexar, Texas, to establish a colony of three hundred Americans in Texas. Moses Austin then persuaded the Baron de Bastrop to resettle colonists and Indians from Missouri and the Natchitoches Post to Texas. Despite these efforts, Moses Austin was unsuccessful relocating settlers to Texas. (However, his son, Stephen F. Austin, was successful in establishing a colony at Texas in 1825.)

"In Sept. 1823 the colonists elected Bastrop to the provincial deputation at Bexar. From there, he was appointed as the sole representative from Texas in the Legislature of the Constituent State of Coahuila-Texas of the Mexican Republic..."¹³

At sixty-seven years old, the Baron was in poor health. January 3, 1827, was the last day he actively performed the duties of a legislator. The Baron died on February 23, 1827, in the home of Juan Antonio Padilla at Saltillo, Mexico, far from family and friends. The Baron had insufficient funds to meet the expenses of a funeral. However, Mr. Padilla gave the Baron de Bastrop a funeral befitting the Baron's stature in the community. Mr. Padilla was eventually reimbursed with an act by the legislature.

The Baron's Will was probated at Saltillo, Mexico. Therein, the Baron stated he was a widower since 1811. His named five heirs: four daughters and a son. Two of his children, he added, resided in Holland. He presumed his estate in Holland had been inherited by his children upon his wife's death. The Baron stated he possessed property in Virginia, Louisiana, and Texas. (No disposition of his lands was made.) He directed the net proceeds from his estate to be divided among his children "after one-fifth of the total was deducted and given to Dona Victoriana Le Baume, whose father had been his closest friend for many years and in whose home at Bexar Bastrop had lived several years."¹⁴

Morehouse Parish, Louisiana, was created in 1844 from the parent parish of Ouachita Parish.

In 1844, the United States legally pursued the question as to whether or not the settlers of the former Province of Louisiana were legally entitled to the land upon which they claimed ownership. "...The U. S. Supreme Court ruled in Dec. 1850 the agreement between (Baron de) Bastrop and the Spanish government did not give him title to the land. The Baron was only the administrator of the grant; and it was the

responsibility of the settlers to secure legal titles. In March 1851, the U. S. Congress enacted legislation so that all settlers who could prove they had occupied and cultivated land in the Bastrop grant for 20 years would receive legal title to the land...¹⁵

In 1934, the heirs of José de Le Baume, who resided in San Antonio, Texas, filed a suit in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, for the mineral rights to the Baron de Bastrop's six hundred acres of land the Baron once owned in the Ouachita region. Their ancestor, Dora Victoriana de Le Baume, had inherited an undivided one-fifth interest in the proceeds of the Baron de Bastrop's property in his Will. The heirs later sold this acreage to oil companies. In 1934 (one hundred and seven years later), the descendants of Dora Victoriana de Le Baume assisted by Sylvia Bismore filed a suit for the mineral rights to this acreage. They lost this suit. The Court held that the Baron de Bastrop's Will bequeathed money, not land.¹⁶

Mrs. Holley's excellent presentation gave everyone a thorough understanding of the origins and growth of both Ouachita Parish and Morehouse Parish.

SOURCES

¹ Jennie O'Kelly Mitchell and Robert Dabney Calhoun. "The Marquis de Maison Rouge, The Baron de Bastrop, and Colonel Abraham Morhouse: Three Ouachita Valley Soldiers of Fortune," *The Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, Volume 20, No. 2, April 1937.

² Max S. Shapiro and William Jaber. *The Cadillac Modern Encyclopedia*, Cadillac Publishing Co., Inc., 220 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York; ©1973, First Edition; distributed by Deribooks, Inc., Secaucus, New Jersey 07094; under "Louisiana," page 894, Column 1.

³ *Ibid.*, page 894, column 1.

⁴ ©2002—present by Ann Allen Geoghegan; www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~lamoreho/history.htm.

⁵ ©2002—present by Ann Allen Geoghegan; www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~lamoreho/history.htm.

⁶ Frederick W. Williamson, *Eastern Louisiana: A history of the watershed of the Ouachita River and the Florida Parishes: a narrative historical edition preserving the record of ... Washington, St. Tammany, and St. James*, Publisher: Historical Record Association (Inactive), 100 Alumni Avenue, Hopkinsville, Kentucky 42240; ©1939, page unknown; source from "Bunches of Barlows" website at www.barlowgenealogy.com/BOB/index.html

⁷ Syllabus of United States Supreme Court case, *United States versus King*, 44 U. S. (3 How.) 773 (1845), *Error to the circuit Court for East Louisiana*, at supreme.justia.com(Volume 44) *United States v. King*; page 44 U.S. 775.

