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The Genie

Ark La Tex Genealogical Association



Many thanks to our members for being so patient in not receiving the third quarter copy of *The Genie* in our usual timely manner. We have been besieged with unforeseen technical difficulties. Murphy's Law prevailed! The Fourth Quarter copy of *The Genie* should arrive very close to its normal delivery date.

Table of Contents

Click on the Content Item to jump to it.
To jump back to this page, click on the "TOC" button

Purpose

Statement of Publications

Organizational Structure

President's Message

Philip B. Adderley

Vice President's Message

Glenda Bernard

Sharing of Family History at Christmas

Glenda Bernard

Genealogy Roadshow Advertisement

Glenda Bernard

Narrative Lineage of Early Roy Stoner, Part 3

Philip B. Adderley

ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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The *Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.* is a *non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political*, educational organization dedicated solely to the cause of genealogy. This organization is governed by these purposes:

To collect, preserve, and make available genealogical materials, documents, and records; to encourage an interest in genealogy and to sponsor educational programs for its development; to promote and publicize the City of Shreveport, Louisiana, as a major genealogical research center for genealogists and historians; to cooperate with and assist all other genealogical, historical, and patriotic societies in the furtherance of these purposes; to compile and publish a quarterly composed of records and data related to the science of genealogy.

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

Dues for membership from January 1 through December 31 of each year in the *Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.* are \$20.00 for an Individual Membership and \$25.00 for an additional family member, same household, and one quarterly per household.

All members receive four issues of The GENIE, which is published quarterly.

The *Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.* will publicize a book of genealogical interest in The GENIE when submitted by the publisher or an author. These books are then donated to the Shreve Memorial Library, Broadmoor Branch Genealogy Department, 1212 Captain Shreve Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana 71105, where they are made available to the public. The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc. periodically donates other genealogical material to this library.

The *Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.* welcomes queries, which are published free in The GENIE. A query must be no more than seventy (70) words, either typewritten or legibly handwritten.

Statement of Publication

[Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.]

The Genie is published quarterly with issues in March, June, September and December. Each member receives four issues for each year of membership. All material published in **The Genie** is compiled and contributed by the members. Members and nonmembers of the Ark-La-Tex Genealogy Association may contribute material for publication in The Genie (*bible records, cemetery listings, diaries, wills, etc.*). Such contributions are appreciated and encouraged. Send material for publication to *The Genie* at the Association's mailing address. Material will be used at the discretion of the Editorial Review Board as space permits. We reserve the right to edit and/or condense material as needed. Submission deadlines are the last week before the first day of the month of quarterly publication.

The Association *exchanges periodicals* with other genealogical and historical organizations publishing data of general interest. These periodicals are then donated to the Broadmoor Branch *Genealogy* Section of the Shreve Memorial Library. We regret that we cannot exchange with limited family organizations. However, send samples of your publications for review. Since many publications possess information of value concerning families contain therein.

When *Cemetery Records* are submitted, include the name of the contributor, the copier, date copied and cemetery locations (such as road name or number, community, etc.) and also the Section, Township, and Range, if known. When *Bible Records* are submitted, give date and publisher of the Bible (if known), date copied, name of the contributor, name of present owner and the original owner.

Queries are free and encouraged. Please submit them typed or very plainly written. Space is limited. Please be brief and concise, using no more than 70 words per query. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject queries not suitable for publication.

The Genie *cannot* be responsible for errors or inaccuracies, but will hasten to publish corrections. Please read the material carefully and advise the Association in writing of corrections.

This publication is *indexed* in the Periodical Source Index published by the Allen County Public Library Foundation, Ft. Wayne, IN.

Copyright Laws

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Transparency

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

Citations, narrative text, and connections between the two enable genealogists and others to (a) assess the credibility of each source or image a genealogist used, (b) locate that source or image, and (c) understand the research scope.¹

This issue of *The GENIE* describes the earliest generation of the George W. Stoner family of Caddo Parish, research of which was commissioned by one of his descendants. Among the findings is the research of Ms. Danielle Neal, another Stoner researcher and a past member of one of our local genealogical societies, Friends of Genealogy. She had deposited the results of her work with the LSUS Archives in Shreveport.²

For two years, more or less, Danielle's conclusions about the identities of the George & Lizzie Stoner who lived here held great promise. Then the Stoner descendant who commissioned the project was able to locate and supply image copies of family Bible records thought to be relevant. The handwriting in the Bible records correlated perfectly with over forty samples of George's handwriting in Caddo Parish records, and its contents correlated with several other independently created records. The new findings affected the research into George & Lizzie's identities, resulting in conclusions that conflicted with Danielle's.

I recall complaints of many researchers and genealogists who expressed frustration over what they believed were others' "wrong" conclusions, and corresponding, sometimes fruitless attempts to resolve the differences. It is not uncommon to see one party or both shut off communication and retrench-resisting attempts to consider alternative theories or new findings.

Those who insist upon the rightness their conclusions, even if they meet the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS), should seriously reconsider:

Meeting the GPS neither requires nor ensures perfect certainty. Genealogical proofs-like accepted conclusions in any research field-never are final.

¹ Board for Certification of Genealogists, *Genealogy Standards*, 50th Anniversary Edition (New York: Ancestry.com, 2014), 6, Documentation Standard no. 3.

² Stoner Family Folder, Danielle Neal's Misc. Genealogical Notes, Collection No. 612; LSUS Archives and Special Collections, Noel Memorial Library, Shreveport.

Previously unknown evidence may arise, causing the genealogist to reassess and reassemble the evidence, which may change the outcome.³

Danielle based her conclusions upon the sources and records she used, and I did likewise. Each of us sought to reconstruct the family as close to historical reality as possible. Yet the above-cited material warns that neither of us can guarantee that any conclusions we reach are “final.”

So how do we resolve the conflict? At the very least, TRANSPARENCY is required of all parties. What does that entail? For starters, apply Document Standard No. 3—presented in the opening paragraph—throughout your work. Next, share your results. Lastly, be open to others’ *conflicting* findings and to *new interpretations* of previous findings.

Danielle Neal’s research is a wonderful example of TRANSPARENCY, and I am grateful to her. She provided the raw information and gave enough information citation-wise to locate the records she used in her analysis. The full scope of her research was easy to understand, and her analysis considered alternative findings. In short ~~she was completely transparent is supplying the basis for her conclusions, and there was no trouble understanding how she reached them.~~ Then she shared the results of her work by making it accessible to other researchers.

The fact that Danielle’s and my conclusions presently differ is immaterial. Perhaps if she had access to the family bible records and some of the additional records I was fortunate enough to locate, she might have reached a different conclusion. Likewise, if I learn of subsequent findings she uncovers, then I should take a fresh look at the new sum of all the evidence, and I might reach a different conclusion. This demands that we each be transparent with our research and what we use as the basis for our theories and conclusions. Who would contest that the Caddo Parish descendants of George & Lizzie Stoner are the ultimate beneficiaries of this approach?

In my opinion, transparency in genealogical research is embodied in Document Standard No. 3, and it is worth reemphasizing: “Citations, narrative text, and connections between the two enable genealogists and others to (a) assess the credibility of each source or image a genealogist used, (b) locate that source or image, and (c) understand the research scope.”⁴

I encourage each you to be transparent in your work, sharing not only raw informational findings, but also the interpretations and rationale behind your theories and conclusions. I look forward to seeing your research published and/or made available through local, regional, state, or private archives and institutions.

Philip Burnett Adderley, President.

³ *Genealogy Standards*, 50th Ann. Edition, 3.

⁴ *Genealogy Standards*, 50th Ann. Edition, 6.

Vice President's Message

The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association has been very active this summer in our regularly scheduled monthly meetings, but especially in preparing for our annual August seminar. The impact of a successful seminar has been felt long after the speaker leaves to return home! The association experienced a dynamic speaker this year who presented an array of topics with which everyone seemed to identify.

The July meeting's guest speaker was Ms. Beverly Smith who represented the Ford Memorial Museum of Homer, Louisiana, as its historian and vice president. She shared her love of Claiborne Parish and the history of the surrounding area with a power point presentation. Everyone was welcomed to visit the museum and to enjoy a ride throughout the beautiful countryside. The membership was also treated to an informative Hornbook Session by President Philip Adderley who elaborated upon "Colonial Land Grants in the Carolinas." So many ancestors who migrated to Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia began their trek west from the North and South Carolina area.

Mr. Kelvin L. Meyers was the outstanding speaker for the August Seminar held at Broadmoor Methodist Church. His topics ranged from land records, tax records, probate records and church records. Ample time was allotted for the land records especially since Mr. Meyers works with these records on a daily basis in Texas courthouses. As a forensic genealogist he consistently has delved into probates and the legal arena and was very informed in discussing legalities of land transactions and wills to the audience. So many attendees commented on the practical perspective they gained from the four lectures of the day. The speaker was exceptionally instructive and entertaining and the fellowship with old and new friends was a highlight. The variety of lunch selections, the book fair from Barnes and Noble, as well as the comfortable venue all made for a great experience. Thank you, Jim Johnson, for spearheading the seminar preparations. A job well done!

With our fall season approaching to cool down the temperature, somehow our spirits are uplifted with newfound energy. What a great time to begin a new genealogy project, plan a road trip searching for those elusive ancestors, revisit and reorganize those records already obtained or spend the afternoon with another researcher in the best genealogy library for miles...Shreve Memorial Library, Broadmoor Branch.

The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association has been a vital part in the lives of its members by encouraging higher standards for research, providing an opportunity to meet with other genealogists and sharing ideas and methods with the genealogical community through the new enewsletter, *The GENIE*. Won't you consider submitting some of your personal research about families in and around the North Louisiana area in this new format? Everyone can benefit from your entry, so please consider sending your article regarding a family surname, an individual or history of an area landmark, church or town to the editor of The GENIE this month!

Happy searching!

Glenda Bernard

SHARING OF FAMILY HISTORY AT CHRISTMAS



This Christmas tree was decorated with copies of pictures from some of our family's ancestors. The idea was in a copy of Family Tree Magazine several years ago and I thought that the idea might be a good opportunity to introduce pictures of our ancestors to the grandchildren. I had black and white copies of favorite pictures made inexpensively, used a hole punch to make a hole in the top of the picture and tied a loop with a pretty ribbon to hang on the tree. Before the gifts were placed under the tree, the children and grandchildren seemed to enjoy looking (mostly at themselves ☺) at the collection. Many questions were asked about the pictures of the older ancestors who lived a number of generations ago...thus the whole reason for the genealogy tree! This was a fun and easy project! Perhaps you could begin now to design your own family history tree for next year.

Glenda Bernard, member of Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association

MARK YOUR CALENDAR and/or YOUR DVR!

Some of you may be interested in a relatively new television series involving genealogy! Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB) is now advertising the GENEALOGY ROADSHOW which will appear on LPB Tuesday, January 13, 20, and 27 at 7pm (Central Standard Time). Below is the advertisement from a LPB mail out to its members, "Visions; For Friends of LPB." ¹

On January 13, a team of genealogists uncovers fascinating family stories at the famous Cabildo, home of the Louisiana State Museum. A couple whose ancestors hail from the same small Italian town explore the chance they may be related; a woman is desperate to find out who committed a gruesome murder in her ancestor's past; a home held by one family for more than a century renders a fascinating story; and a woman discovers the difficult journey her ancestor took on the path to freedom from slavery.

[January's] episodes include visits to St. Louis (January 20) and Philadelphia (January 27). The second New Orleans segment will be February 4 at the New Orleans Board of Trade...

Especially due to the New Orleans backdrop, this should be an interesting one!

¹ "Genealogy Roadshow." *Visions; For Friends of LPB*, January 2015, 15.

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

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

Continued from previous issue of The GENIE

Note: Readers may need to refer to the two previous issues of *The GENIE* to locate full or complete versions of some of the abbreviated reference notes appearing in this issue.

3rd Generation, Ascending: George Washington Stoner

3. **George Washington Stoner**, son of Michael L. Stoner and Kitty F. [—?—], was born 31 October 1828 in Burkesville, Cumberland County, Kentucky,³⁰³ and died probably May or June 1907, in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.³⁰⁴ He married about 1857 probably in Kentucky, **Elizabeth H. Wilson**,³⁰⁵ born 26 July 1838 probably in Monroe County, Kentucky,³⁰⁶ and died 12 February 1901 at her home in Jewella, Caddo Parish, Shreveport,³⁰⁷ daughter of Samuel B. Wilson and Marinda T. [—?—].³⁰⁸

³⁰³ George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828–1901; “George W. Stoner, son of Michael L[.] and Kitty F[.] Stoner. Born at Burksville [sic] Ky – October 31st[,] 1828[.]”

³⁰⁴ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 170:720, Succession of Geo. W. Stoner to his Heirs, property by judgment, 22 June 1907; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport; this was the earliest dated record located with respect to his succession. The succession case file itself was empty: Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 11378, Succession of G. W. Stoner (1907); Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport. The “file” exists as an empty file folder (intentionally, according to the clerk’s staff) to indicate that a succession had been opened from the clerk’s standpoint, but the contents of the case file are now considered lost or removed. Searches made at the researcher’s request to locate file under the other two judicial districts that served Caddo Parish historically also failed.

³⁰⁵ 1900 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch., Jewella Precinct, folio 53 (stamped, reverse), ED 31, sheet 18-A, dwell. 400, fam. 400, G. W. Stoner household; number of years married for George and Lizzie each was 43 years, inferring a marriage between 2 June 1856 and 1 June 1857. Also, Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case 27357, E. R. Stoner, et. al., v. Hansen-Mason Realty Co.(1920); the petitioners identified Geo. W. Stoner and Mrs. Lizzie H. Stoner as married in the State of Kentucky about the year 1857 and named sons born of the marriage.

³⁰⁶ George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828–1901. George wrote that his wife was born in Monroe County. A later bible entry giving her date of death indicated she was born in Cumberland County. George’s earlier entry, made while Lizzie was alive, carries more weight.

³⁰⁷ “Died Yesterday,” *Shreveport (Louisiana) Times*, 13 February 1901, p. 5, col. 6. *Shreveport (Louisiana) Evening Journal*, 13 February 1901, p. 4, col. 4. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 6913, Succession of Lizzie H. Stoner (1901), Petition for Probate of Will, 18 February 1901; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport. George Stoner’s petition notes that his wife had died “recently.”

³⁰⁸ George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828–1901. George’s entry for his wife’s birth and parents is consistent with 1850 U.S. census, Monroe County, Kentucky, population schedule, [district not identified], folio 394 (stamped, reverse), dwelling 362, family 383, Sam'l B. Wilson household; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 October 2011); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 213, Elizabeth age 12.

George W. Stoner's Family Bible Records and a 1922 Publication

Family bible records spanning the period 1828 to 1901 document the births of George and his wife Elizabeth, the births of their six children and two grandchildren, and Elizabeth's death.³⁰⁹ See Figure 5 for the first two bible entries. Forensic analysis of handwriting characteristics and penmanship³¹⁰ correlate strongly with those of George W. Stoner, his son Ernest Stoner, and a third unknown author. George's birth entries for his wife, his six children and himself may have been made in two or three time-periods. Births 1828–1866 appear to have been written in one sitting, written in a narrow time frame, possibly between 1866 and 1869; two births 1869–1872 were conducted in a later sitting, possibly between 1872 and 1874; and the 1874 birth was probably written between then and George's death in 1907. Exemplars used in the analysis included:

- One hundred and thirty one signatures, of which forty two belonged to George W. Stoner, on original conveyances deposited with the Caddo Parish Recorder, dates ranging 1868 to 1949.³¹¹ See Figure 4 for George's 1868 signature.
- G. W. Stoner to J. D. Martin, letter, 15 September 1879; Edward & Benjamin Jacobs Papers, Collection No. 140, Box 1, Folder #22; LSUS Archives and Special Collections, Noel Memorial Library, Shreveport, Louisiana.
- Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 1435, Hicks & Sons v. G. W. Stoner, 1883, for three handwritten documents authored by G. W. Stoner—Defendant's Answer undated (marked as Evidence #3), Exception filed 23 June 1883, and Appeal filed 25 June 1883; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.
- Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 1463, G. W. Stoner v. J. W. Broxon, 1883, for two documents authored by G. W. Stoner using his company's printed letterhead; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. The case file also contained two handwritten promissory notes written in lessor Stoner's hand but signed in a different hand by his lessee.
- Caddo Parish, Louisiana, District Court Files, no. 6913, Succession of Lizzie H. Stoner, 1901, for Lizzie Stoner's Last Will and Testament, 5 August 1885; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

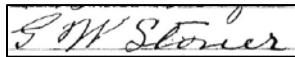


Figure 4. 11 August 1868 Conveyance Signature

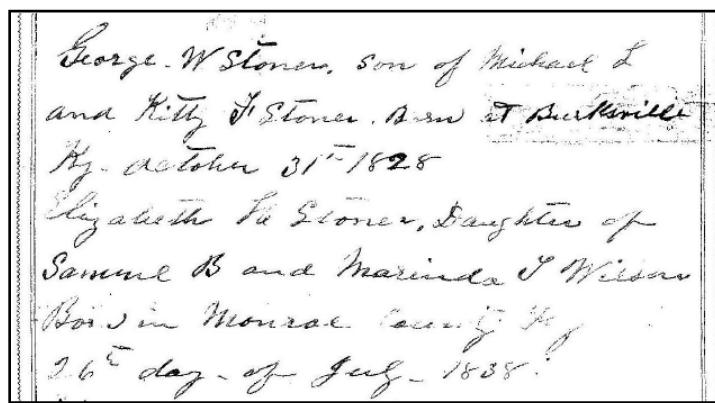


Figure 5. George Stoner's Bible Entries for Elizabeth and Himself

A derivative source published in 1922 reported that George Washington Stoner, born 1828, the son of Dr. Michael Lower Stoner and Katherine Frances Emerson, and died in 1910, married Lizzie Wilson. No specific documentary sources were cited, but the information

³⁰⁹ George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828–1901.

³¹⁰ Roy A. Huber and A. M. Headrick, *Handwriting Identification: Facts and Fundamentals* (New York: CRC Press, 1999), 33-57, 81-139, 196-221, 227-243. Katherine M. Koppenhaver, *Attorney's Guide to Document Examination* (Westport, Connecticut: Quorum Books, 2002), particularly 65-91. Ron N. Morris, *Forensic Handwriting Identification: Fundamental concepts and principles* (New York: Academic Press, 2000), particularly 37-118.

³¹¹ For the first signature used see Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, James F. Smith to George W. Stoner, warranty deed, 11 August 1868, original authentic act no. 14588; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. For the last signature used by George Stoner see Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, George W. Stoner to George W. Leopard, warranty deed, 23 December 1902, original authentic act no. 52572; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. These and remaining conveyances are cited within the narrative.

regarding Dr. Lower and his family was reportedly supplied by Mrs. Lucy Boone Kerley-Stoner, whom the compilation lists as the 1871 wife of Peter Burris Stoner, another son of Dr. Michael Stoner.³¹² Lucy married in Caddo Parish, and the couple's first son was probably born there 1872–3.³¹³ Her information about George W. Stoner's siblings correlates well with the 1850 and 1860 census households of physician M. L. Stoner and his apparent wife C. F. and "Kittie" Stoner in Cumberland and Hickman Counties, Kentucky, respectively.³¹⁴ Future documentary evidence is desired to confirm the likelihood that parents "M. L. Stoner and Kitty F. Stoner" in George's bible entry are Dr. Michael Lower Stoner and Katherine Frances Emerson.

Where in Kentucky did George marry Elizabeth? 1850–60 Censuses, His Father's Death, and His Son's Birth Offer Clues

Four possible Kentucky counties are candidates for George W. Stoner's marriage to Elizabeth H. Wilson in 1857: Cumberland, Monroe, Fulton, and Hickman. Cumberland and adjacent Monroe County lie in south-central Kentucky on the Tennessee border. Fulton and adjacent Hickman County lie in the extreme southwestern corner.

The two leading possibilities are Cumberland and Monroe Counties, the probable 1850 census residences of the groom's and bride's parents, respectively. Apparent son G. W. Stoner appeared in M. L. Stoner's household as a 21 year old lawyer,³¹⁵ and apparent daughter Elizabeth was then twelve years old in merchant Sam'l Wilson's household.³¹⁶

Fulton County was probably G. W. Stoner's second enumeration in the 1850 federal census, appearing this time as a 22-year-old lawyer with students and a merchant in lawyer Edmund Bullock's household.³¹⁷ The Fulton County connection is a consideration because the birth of George and Lizzie's third child Sterling also occurred there, in 1866.³¹⁸ Adjacent Hickman County is important because physician M. L. Stoner had relocated his family there sometime before the 1 June 1860 census day³¹⁹ and he reportedly died and was buried in Clinton, Hickman County, about October, 1864 or 1865.³²⁰

The location of the Wilson household is the likeliest possible location for their daughter's marriage. Samuel Wilson was prominent in terms of real estate holdings in 1850 Monroe County, Kentucky, but his family and he did not appear in the 1860 federal census.³²¹ The reason for the Wilson household's absence is suggested by the same 1860 census' absence of George and Lizzie's household, whose first

³¹² Hawthorne, "The Stoner Family," 550–553.