⁸ Wes Helbling. "Life and Times of the Baron de Bastrop," *Bastrop Daily Enterprise*, Bastrop, Louisiana, posted on its website: www.bastropenterprise.com on November 21, 2009.

⁹ *Ibid.*, "Life and Times of the Baron de Bastrop."

¹⁰ Syllabus of United States Supreme Court case, *United States versus King*, 44 U. S. (3 How.) 773 (1845), *op. cit.*, pages 44 U.S. 778 and 779

¹¹ Wes Helbling, "Life and Times of the Baron de Bastrop," page 2

¹² West Helbling, *op. cit.*, page 2

¹³ *Ibid.*, "Life and Times of the Baron de Bastrop."

¹⁴ Jennie O'Kelly Mitchell and Robert Dabney Calhoun, *op. cit.*, Volume 31, No. 3, July 1948, page 675.

¹⁵ West Helbling, *op. cit.*

¹⁶ Jennie O'Kelly Mitchell and Robert Dabney Calhoun, *op. cit.*, Volume 20, No. 2, April 1937, pages 439 and 440.

A FAMILY MYSTERY

Contributed by Ken Shivley

I'm astounded at the numbers of relatives (and their stories) that still keep popping up, even when I'm not looking for them. Of course, I'm glad to have the information. One such example is the story of the shooting death of my great-great-grandfather that none of my family was aware of until I discovered it in *The History of Bienville Parish Vol, I*. With that information, I was able to uncover more on *Ancestry* about him and his death.

David Malone was born December 8, 1800, in Chester County, South Carolina. His father was Thomas Malone, Jr. (1775-1813), and his mother was Rhoda Nix. Thomas' father is listed as Thomas Malone, Sr. (1731-1827), and his mother was Amy Malone, (1731-1820). Thomas Sr. is recorded as having served in the Continental Army during the Revolution. At this point in my research, however, David's ancestral line stops.

David married Martha Pratt, also born in 1800, and the family moved to Copiah County, Mississippi, where on March 16, 1831, their daughter Sarah was born. David did well farming, but when Martha died in 1840, he sold out, and he and Sarah moved to Brush Valley near the town of Friendship in Bienville Parish, Louisiana. On August 15, 1854, Sarah married Amos Shively, a German immigrant and my great-grandfather.

Tragedy would strike the family on December 8, 1860, David's sixtieth birthday, when he was mortally wounded at his home by a traveling photographer or "ambrotype artist" as he was described. No exact reason for the murder was given except one comment claimed that it was "over a dispute." Given the time period, the murder could have risen from a political dispute, or it may even have had to do with money.

The culprit was identified as L.W. McCullum, who was described as 6 feet tall, 160 pounds, with sandy goatee, hair, and mustache. He was said to be dressed in brown jean pants and vest, a black cloth coat, and a soft black hat. The sheriff, believing McCullum had left the area, immediately offered a \$250 reward for his capture. From there the story hits a roadblock, but I am going to continue researching and hoping that the rest might just "pop up." This story is one of several other surprises I've come across in my research, and sometimes when one door closes, another door or two will open.

My Love of Museums

Part 2

Contributed by Leonard Gresens

During this pandemic of 2020, I have visited many museums, **“virtually.”** It has been convenient to be able to use digital media to visit these places, some of which have been on my bucket list to visit in person.

Not being able to travel this year due to the pandemic is killing me. We had several trips planned for this year, including visits to a few museums. One trip was to Philadelphia and Pittsburg, where there were too many museums to choose from, but we could have at least checked off a few. I will have to plan that trip another time.

But again, there are many museums right here in our area. Let’s get started. Just north of town in Oil City is the Louisiana State Oil and Gas Museum. As of this writing, it is temporarily closed, but with Phase 2 in place, we should see it opening soon. This museum is part of the Louisiana Secretary of State Museum group. It is located at 200 S. Land Avenue in Oil City. It is small but full of important history on **Louisiana’s early oil industry**; it contains many photographs and life size dioramas, as well as a collection of machinery, rigs, and equipment. This is one of those museums you can see in its entirety in a few hours.

Likewise close to home is the East Texas Oil Museum, only an hour away from **Shreveport. I have not been to it “yet,”** but I have read and seen a few things about this museum and am going to make plans for a visit.