³¹³ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Marriage Book 3: 658, P. B. Stoner and Lucy B. Kerly, 1871, recorded bond with original signatures; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Although a marriage return was not filed, the 1880 census provides indirect evidence of a marriage. 1880 U.S. census, Cooke County, Texas, population schedule, Gainesville, ward 2, folio 196D (stamped, reverse), p. 8 (penned), enumeration district (ED) 111, dwelling 66, family 69, P. B. Stoner, wife L. K. Stoner, and Louisiana-born son Mike L. Stoner age 7; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 October 2011); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1297. Also appearing in this household was Peter's mother-in-law Louise Kerly [sic].

³¹⁴ 1850 U.S. census, Cumberland County, Kentucky, population schedule, Cumberland District, folio 325 (stamped, reverse)–326, dwelling 658, family 658, M. L. Stoner household; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 23 April 2012); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 197. 1860 U.S. census, Hickman County, Kentucky, population schedule, Clinton District, p. 63 (penned), folio 503 (penned annotation in lieu of a stamped number), dwelling 448, family 428, M. L. Stoner household; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 23 April 2012); citing NARA publication M653, roll 374.

³¹⁵ 1850 U.S. census, Cumberland Co., Ky., pop. sch., Cumberland District, folio 325–326, dwell. 658, fam. 658, M. L. Stoner household.

³¹⁶ 1850 U.S. census, Monroe Co., Ky., pop. sch., district unidentified, folio 394, dwell. 362, fam. 383, Sam'l B. Wilson household; Samuel was a Tennessee-born merchant reporting \$3000 in real estate.

³¹⁷ 1850 U.S. census, Fulton County, Kentucky, population schedule, Town of Hickman, p. 223 (penned), folio 112 (stamped, reverse)–326, dwelling 41, family 41, George W. Stoner in Edward J. Bullock household; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 23 April 2012); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 200.

³¹⁸ George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828–1901; Sterling was born at Hickman, the seat of Fulton County on 13 June 1866.

³¹⁹ 1860 U.S. census, Hickman Co., Ky., pop. sch., Clinton District, p. 63, dwell. 448, fam., 428, M. L. Stoner household; George (and wife Lizzie) were not enumerated in his father's 1860 household. The four minors of the 1860 household correlate with the names and ages of M. L. Stoner's four youngest minors in the latter's 1850 Cumberland County census household.

³²⁰ Hawthorne, "The Stoner Family," 552; citing information supplied by the deceased's probable daughter-in-law Mrs. Lucy Boone-Kerley Stoner.

³²¹ Ancestry.com's advanced search engine features were used to search for Samuel Wilson, his wife Merinda, and children, including name variations, in the 1860 federal population schedules; and for Samuel and Merinda in 1860 slave census schedules; all with no viable candidates surfacing.

son Samuel Michael Stoner was born in Ft. Worth, Tarrant County, Texas, thirteen days before that census began.³²² no 1860 federal census schedules survive for Tarrant County, Texas.³²³ The connection between the Wilsons and Stoners may have been stronger than just the union of their children—Wilson's son John, brother-in-law of George W. Stoner, is a candidate for George's business partner John H. Wilson in their meat packing plant established near Jefferson, Marion County, Texas, in 1866.³²⁴ This indirect evidence weakly suggests that the Wilson and Stoner households had migrated, perhaps as part of a kinship group, to Tarrant County, Texas, sometime before the 1 June 1860 census day. Did they migrate first to Hickman or Fulton County with the Stoners before hypothetically migrating to Tarrant County, Texas? If a Kentucky-based marriage cannot be proven in one of the four counties named, then Tarrant County, Texas, is an alternative candidate.

Conflicting Evidence: Another George W. Stoner who married another Elizabeth in Kentucky

Identifying the parental origins and marriage of the George and Elizabeth Stoner who spent at least the last three decades of their lives in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, is difficult without the benefit of the family's bible records.³²⁵

1870 and 1900 federal censuses for Caddo Parish point to male Kentuckians named George W. Stoner born about 1828, female Kentuckians named Elizabeth born about 1838, and in the 1900 record a marriage that occurred about 1857.³²⁶ The 1880 federal census was consistent likewise for George; however, Kentuckian Elizabeth's expected age of 42 appeared as 62,³²⁷ the same age reported for her twenty years later in 1900. Either the unknown informant was someone other than George or Elizabeth and gave her age incorrectly; or the enumerator either misunderstood, or guessed her age, or simply erred when recording the information.

George or Lizzie was the likely 1900 census informant for the 43 years that each had been married as of 1 June 1900, implying that their marriage occurred between 2 June 1856 and 1 June 1857. A second record created well after their deaths by those who could not have been firsthand witnesses to the event corroborated their Kentucky marriage “about the year 1857.”³²⁸ A record capturing a firsthand account of an 1856 or 1857 marriage for this couple awaits discovery.

Other records tied to Caddo Parish unveiled a younger brother to George, Kentuckian Peter B. Stoner, born about 1843. They were in business together in the early 1870s,³²⁹ and P. B. Stoner correspondingly appeared in the 1870 U. S. census for Caddo Parish as a single, 27-year-old merchant.³³⁰

Four George W. Stoners born between 1823 and 1829 appear in Kentucky's 1850 federal census. Two were previously introduced—the 21- and 22-year-old lawyer G. W. Stoner enumerated in Cumberland County and Fulton County, respectively. A third was apparent son

³²² George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828–1901; Sam was born 18 May 1860 in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas. 1860 U.S. census, population and slave schedules, nationwide search with negative results for George W. Stoner, wife Elizabeth (a.k.a. Lizzie) H. Stoner, and son Sam, including name variants.

³²³ Kathleen Hinckley, *Your Guide to the Federal Census* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Betterway Books, 2002), 114, Tarrant was the only Texas county affected.

³²⁴ Jacques D. Bagur, *A History of Navigation on Cypress Bayou and the Lakes* (Denton, Texas: University of North Texas Press, 2001), 267, 403, 410, 498, 515–6.

³²⁵ Stoner Family Folder, Danielle Neal's Misc. Genealogical Notes, Collection No. 612, LSUS Archives and Special Collections, Noel Memorial Library, Shreveport. The author is grateful for the research, source citations, and conclusions contributed by Ms. Neal regarding the Caddo Parish Stoner Family and their Kentucky origins.

³²⁶ 1870 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch., Shreveport P. O., folio 570 (stamped, back side), p. 114 (penned), dwell. 831, fam. 950, G. W. Strona [sic] household. 1900 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch., Jewella Precinct, folio 53, ED 31, sheet 18-A, dwell. 400, fam. 400, G. W. Stoner household, both G W. and Lizzie show 43 years married.

³²⁷ 1880 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch., p. 51, ED 19, dwell. 603, fam. 603, George age 52, wife Elizabeth Stoner, age 62.

³²⁸ Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case file 27357, E. R. Stoner, et. al., v. Hansen-Mason Realty Co., 1920; the petitioners identified 1857 and Kentucky as the year and state of their grandparents' marriage.

³²⁹ "P. B. Stoner & Co." and uncaptioned notice by G. W. Stoner, *The Daily Shreveport Times*, 7 April 1872, second page, col. 4. George describes the dissolution of his partnership with his brother Peter in a notice placed below his brother's new business advertisement.

³³⁰ 1870 U.S. census, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Shreveport Post Office, Ward 1, folio 514 (stamped), p. 1 (penned), dwelling and family entries blank, line 2, P. B. Stoner; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 October 2011); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 508.

George W. Stoner, age 23 in his 62-year-old father's Bath County household. A younger brother Peter is not present however.³³¹ A fourth George W. Stoner appears with a younger apparent brother Peter B. Stoner in the elder Peter B. Stoner's Christian County household. This George was born about 1827 and Peter was born about 1834, if the census information is accurate.³³²

Montgomery County, Kentucky, marriage records include a union that occurred in November 1855 between George W. Stoner of Christian County, age 28, and Bettie Hathaway, age 18 of Montgomery County.³³³ Bettie was probably the 12-year-old apparent daughter Elizabeth A. Hathaway enumerated in David Hathaway's 1850 census household in the same county.³³⁴ The names and ages of the wedding parties, the marriage date, and the presence of apparent younger brother Peter in the same 1850 Christian County household as the probable groom all suggest that this married couple could be the one that settled in Caddo Parish.

The family bible records that survive for the Caddo Parish family identify different Kentucky parents than the Montgomery County couple: George W. Stoner of Cumberland County and Elizabeth H. Wilson of Monroe County. A reasonably exhaustive search for reliable sources of information associated with the Stoners and Wilsons of Cumberland and Monroe Counties remains to be conducted; however, one Caddo Parish record names Lizzie's father directly, and additional sources indirectly connect the Caddo Parish couple to Cumberland and Monroe Counties, Kentucky:

- On 17 December 1881, George W. Stoner of Caddo Parish transferred ownership of all his real and personal property to his wife Lizzie H. Stoner, whose paraphernal property she inherited from *her father, Samuel B. Wilson*, formerly of Kentucky.³³⁵ The Louisiana Revised Civil Code of 1870 defines paraphernal property as the wife's separate property that is *not* part of her dowry.³³⁶ See Figure 6 for the first page of this conveyance.
- Two of Lizzie Wilson's 1850 census siblings in Monroe County, Kentucky—Bell and George³³⁷—were possible namesakes for two of her own children Sallie Belle Stoner and George Wilson Stoner in Caddo Parish—³³⁸ and George's middle name Wilson is an additional correlation. None of the ten presumed kin's names in Elizabeth Hathaway's 1850 household were used as namesakes for any of the six known children listed in George W. Stoner' bible records.
- Peter B. Stoner, the apparent brother of the 1850 Cumberland County George W. Stoner, was age 9 and 17 in the 1850 and 1860 census households, respectively, of his father M. L. Stoner.³³⁹ His projected age of 27–29 for the 1870 census compares well with 1870 Shreveport's Peter Burris Stoner, age 27.³⁴⁰ Furthermore, Peter B. Stoner of Caddo Parish married about 18

³³¹ 1850 U.S. census, Bath County, Kentucky, population schedule, 1st District, folio 113 (stamped, reverse), dwelling 845, family 845, George W. Stoner household; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 April 2012); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 191. The apparent father of George W. Stoner age 23 is George W. Stoner age 62.

³³² 1850 U.S. census, Christian County, Kentucky, population schedule, District 2, folio 378 (stamped, reverse)—379, dwelling 285, family 306, George W. Stoner in Peter B. Stoner household; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 October 2011); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 196.

³³³ Montgomery County, Kentucky, marriage record returns and abstracts, image 3, Geo. W. Stoner–Bettie Hathaway, 15 November 1855; abstract attested by the Clerk of Court, Montgomery County, Kentucky, no date [*perhaps 1910–1914*]; digital images, "Kentucky Marriage Records, 1852–1914," ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 23 April 2012); citing Kentucky Birth, Marriage and Death Records – Microfilm (1852–1910), reels 994027–994058, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort, Kentucky. Readers are cautioned that this derivative source was taken from microfilmed images of re-recorded marriage data, and that the original marriage record should be consulted. The attestation of the Clerk of Court to its veracity adds weight to the finding, but all transcriptions are subject to error.

³³⁴ 1850 U.S. census, Montgomery County, Kentucky, population schedule, District 1, folio 35 (stamped, reverse), dwelling 451, family 451, David Hathaway household; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 23 April 2012); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 214.

³³⁵ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, George W. Stoner to Lizzie H. Stoner, restitution and accounting of paraphernal property, 17 December 1881; original private act no. 25158; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

³³⁶ Dainow, ed., 1972 *Compiled Edition of the Civil Codes of Louisiana*, 17: 29 & 57–62, Articles 2334 & 2383–2391, respectively, of Louisiana Revised Civil Code of 1870. Inherited property is considered separate, paraphernal property. The husband has rights with respect to its use, but also requirements to maintain it, which includes restoring it. The conveyance reflects George's restoration of his wife Lizzie's paraphernal funds.

³³⁷ 1850 U.S. census, Monroe Co., Ky., pop. sch., district unidentified, folio 394, dwell. 362, fam. 383, Sam'l B. Wilson household.

³³⁸ George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828–1901.

³³⁹ 1850 U.S. census, Cumberland Co., Ky., pop. sch., Cumberland District, folio 325–326, dwell. 658, fam. 658, M. L. Stoner household. 1860 U.S. census, Hickman Co., Ky., pop. sch., Clinton District, p. 63, dwell. 448, fam., 428, M. L. Stoner household.

³⁴⁰ 1870 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch., Shreveport P. O., ward 1, p. 1, line 2, P. B. Stoner, age 27.

May 1871 in Caddo Parish, Lucy B. Kerly, and by 1880 they appeared in Cooke County, Texas, where P. B. Stoner of Kentucky was listed as age 37. Also appearing in the 1880 household was Peter's mother-in-law Louise Kerly.³⁴¹ On the other hand, Peter B. Stoner, possible brother to George W. Stoner of 1850 Christian County, Kentucky, was sixteen years old in 1850.³⁴² His projected 1870 age 36 does not compare favorably with the 27-year-old 1870 Caddo Parish man or the 37-year-old 1880 Cooke County, Texas man.

- A derivative source published in 1922 reported that George Washington Stoner, born 1828, the son of Dr. Michael Lower Stoner and Katherine Frances Emerson, and died in 1910, married Lizzie Wilson. No specific source was cited for the marriage or Lizzie's surname, but the information was supplied by Mrs. Lucy Boone Kerley-Stoner, who was likely the wife of Peter B. Stoner.³⁴³ If so, then she probably interacted directly with the George W. Stoner family while living in Caddo Parish. Other than the death of George W. Stoner, incorrectly stated as 1910, her information about George W. Stoner's siblings correlates well with the 1850 and 1860 census households of physician M. L. Stoner in Cumberland and Hickman Counties, Kentucky, respectively,³⁴⁴ and with Lizzie's surname Wilson in George W. Stoner's family bible records.

Future research is not likely to overturn the conclusion that the Caddo Parish wife of Kentuckian George W. Stoner was Elizabeth H. Wilson, daughter of Samuel B. Wilson.

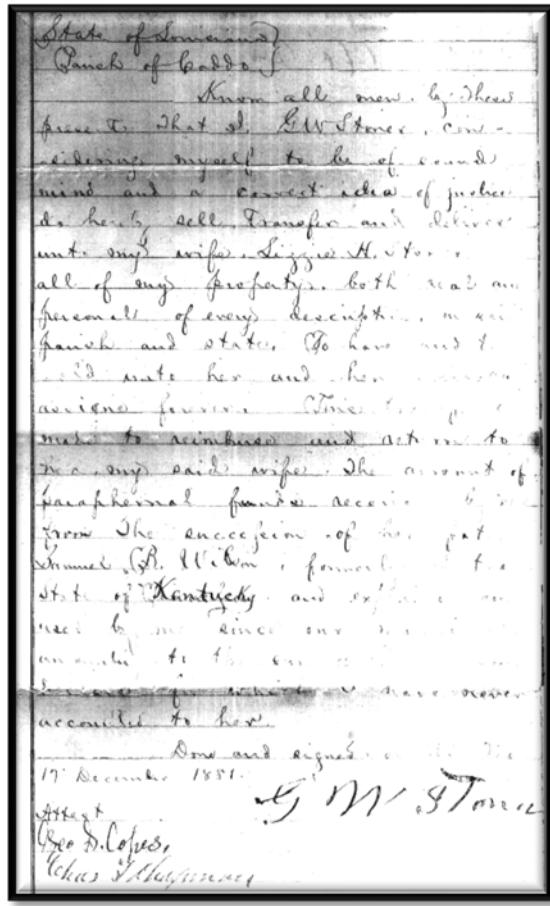


Figure 6. First Page of Conveyance, George W. Stoner to his Wife Lizzie H. Stoner, 1881, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

³⁴¹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Marriage Book 3: 658, P. B. Stoner and Lucy B. Kerly, 1871, recorded bond with original signatures; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Although a marriage return was not filed, the 1880 census provides indirect evidence of a marriage. 1880 U.S. census, Cooke Co., Tx., pop. sch., Gainesville, ward 2, folio 196D (stamped, reverse), p. 8 (penned), ED 111, dwell. 66, fam. 69, P. B. Stoner and wife L. K. Stoner.

³⁴² 1850 U.S. census, Christian Co., Ky., pop. sch., District 2, folio 378-9, dwell. 285, fam. 306, Peter B. Stoner, age 16.

³⁴³ Hawthorne, "The Stoner Family," 552 for George's marriage to Lizzie Wilson; 553 for Lucy Boone Kerley's marriage to Peter Burris Stoner. The latter's 18 May 1871 reported marriage is consistent with Caddo Ph., La., Marriage Book 3: 658, P. B. Stoner and Lucy B. Kerly, 1871.

³⁴⁴ 1850 U.S. census, Cumberland Co., Ky., pop. sch., Cumberland District, folio 325-326, dwell. 658, fam. 658, M. L. Stoner household. 1860 U.S. census, Hickman Co., Ky., pop. sch., Clinton District, p. 63, dwell. 448, fam., 428, M. L. Stoner household.

Confederate Cavalry Officer and Military Judge

Children Samuel's and Sallie's Tarrant County birthplaces strongly suggest that father George W. Stoner and his wife Lizzie resided there from at least May 1860 through Sallie's birth in October 1863.³⁴⁵ George's listing as a lawyer in two separate 1850 censuses, and the pre-war financial status of his physician father and merchant father-in-law,³⁴⁶ indirectly support a hypothesis that George was one or both of the following Tarrant County military identities:³⁴⁷

On 5 July 1861 a G. W. Stoner enlisted as a 1st Lieutenant in the Gilmore Guards commanded by Captain A. C. Nethery. The Guards were Mounted Infantry unit organized at Cold Spring near the west fork of the Trinity River in Tarrant County, Texas. At that time the Guards were associated with the Texas 20th Brigade.³⁴⁸

On 26 March 1862 Tarrant County Provost Marshall G. W. Stoner wrote a letter to the Confederate commanding officer of the Western District of Texas, General H. P. Bee, asking for clarification of his duties as Provost Marshall relative to the arrest of persons suspected of being disloyal to the Confederacy. Bee referred the letter to Captain Wm. Edwards, Judge Advocate and Recorder at San Antonio. Edwards responded on 12 August 1862 that Stoner's duties were "similar to those of a Justice of the Peace in Civil Courts. Your Court holding the same position to the Military Commission at this place [San Antonio] and Houston, as a Justice Court does to a District." Stoner had the authority to arrest, conduct proceedings, and, under limited circumstances, confine a person supported by at least one or preferably two affidavits of "respectable [sic] citizens." Persons who warranted a trial before a Military Commission, and which anticipated conviction, in Stoner's judgment, were to be sent with a transcript of his proceedings and the witnesses for a Military Commission Trial in Houston or San Antonio.³⁴⁹

A Post-War Kentucky Birth

The Civil War ended in the period between Sallie's October 1863 Ft. Worth birth and Sterling's June 1866 birth in Fulton County, Kentucky.³⁵⁰ Since mother Lizzie had to be present when giving birth to Sterling in Hickman, why was she there instead of Texas? Perhaps George sent his family to be under the care of his physician father while he developed his meat packery business in northeast Texas (discussed next). Or perhaps the whole family returned earlier in support of George's parents. His father Michael Lower Stoner reportedly died in October of 1864 or 1865 in Clinton, Hickman County, and his mother passed away there, reportedly in 1875-1876.³⁵¹

The Meat Packeries: 1866-1873

George W. Stoner and John H. Wilson began a beef packery a few miles east of Jefferson, Marion County, Texas, on the north side of the bayou connecting Jefferson by water eastward to Cross Lake and the Red River. The firm brought in salt, lime, and barrels by steamboat and shipped pickled beef and hides on the return steamboat runs to Red River destinations, and especially New Orleans, as an alternative to driving and shipping live cattle there. The firm operated on as seasonal basis, packing beef principally in winter which

³⁴⁵ George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828-1901, Sam born 18 May 1860 and Sallie Bell born 27 October 1863, both in Ft. Worth, Tarrant County, Texas. The handwriting for both entries is George W. Stoner's, possibly recorded 1866-1869.

³⁴⁶ 1850 U.S. census, Cumberland Co., Ky., pop. sch., Cumberland District, folio 325-326, dwell. 658, fam. 658, M. L. Stoner, \$3000 real estate, and G. W. Stoner, lawyer. 1850 U.S. census, Monroe Co., Ky., pop. sch., district unidentified, folio 394, dwell. 362, fam. 383, Sam'l B. Wilson, \$3000 real estate. 1850 U.S. census, Fulton Co., Ky., pop. sch., Town of Hickman, p. 223, dwell. 41, fam. 41, lawyer George W. Stoner.

³⁴⁷ More detailed research is needed to confirm (or disprove) the identities.