Just north of Minden, a short trip down the interstate, you will find the Germantown Colony Museum. If you have German ancestry, you may find this a

place of interest. The history behind this colony is fascinating. A small group of settlers came to the wilderness of North Louisiana to establish a pure Christian community, or as they thought, **their own “kingdom of heaven.”** The established settlement endured for over 40 years. On site you will find several original buildings and the community cemetery. The site is only open Thursday to Saturday, and right now it is temporarily closed.



Another local museum, the Ark-La-Tex Sports Museum of Champions, located in the lobby of the Shreveport Convention Center at 400 Caddo Street, is open but only on weekends. If you are a sports fan, you will want to see this museum. It is small, but there is a lot to see. If you have been in Shreveport long, you know the talent that has come from this city, and it is documented right **here. Pictured left is Shreveport's own Terry Bradshaw's Pittsburgh Steelers jersey and other memorabilia.** Others you will see are Joe Ferguson, Freddie Spencer, Robert Parish, Albert Belle, Kathy Johnson Clarke, Hal Sutton, and Todd Walker, **Shreveport's own Hall of Fame.** There must be something in the water to produce this **much talent from little ol' Shreveport.** Obviously, I did not drink enough

water growing up!

Louisiana has another sports museum about an hour south in downtown Natchitoches. Unfortunately, it is temporarily closed also. It is located at the end of Front Street. Parking is an issue, with only a few spots in the back of the museum. The businesses close by do not **allow parking unless it's** on the weekend. Here you will find more sports legends from all over the state. Now here is a surprise, there is a virtual tour of the facility. If you go to its website: <https://www.louisianastatemuseum.org/museum/louisiana-sports-hall-fame-northwest-louisiana-history-museum>, click on the picture and you can explore.

As I am writing this, my wife and I are planning a trip to Milwaukee to see my sister. We are probably going to drive, and I told her we could stop to visit the National Quilt Museum in Paducah, Kentucky, if it is open. I just accessed their

website, and a very large banner welcomes you with **“Open, Welcome Back.”** Therefore, I will be planning this trip soon.



Speaking of Milwaukee, on a previous trip we visited one of my favorite museums of all time, The Harley-Davidson Museum, which was an all-day event. On display are motorcycles from the early beginnings of the company to present time. The exhibits tell the history of the company and how it got its start. They also have a place to eat, MOTOR Bar & Restaurant, which offers weekly specials.

But before you leave Milwaukee, you need to experience the Steel Toe Tour, open Monday – Friday at the Harley-Davidson Pilgrim Road Powertrain Operations facility. This plant is where the engines and transmissions are made before they are shipped off to the York, Pennsylvania, plant for the final assembly. The tour brings you through the plant and shows how each engine is made for these American-made bikes. I have been on this tour a couple of times. It last about an hour and a half, and it brings you through engineering design to the complete engine assembled. I would do it again.

There is one experience with Harley-Davidson I want to do. It's called the **“Inside H-D: All-Day Experience.”** It is behind the scenes at the museum and even a tour of the Corporate Headquarters. The day ends with happy hour at MOTOR Bar & Restaurant. Bucket list!



My wife will not let me have a Harley, but I was able to capture this picture of her sitting on one of the displays at the museum during our previous trip.

A few years ago, I had a meeting in Las Vegas. **Now I'm too cheap to give my money over to the casinos,** but I was able to find some things to do.

There is in sin city **a great outdoor museum. It's** called The Neon Museum and Neon Boneyard. Here is where all those wonderful neon signs have gone to rest. I was out there during the summer so it was hot out in the bone yard, but I would not have missed it for the world. Signs you have seen in all those old movies are there. There **isn't** a virtual tour, but there are YouTube videos on the web. One sign that was not there when I visited was The Hard Rock Café Guitar sign, but it is there now after being preserved. Watch this interesting story of how the sign was saved. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ky0agETaGsA>. I **don't** care much for Vegas, but I would make another trip just to see this sign.

When I left The Neon Museum, I walked a short distance to another museum I wanted see. I have always had a fascination with the mob. So a visit to The Mob Museum was a necessity while in Vegas. Housed in the 1933 Post Office and Courthouse building, **it features stories from the birth of the Mob to today's** headlines. There are three floors of exhibits and the basement, which they call the **"underground."** Get it? Interesting fact: **the museum opened on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2012, to coincide with the anniversary of the 1929 St. Valentine's Day Massacre in Chicago, where several members of Bugs Moran's gang were lined up along a brick wall of a warehouse, shot, and killed by Al Capone's gang.** There is a replica of the wall where you can have your picture taken. I missed out on that photo op. Very interesting museums.

Next quarter, I'm hoping to write about more current visits to museums we have visited this year.