³⁴⁸ "Texas, Muster Roll Index Cards, 1838-1900," abstract of enlistment, G. W. Stoner, 1st Lieutenant, Gilmore Guards, Tarrant County Mounted Infantry, Texas 20th Brigade, 5 July 1861; database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 April 2012); citing *Civil War Muster Rolls Index Cards (both Confederate and Union)* and *Texas State Rangers*, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin. Index cards are not a substitute for detailed military record research—usage here is simply a guide for future researchers.

³⁴⁹ Alwyn Barr, editor, "Notes and Documents: Records of the Confederate Military Commission in San Antonio, July 2-October 10, 1862," in Joe B. Frantz, editor, *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (July 1969-April 1970), 73:83-104, particularly 100; digital images, University of North Texas Libraries, *The Portal to Texas History* (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph117147/> : accessed 27 April 2012); Texas State Historical Association, Denton, Texas.

³⁵⁰ George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828-1901, Sterling born 13 June 1866 at Hickman, Fulton County, Kentucky.

³⁵¹ Hawthorne, "The Stoner Family," 552 for deaths of father Michael Lower Stoner and mother Katheryn Frances Emerson.

allowed for a longer curing. George reportedly left the partnership in 1868, and “erected his own packery below Shreveport in July.” The Jefferson packery continued under the name John H. Wilson and Company for another year, when Colonel Elliot bought the firm in 1869.³⁵² Annual figures on the order of three to ten thousand head of cattle are reasonable estimates for the volume of beef packed near Jefferson. For example, Wilson, Stoner, and Company reported having killed 3000 head of cattle by 4 February 1868 for the 1867-8 season, and had 1000-1200 tierces of beef ready to ship by steamboat.³⁵³ By December 1868, the success of Wilson, Stoner, and Company’s beef packery-attributed to market reports from New York City and Liverpool, England-had become widespread, with some even suggesting that profits from in-state beef packing would soon overtake that of the entire Texas cotton yield.³⁵⁴ For the 1868-9 season the Jno. H. Wilson plant advertised for fifty hands to pack about 7000 head.³⁵⁵

In the late 1860s, the primary freight route from Jefferson to Shreveport and more distant points on the Red River was by water via steamboats. However, in times of low water only medium sized packets with light loads could make the passage.³⁵⁶ This was one factor that probably influenced Stoner to start a packery directly on the Red River near Shreveport in 1868.

Another probable factor was anticipated development of the railroad in northwest Louisiana, especially a line that would eventually bring Texas cattle directly into Shreveport from northeast Texas. To make this happen, the connection of two lines was critical: the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Texas Railroad Company’s line running west from Shreveport to the Texas state line; and the Southern Pacific Railway Company’s road coming through northern Texas eastward to the state line.

The genesis of the first of the two railroads lay with the 1853 Louisiana legislature, which chartered the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Texas Railroad Company.³⁵⁷ The second railroad company—the Southern Pacific Railroad—was chartered in 1852 by the Texas Legislature and authorized to build along the thirty-second parallel from the eastern part of the state to the Pacific Ocean. The Texas & Pacific bought the Southern Pacific and its “trackage” rights in March of 1872.³⁵⁸ Figure 7 and Figure 8 show the relationships between the Texas-Louisiana state line, Greenwood Station, Jewella Station, and Shreveport over the period 1866-1891.³⁵⁹

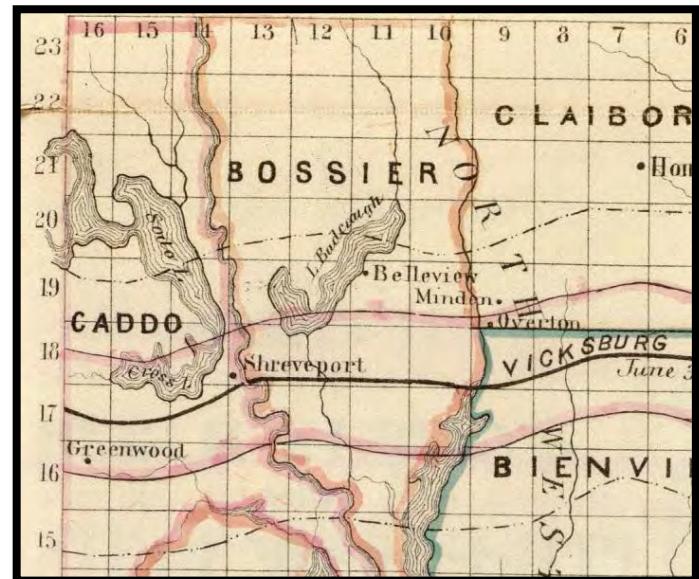


Figure 7. Vicksburg, Shreveport, and Texas Railroad, 1866 (the line west of Greenwood was planned vs. actual; Jewella Station did not yet exist.)

³⁵² Jacques D. Bagur, *A History of Navigation on Cypress Bayou and the Lakes* (Denton, Texas: University of North Texas Press, 2001), 267, 403, 410, 498. For a map showing the packery’s location relative to Jefferson, see Lt. Eugene Woodruff, *Map of the Red River Raft Region and Cypress Bayou*, 1872; copy in possession of LSUS Archives and Special Collections, Noel Memorial Library, Shreveport.

³⁵³ *The (Shreveport, Louisiana) South-Western*, 12 February 1868, second page, col. 2. [A tierce is cask that holds roughly about forty two gallons].

³⁵⁴ “Beef Packing,” *Galveston (Texas) Daily News*, 9 December 1868, third page, col. 2, citing the *Jimplecute* (Jefferson, Texas), no date given; digital images, *Galveston Daily New* (Galveston, Texas) database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 5 August 2011), the article reprinted a nine paragraph extract from the *Jimplecute*, in which the name of the firm in the previous packing season was Wilson, Stoner, and Company, but was now known as Jno. H. Wilson and Company.

³⁵⁵ Bagur, *A History of Navigation on Cypress Bayou and the Lakes*, 516.

³⁵⁶ “The River and Weather,” *The Daily Shreveport Times*, 21 March 1872, fourth page, col. 1, for riverboat limitations during low water conditions.

³⁵⁷ Benjamin Brad Dison, “The Steamboat’s Contribution to the Development of Shreveport’ Railroads, 1840-1890,” *North Louisiana History* XLII (Summer-Fall 2011): 113-128, specifically 119-120.

³⁵⁸ Maude Hearn O’Pry, *Chronicles of Shreveport* (reprint 1978, no place: privately printed, 1928), 123, 126.

³⁵⁹ Joseph Gorlinski, draughtsman, “Map of Louisiana,” 2 October 1866; digital image, *David Rumsey Map Collection* (<http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna> : List No. 1070.011, accessed 7 November 2011); citing map no. 11 in volume “General Land Office Report. Maps,” accompanying the Annual Report of the General Land Office, 2 October 1866. “Rand, McNally & Co.’s New Shippers’ Railroad Map of the United States,” 1891; digital image, *David Rumsey Map Collection* (<http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna> : List No. 5802002, accessed 7 November 2011). Views shown are digitally cropped segments of the larger maps. The township squares in Figure 7 are nominally six by six miles.

Construction of the line connecting Shreveport to the Texas & Pacific, as it was later known, was a drawn-out affair. The Vicksburg, Shreveport, and Texas Railroad Company had laid track as far as Greenwood, Louisiana on the western portion of its line by 1865. The railroad failed on 30 December 1865, but was reorganized and refinanced on 26 September 1868 as the North Louisiana and Texas Railroad.³⁶⁰ This event was likely the final piece of the puzzle needed for George to subsequently form and start a Shreveport meat packery on the west bank of the Red River with his new partners in Chicago and New York, evidenced by the land transactions to come in March and May of 1869. The anticipation of using both steamboat and rail traffic to bring Texas beef and hogs to Shreveport and then shipping the final products by either means had to be a strong investment consideration. Rail traffic did in fact get underway between Shreveport and points west as early as 1868,³⁶¹ but human and freight traffic between Shreveport and New Orleans was predominantly still by steamboat. By 1873-4 rail traffic to New Orleans was in evidence, taking the majority of the Shreveport-New Orleans freight business.³⁶²

On 11 August 1868 George W. Stoner made the first of several land purchases in section 32 of township T18N-R13W. The township straddles the Red River, and the tract of 8.08 acres fronted the river below the then-city limits of Shreveport. He paid James F. Smith \$800 cash for it. The conveyance included the annotation, "The Said tract embraces the old Hospital building." Alfred D. Land and S. C. Wright witnessed the authentic act of sale. George signed the deed, the original of which was deposited with the parish recorder. Neighbors mentioned in the deed were D. Robst[?] and a Mrs. McCrery.³⁶³ This was the first of many transactions more or less clustered together about a mile southeast of downtown Shreveport. Hereinafter the descriptive term "Red River Tracts" is used to distinguish the tracts in T18N-R13W from other land that George and Lizzie bought. George's August 1868 signature appears in Figure 9.

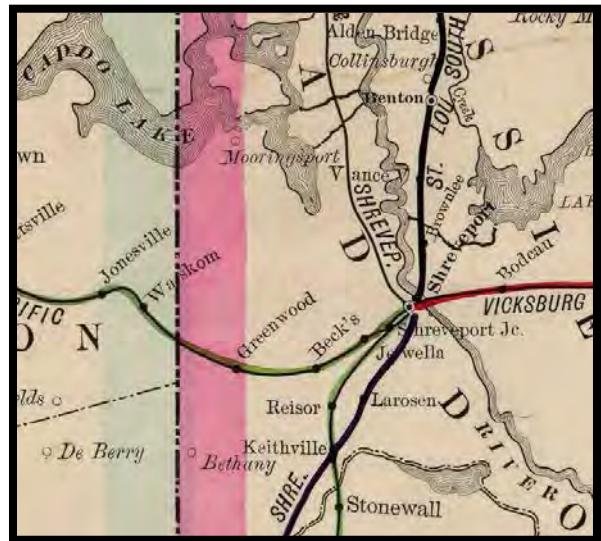


Figure 8. Texas & Pacific Line West of Shreveport, 1891, Showing Jewella Station

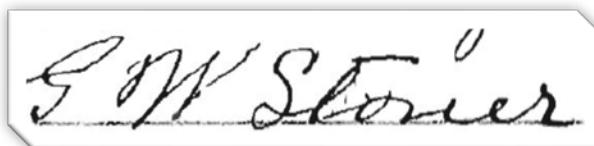


Figure 9. G. W. Stoner's Signature, 11 August 1868, Caddo Parish, Louisiana

Preceding George's purchase by a few days, *The (Shreveport, Louisiana) South-Western* announced George's building of a meat packery "at the stock landing below the city." It also mentioned George's prior association with Jefferson, Marion County, Texas, and his current connections with "Western houses in Chicago."³⁶⁴ Although George did not formally deed the 8-acre tract to his company's four owners until March of the following year, he must have formed a partnership and begun meat packing operations by 13 November 1868, when the *Galveston (Texas) Daily News* reported that G. W. Stoner & Company's "mammoth beef packery" began operations with five hundred

³⁶⁰ Benjamin Brad Dison, "The Steamboat's Contribution to the Development of Shreveport' Railroads, 1840-1890," *North Louisiana History* XLII (Summer-Fall 2011): 113-128, specifically 124.

³⁶¹ Maude Hearn O'Pry, *Chronicles of Shreveport* (reprint 1978, no place: privately printed, 1928), 124-5.

³⁶² Dison, "The Steamboat's Contribution to the Development of Shreveport' Railroads, 1840-1890," 124-5.

³⁶³ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, James F. Smith to George W. Stoner, warranty deed, 11 August 1868, original authentic act no. 14588; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

³⁶⁴ J. Bagur, PH.D., to Talman Stoner, email, "Re: G. W. Stoner," 11 August 2008; quoting *The (Shreveport, Louisiana) South-Western*, 29 July 1868, page and column not specified; copy supplied by Talman Stoner, Beaverton, Oregon, 2009.

head of cattle. Estimated slaughter of 10,000 head was anticipated for the season.³⁶⁵ His first cattle from Texas likely came either by steamer, overland by drover, or both, since the first cattle to arrive in Shreveport by rail—five car loads—was reported the following year on 20 June 1869.³⁶⁶

George Stoner's move to Caddo Parish, Louisiana, in 1868 is confirmed by the parish's tax assessment rolls. For the four tax years 1865 through 1868 Caddo Parish assessed no liabilities against him in resident or non-resident listings.³⁶⁷ In 1869, however, he was personally assessed for 20 acres of real estate, while the entry for G. W. Stoner and Co. showed a valuation of \$25,000 for land and improvements and \$50,000 in “merchandise for sale or capital employed in traffic.” Another column reported that the company had loaned \$10,000 at interest. With livestock, horses, and carriages included, the total assessed value for the company came to an astounding \$85,320. The trade or profession column showed “Beef Packers” for both entities.³⁶⁸

George and his family may have lived temporarily on the 8-acre tract, but by 3 January 1869 he reached an agreement with Mary Jane Tryon to buy her interest in an undescribed tract of land on Texas Road in the city of Shreveport with the contingency that “Titles thereto can be effected by judgment of court and public sale....” The terms were \$600 cash—to be either a part payment of \$5000 if the title was perfected, or rent for the year 1870 otherwise. An examination of all Stoner acquisitions and dispositions in indexes to Caddo Parish conveyance books showed no disposition of a town lot in the city that might have corresponded with a purchase of this tract, so it is more likely that George rented.³⁶⁹

Between 12 March and 15 May 1869, George and his wife Lizzie transferred title to the 8-acre tract with its improvements to his company G. W. Stoner & Co. for \$800 cash. The sale occurred on 12 March, but title could not be perfected until his wife Elizabeth H. Stoner relinquished her right to the property, which occurred on 15 May. The partnership consisted of George W. Stoner of Shreveport, George D. Cragin of New York City, Edward Martin of Yonkers, Westchester County, New York, and John L. Hancock of Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. Mrs. Elizabeth H. Stoner stated herself to be the wife of George W. Stoner. She signed the relinquishment and renunciation as “Lizzie H. Stoner.” The deed repeated a statement from the 1868 transaction, that, “The said tract embraces the old Hospital building.”³⁷⁰ Lizzie's May 1869 signature appears in Figure 10.

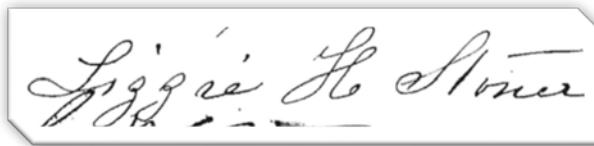


Figure 10. Elizabeth H. Stoner's Signature, 15 May 1869, Caddo Parish, Louisiana

³⁶⁵ Galveston (Texas) Daily News, 27 November 1868, second page, col. 4, citing *The (Shreveport, Louisiana) South-Western*, 15 November 1868; digital images, Galveston Daily News (Galveston, Texas) database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>) : accessed 5 August 2011).

³⁶⁶ O’Pry, *Chronicles of Shreveport*, 124; the author quoted a passage giving the content & date, citing no source—likely a local Shreveport newspaper.

³⁶⁷ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1865, non-resident section p. 3, resident section p. 19–20; 1866, non-resident section, p. 3, resident section, p. 12; 1867, Tableau 2 pages 15–16 and Tableau 1 page 2; 1868, Tableau 3 pages 4, 17–18; all having negative results for Stoner. Although entries appear on other microfilm for years 1865 & 1866, the legibility of that film is poor and researchers should use reel no. 6.206 for these years.

³⁶⁸ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1869, Tableau 2 page 50, 6th to 9th lines, Stoner's entries appear in an alphabetized grouping under surnames beginning “S.”

³⁶⁹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Mary Jane Tryon to George W. Stoner, agreement, 3 January 1869, original private act no. 15502; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Unfortunately the surveyed land description of the tract, including a possible lot or block number, was not described, which would have served a page by page review of the conveyance books. The agreement's reference to the “city of Shreveport” suggests the tract was a town lot within the city limits, and the \$5000 sale price was consistent with town lot values encountered by the author for this timeframe.

³⁷⁰ Commissioner of Deeds for the State of Louisiana in New York County, New York, conveyance, George W. Stoner to G. W. Stoner & Company, warranty deed, 12 March 1869, relinquishment and renunciation, 15 May 1869, original authentic act no. 14979; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana. Also, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 502-506, George W. Stoner to G. W. Stoner & Company, warranty deed, 12 March 1869, relinquishment and renunciation, 15 May 1869; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

Lizzie was carrying her fourth child when she relinquished her dower right in May. Three weeks later she presented her husband with their third son Ernest Stoner born 8 April 1869 in the parish.³⁷¹

George may or may not have been home for Ernest's birth. His recently completed business trip to the North was reported in *The (Shreveport, Louisiana) South-Western* on the 10th of April 1869, and the account was re-reported in the *Galveston (Texas) Daily News* eleven days later. According to the report, George and his partners intended to make their packery the largest in the country. By the first of October of the coming season the firm planned to have a 150 by 350 foot packing house ready to pack 500 beeves daily, about 100 more per day than the largest packery in the North. George's plan was to pack beef from then until the beginning of January 1870, then switch to hogs, his supply for both coming principally from Texas and Louisiana. George noted that 90% of packed beef at this time came from Louisiana and Texas, with distant markets that included New York and Liverpool.³⁷²

The following May, G. W. Stoner & Company purchased for \$2827 cash 28.27 acres. This land extended the company's 8.08 acre holding. This was Stoner's 2nd and final acquisition associated with his company. It added frontage along the Red River and joined the 1st purchase's western and southern lines. The company's owners continued to be George W. Stoner of Shreveport, George D. Cragin of New York, Edward Martin of New York, and John L. Hancock of Illinois.³⁷³

On the road again by August 1869, George visited the offices of the *Dallas Weekly Herald* as part of Texas business tour to Dallas, Fort Worth, Cleburne, and Belton extolling the success of his Shreveport beef packing business and advertising to contract for fifteen thousand head of cattle. The *Herald* referred to him as "our old friend G. W. Stoner, Esq., formerly of Kentucky." He also expressed his interest in the Southern Pacific Railroad, noting that, "it is being rapidly pushed ahead, and that it will reach us [Dallas] before the Texas Central."³⁷⁴

In October a local Shreveport newspaper touted George's "pluck" with respect to his packery business. In the process it described him as a native of Kentucky and running a similar meat packing business in Texas after the Civil War, and that he had been "ruined by the abolition of slavery" and given up his law profession. It noted that he had failed in the meat packery business at Jefferson "for reasons unnecessary to mention."³⁷⁵ The newspaper's report of the Jefferson packery's "failure" while under George's ownership begs proof—John H. Wilson and Company continued to run the packery successfully for another season and then sold it.³⁷⁶ In light of these circumstances it is not unlikely that George left a viable business running under the control of his former partner (a possible brother-in-law) while he sought to start up a similar business that could take advantage of anticipated Texas beef cattle rail shipments to Shreveport. If successful, the new location would render the difficulty and unpredictability of water transport from Jefferson moot, while presumably lowering his overall cost of doing business. A Shreveport location would give him two avenues to get product to New Orleans and overseas markets: shorter water-borne shipments on the deeper channel of the Red River and, eventually, more reliable railroad transport. The success of the packery in Shreveport probably brought the life of the Jefferson packery to a close; the latter's sale by Wilson as the Shreveport packery was expanding seems more than a coincidence.

The packery put its excess and assets to use in the form of loans to others. Previously discussed 1869 tax assessment rolls included \$10,000 loaned at interest. For example, John McDonald borrowed \$576.85 in cash, mules, and merchandise from G. W. Stoner & Company on 30 November 1869. At that time three of four company owners were named. The fourth—John L. Hancock of Chicago—

³⁷¹ George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828–1901; the handwriting for Ernest's birth entry is George W. Stoner's, possibly recorded by him soon after the birth in 1869.

³⁷² "Beef Packing," *Galveston (Texas) Daily News*, 21 April 1869, p. 4, col. 2, citing *The (Shreveport, Louisiana) South-Western*, 10 April 1869; digital images, *Galveston Daily News* (*Galveston, Texas*) database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 5 August 2011).

³⁷³ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, James F. Smith to G. W. Stoner & Company, warranty deed, 15 May 1869, original authentic act no. 14981; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

³⁷⁴ *Dallas (Texas) Weekly Herald*, 7 August 1869, p. 2, col. 2; "Cattle Wanted," p. 2, col. 7; digital images, "Historical Newspapers," *GenealogyBank.com* (<http://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 5 August 2011).

³⁷⁵ J. Bagur, PH.D., to Talman Stoner, email, "Re: G. W. Stoner," 11 August 2008; quoting *The (Shreveport, Louisiana) South-Western*, 20 October 1869, page and column not specified; copy supplied by Talman Stoner, Beaverton, Oregon, 2009.

³⁷⁶ Bagur, *A History of Navigation on Cypress Bayou and the Lakes*, 498.

did not appear, and it is unclear whether Hancock withdrew from the company prior to this date. The company sued for non-payment in 1871 and the court awarded it the full sum with interest dating from 31 November 1869, and court costs.³⁷⁷

By 17 December 1869 business was clearly booming. The New Orleans *Times-Picayune* reported that 7,000 head of cattle had been slaughtered since 9 November and that the G. W. Stoner & Co. firm was processing an average of 350 beeves a day at the Shreveport plant.³⁷⁸

One of the side products in a beef packing business is solid fat or tallow, an ingredient useful for candles, soap, and lubricants. From its second Red River Tracts acquisition, the company sold a small 2.995 acre tract on the southeast shore of then Silver Lake to Edith (Creason) Manti for \$450 cash on 4 April 1870.³⁷⁹ The purpose became evident in an 1873 map of Shreveport and its environs. In the location that roughly approximates the platted land description, the surveyor indicated "Soap Factory."³⁸⁰

A few months later on 17 July 1870, the U. S. Census Assistant Marshall M. H. Crowell enumerated G. W. Stoner. His apparent wife E. H. Stoner appears with four apparent children S. M. [Samuel Michael] age 9, Sallie 6, Martin [aka Sterling] 4, and Ernest 1. The first two minors show Texas births, with Martin and Ernest showing Kentucky and Louisiana births respectively. The enumerator was instructed to record the information as it was on the official 1 June census day. The informant was probably George or Elizabeth, with the apparent mother at least having firsthand knowledge of their births, making the young children's birth information both timely and reliable.³⁸¹ The information correlates perfectly with the George W. Stoner Family Bible Records for all six apparent family members.³⁸² A twelve year old black girl also appears in the household with a Kentucky birthplace. Her name Arma/Anna[?] Stoner, age, and color suggest she might have been a slave about two years old, perhaps associated with the 1860 G. W. Stoner family of Tarrant County, Texas.³⁸³ Coincident or not, a forty year old black farmer named Martin Stoner, also reportedly born in Kentucky, appears in the same Shreveport Post Office jurisdiction in 1870's federal census. His relationship with the Arma/Anna is unknown.³⁸⁴

1870 tax assessment information is marginally legible but George W. Stoner's expected assessments could not be read.³⁸⁵ However, an 1870 city directory captured G. W. Stoner & Co, a "beef packery on river below city," and G. W. Stoner residing on "Texas road near Cox's wagon yard."³⁸⁶

³⁷⁷ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 10th Judicial District Court case file 8421, G. W. Stoner & Co. vs. John M. McDonald (1871) for plaintiffs' petition filed 14 September 1871, and judgment signed 23 December 1871; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

³⁷⁸ (*New Orleans*) *Times-Picayune*, 17 December 1869, p. 9; digital images, "Historical Newspapers," *GenealogyBank.com* (<http://www.genealogybank.com>) : accessed 5 August 2011).

³⁷⁹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book R: 249–250, G. W. Stoner & Co. to Edith (Creason) Manti, warranty deed, 4 April 1870; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

³⁸⁰ Wm. R. DeVoe, Shreveport City surveyor, "Map of Shreveport," (Baltimore, Maryland: A. Moen & Co., Lithographer, 1873), approx. 20x25 inches, black & white [*with some yellowing present*], scale not shown [*1 inch = about 500 feet when viewed at full scale*]; digital image prepared from laminated copy held by LSUS Archives and Special Collections, Noel Memorial Library, Shreveport and used with permission.

³⁸¹ 1870 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch., Shreveport P. O., folio 570, p. 114, dwell. 831, fam. 950, G. W. Strona [sic] household. Timeliness—an event recorded soon after its occurrence—adds weight to its reliability. The younger children's births in this instance are more reliable than older ones and parents. Firsthand accounts given by, say, the mother in this instance, also add weight.

³⁸² George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828–1901.

³⁸³ Hinckley, *Your Guide to the Federal Census*, 114; no 1860 schedules survive for this county. Arma/Anna did not appear in George's father's slave holdings in 1860 U. S. Census, Hickman County, Kentucky, slave schedule, civil division not stated, folio 208 (stamped, reverse), p. 8 (penned), M. L. Stoner, owner or manager; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>) : accessed 23 April 2012); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll number unstated.

³⁸⁴ 1870 U.S. census, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Shreveport Post Office, p. 398 (stamped, reverse), p. 10 (penned), dwelling 97, family 97, Martin Stoner in Henry Wiggins household; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>) : accessed 12 April 2012); NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 508; if Martin's color is accurately enumerated, his Kentucky birthplace, his given name and surname, and his colocation with other Stoners native to Kentucky suggest a possible connection with them, perhaps as a former slave or free person of color.

³⁸⁵ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1870, Tableau 2 pages 62–68, Stoners in alphabetized grouping under surnames beginning "S." G. W. Stoner could not be identified in the marginally legible residential listing. An expected non-resident section of these records does not apparently survive, so this avenue could not be explored.

³⁸⁶ *Forrest's Shreveport General Directory For 1870-'71* (publication information not observable); photocopied image reproduction of pages numbered 16–33, supplied courtesy of Eric Brock, Shreveport, Louisiana, to Broadmoor Branch, Shreve Memorial Library System, Shreveport.

1871 was a pivotal year for Texas and Louisiana meat packeries in general, and Stoner's Shreveport packery in particular. Drought and heat conditions in Texas, and probably by extension western Louisiana, significantly impacted agriculture and cattle related businesses well into the fall of the year. The *Galveston News* reported that grass used for forage has completely died by the fall of 1871 and estimated that half of the beef stock in the state had died for lack of water and forage. It noted that the beef packery business in the state had been abandoned for two reasons: a dramatic fall in the price of bacon and the heat which caused the "failure in curing the meat."³⁸⁷ The ripple effect on Stoner's packery in Shreveport was dramatic, indirectly captured in the firm's drastically reduced 1871 total tax assessment of just \$3350—³⁸⁸ approximately what the company had paid for the land during startup. If the tax assessments were accurate, the packery did no business in the fall of 1871 and had lost 96% of its assessed value for tax purposes since the 1869 high.

In the wake of this disaster, the company's partnership dissolved by December 1872. George's New York partners sold him their interest in the business for \$15,625 cash. A fourth owner—John Hancock of Chicago—is not mentioned. The land consisted of the 28.27 acre and 8.08 acre tracts acquired previously in the Red River Tracts and "comprising the packing house &c [etc.] together with...all buildings, machinery, and all personal property...and the packing house thereon...."³⁸⁹ The disposition of Hancock's share in the business has not been located; however, the 3-acre sale to Edith Manti previously discussed had not mentioned Hancock, suggesting that he had divested himself of ownership perhaps via an undocumented quitclaim deed sometime prior to the sale to Manti. The company's dissolution signaled that many businessmen felt that beef packeries could only operate effectively in cooler climates.

George was undeterred and pressed forward, but he had two significant hurdles ahead: the 1873–9 Depression and the 1873 Yellow Fever Epidemic.

The 1873–1879 Depression is considered the longest in American history. It was driven by a collapse in the railroad building industry, which in turn led to financial panic. The tightening of credit and a drop in exports (recall George's business included overseas markets like Liverpool) exacerbated the problems, and prices fell about 25%.³⁹⁰ In 1881 the editors of a Shreveport directory reported the city's history and noted that the financial crisis "caused an era of general stagnation."³⁹¹

Effectively beginning 20 August 1873, a yellow fever epidemic shattered lives in Shreveport³⁹² until it was declared officially ended almost three months later on 13 November. All told about 760 people died. New Orleans, much larger in comparison, lost 226 to the disease.³⁹³ In one instance, passengers and freight from Shreveport to Dallas were halted near Dallas by a bonfire on the tracks, detained overnight, and sent back to Shreveport. Except mail and telegraph, Shreveport was effectively quarantined by mid-September.³⁹⁴ At the height of the epidemic burial regulations and customs were largely abandoned and dead bodies were buried in long trenches in the city's Oakland Cemetery. All business was at a standstill.³⁹⁵

³⁸⁷ "Commercial and Financial Review, the Commerce of Galveston," *Daily Shreveport (Louisiana) Times*, 11 September 1872, third page, col.1, quoting an annual report in the *Galveston (Texas) News* of 1 September 1872.

³⁸⁸ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1871, Tableau 2 pages 45–47, Stoner entries in alphabetized grouping under surnames beginning "S;" G. W. Stoner and Co.'s land totaled 33 and 1/3 acres in fractional section 32, T18NR13W, "Beef Packery Improved" with land and improvements assessed at a cash value of \$3350 only.

³⁸⁹ Commissioner of Deeds for the State of Louisiana in New York County, New York, conveyance, George D. Cragin, Lydia B. Cragin, and Edward Martin to George W. Stoner, quitclaim deed, dower release, acknowledgment, 12 December 1872, original authentic act no. 19573; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana. For the clerk-recorded copy see Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book T: 603–605, George D. Cragin, Lydia B. Cragin, and Edward Martin to George W. Stoner, quitclaim deed, dower release, acknowledgment, 12 December 1872; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

³⁹⁰ Boyer, *Oxford Companion to United States History*, 183.

³⁹¹ Waldo's *Directory of Shreveport, La.* (1881) (probably New Orleans: J. Curtis Waldo, Southern Publisher and Photo-Engraving House, n.d. (1881)), 55.

³⁹² Robert Miciotto, Ph. D., "Yellow Fever: The Shreveport Epidemic of 1873," *North Louisiana Historical Association Journal* XVII (Spring & Summer 1986): 65–79, specifically 66, citing "Sudden Deaths," *The Daily Shreveport Times*, 20 August 1873, page and column not stated.

³⁹³ Miciotto, "Yellow Fever," 73.

³⁹⁴ Ibid., 68, citing *The Shreveport Times*, 6 September 1873, page and column not stated.

³⁹⁵ Miciotto, "Yellow Fever," 72–73, citing Anna McCormick Stockwell's interview in "Glamour, Tragedy Recalled by Girl of the 1870s," *The Shreveport Times*, Special Edition, 17 September 1985, section C, p. 10.

Two of George and Lizzie's children died in the decade—George Wilson Stoner and Sallie. Fifth child George Wilson Stoner was born 27 April 1872,³⁹⁶ sixteen months before the epidemic began. His fate is unknown, but he was absent from the 1880 George W. Stoner household and his inferred death correlates with the total number of children born to Lizzie in her lifetime but no longer living on 1 June 1900.³⁹⁷ Sallie Belle Stoner died on 17 October 1873 in the parish. News reports gave her age as ten years. A beautiful obituary contributed by "A Friend" mourned her passing³⁹⁸ (Figure 11). As the epidemic was still ongoing, yellow fever may have caused it.

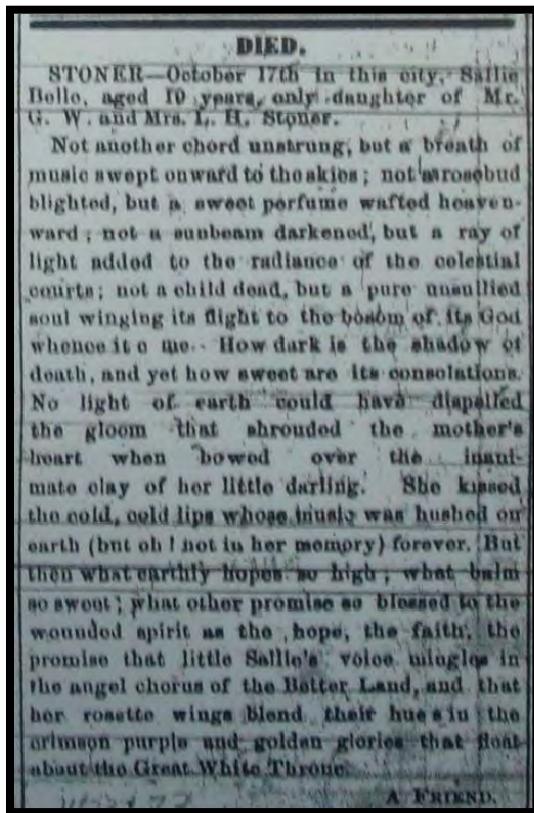


Figure 11. Sallie Belle Stoner's Obituary, 1873.

Despite the financial panic, Sallie's death, and perhaps his son George's death, George W. Stoner resumed his beef packing business by 8 December 1873. The newspaper reporting it noted that the completion of the railroad between Texas beef raisers and Shreveport allowed beef to be shipped to him in good condition "in a few hours, thus avoiding the driving and partial starvation that naturally ensues when shipped to more distant points."³⁹⁹

His efforts to revive the business ultimately failed, probably about 1875–1876. Although surviving records are silent on the cause, the depression of 1873–1879—with its corresponding impact on railroads, price drops, and tight credit—deserves a lead role. The *Commercial*

³⁹⁶ George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828–1901; "George Wilson Stoner son of G. W. and Elizabeth H. Stoner[,] Born at Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana April 27th 1872." Handwriting was that of his father.

³⁹⁷ 1880 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch., p. 51, ED 19, dwell. 603, fam. 603, G. W. Stoner household. 1900 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch., Jewella Precinct, folio 53 (stamped, reverse), ED 31, sheet 18-A, dwell. 400, fam. 400, G. W. Stoner household; The number of children born to Lizzie is six, with two still living—the deaths of Samuel, Sallie, George Wilson, and Martin (aka Sterling) Stoner are consistent with this report, as are the two known surviving sons, Ernest and Early Roy Stoner, who appear in various records after the census was recorded.

³⁹⁸ "Died," Sallie B. Stoner death notice, *The Daily Shreveport Times*, 22 October 1873, first page, col. 7. Also "Died," Sallie Belle Stoner obituary, probably *The Daily Shreveport Times*, annotated "11/23/1873," page and column number not captured; folder: "Danielle Neal's Misc. Genealogical Research Notes," Stoner Family Folder, vertical files; Noel Memorial Library, LSU-S University Archives, Shreveport, Louisiana.

³⁹⁹ *Galveston (Texas) Tri-Weekly News*, 8 December 1873, p. 9; digital images, "Historical Newspapers," *GenealogyBank.com* (<http://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 5 August 2011).

Directory of the City of Shreveport for the Year 1875 was the first directory no longer listing the meat packery in any capacity, including its “History of the City of Shreveport in 1875.”⁴⁰⁰ By 1877 George owed the parish \$587.50 in unpaid 1875 taxes on the packery property. Previously, on 6 November 1875, George had bought at a Sheriff’s sale Lot 7 in Block 41 of the City of Shreveport for \$750 cash, and a 6.63 acre tract running north to the Red River and adjacent to the east boundary of his Red River Tracts for \$100. He disposed of the city lot for \$500 cash to Robert Patterson on 15 January 1877, and he conveyed the 6.63 acre tract to the city in exchange for cancellation of the 1875 taxes due on the property on 2 November 1877.⁴⁰¹

George’s Red River Tracts by 1875 included the two tracts purchased by his partnership and later sold to him, the 6.6 acre tract purchased by him and later exchanged for cancellation of unpaid taxes, and two twenty-acres tracts that represented completely different and much more successful business ventures in the coming decades. The orange-shaded annotation in Figure 12 approximates George’s Red River Tracts overlaying an 1873 “Map of Shreveport.”⁴⁰²



Figure 12. G. W. Stoner's Red River Tracts, about 1875.

⁴⁰⁰ Commercial Directory of the City of Shreveport for the Year 1875 (Shreveport, Louisiana: Shreveport Time Print, 1875), 3–30.

⁴⁰¹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 10th Judicial District Court case file 9017, G. W. Stoner vs. D. I. Dodez (1874); Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, D. J. Dodez to George W. Stoner and W. C. Swanson, sheriff’s sale and warranty deed, 6 November 1875, original authentic act no. 20982; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport. Also, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, George W. Stoner to Robert B. Patterson, warranty deed, 15 January 1877, original authentic act no. 21147; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport. Also, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, George W. Stoner to City of Shreveport, warranty deed, 2 November 1877, original authentic act no. 21693; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport. Stoner’s suit against Dodez stemmed from an unpaid loan of \$1811.61 that Dodez borrowed from George on 7 December 1873: Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 10th Judicial District Court case file 9017, G. W. Stoner vs. D. I. Dodez (1874); Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport.

⁴⁰² DeVoe, “Map of Shreveport,” 1873; shading digitally added by P. B. Adderley, 2012. Shaded region represents approximate furthest extent of Stoner’s Red River Tracts, not to scale. The map shown is a cropped portion of the original.

Brother Peter Burris Stoner and Other Stoner Men

George W. Stoner was not the first Stoner to reach Shreveport following the war. Three different Stoners appeared at varying times and degrees in the 1860s and 1870s. Their names were Peter Burris Stoner, George's younger brother; John Henry Stoner, relationship unknown; and a W. E. Stoner, relationship unknown.

W. E. STONER

W. E. Stoner appears once in Caddo Parish records. *Forrest's Shreveport General Directory For 1870-'71* lists him as a "salesman with Stoner & Bro." The firm was owned by George W. Stoner and his brother Peter B. Stoner, so W. E. Stoner must be a third identity, perhaps kin in some manner to the two brothers.⁴⁰³ One candidate for W. E. Stoner's identity is another of George's reported brothers, Wakefield.⁴⁰⁴

JOHN HENRY STONER

John Henry Stoner first appears in Caddo Parish records on 28 February 1866. Renard Anderson Ward and he jointly purchased from Madam Mary (McDermot) Buell Lots 1 and 2 in Block 33 of the City of Shreveport fronting forty feet on Texas Street for \$4560 dollars.⁴⁰⁵ Ward probably sold his half interest to a man named Heath by 1869, when tax authorities assessed J. H. Stoner for Lot 1 and the firm of Stoner and Heath for Lot 2. John's Lot 1 of Block 33 valued at \$3000, Lot 2 at \$2700.⁴⁰⁶ The partnership also purchased ten acres in Section 5 of T17N-R13W, the land description placing it due south of and adjacent to George W. Stoner's Red River Tracts. The colocation of the two Stoner tracts suggests kinship; however, none of the many records assembled for George and John Stoner cross-reference each other. If there was a relationship, it may have been distant. John married Miss Eugenia Broussard on 30 January 1870. Witnesses were J. W. Hand, Mary H. Howell, and Sallie E. Carlton; and A. E. Clemons M. G. [Minister of the Gospel] conducted the ceremony.⁴⁰⁷ In July of 1870 Caddo Parish officials sent a letter to eight men asking them to survey the parish courthouse to determine whether it was safe to use by the community. The recipients included J. H. Stoner, perhaps due to his carpentry background; however, John was not among the six who responded.⁴⁰⁸ Though John and Eugenia were not located in any 1870 census household, John continued on the Caddo Parish tax rolls as a resident through the rest of the decade.⁴⁰⁹ Exactly when his partnership with Heath ended is unknown, but between 1874 and 1881 he partnered with W. W. Waring as Stoner & Waring, "Carpenters, Builders, and Undertakers" at the corner of Texas and Marshall Streets in Shreveport. This location at the time was northeast and diagonally opposite the parish courthouse.⁴¹⁰

Mechanic J. H. Stoner enumerated in the 1880 federal census population schedule is a good candidate for Shreveport's John Henry Stoner, a carpenter and undertaker. Wife E. A. Stoner is a good candidate for Eugenia Broussard. J. H.'s place of birth "Penn" was interlined above with "Tenn." The three children Effie, Fannie and Dimple, ages 7, 3 and 7 months were all reportedly born in Louisiana.⁴¹¹ A fourth child was probably born in the four year gap between Effie and Fannie's birth: Mary Jane Howell Stoner,

⁴⁰³ *Forrest's Shreveport General Directory For 1870-'71*, 31. "Stoner & Bro" is listed as a provision store on Levee Street at the foot of Texas [street]; P. B. Stoner, "of firm Stoner & Bro, boards Brooks House." George directly states his brother-brother relationship with Peter in an uncaptioned notice below the advertisement "P. B. Stoner & Co.," *The Daily Shreveport Times*, 7 April 1872, second page, col. 4.

⁴⁰⁴ Hawthorne, "The Stoner Family," 553. The compiler lists Wakefield Martin Stoner as a son of Dr. Michael Lower Stoner & Katherine Emerson.

⁴⁰⁵ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Madam Mary (McDermot) Buell to Renard Anderson Ward and John Henry Stoner, warranty deed, 28 February 1866, original authentic act no. 13515; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁴⁰⁶ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1869, Tableau 2 page 50; 1870, Tableau 2 pages 62-68.

⁴⁰⁷ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Marriage Book 3: 405, John H. Stoner and Eugenia Broussard, 1870, recorded bond (with original signatures), license, and return; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁴⁰⁸ Maude Hearn O'Pry, *Chronicles of Shreveport* (reprint 1978, no place: privately printed, 1928), 150.

⁴⁰⁹ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1871, Tableau 2 p. 46; 1872, Tableau 2 p. 70; 1873, folio 76; 1874, folio 81; 1875, folio 89; 1877, no folio numbers; 1878, folio 20; 1880, folio 99. 1879 listings were illegible.

⁴¹⁰ "Stoner & Waring," *The Daily Shreveport Times*, 5 July 1874, third page, col. 4. Also *Commercial Directory of the City of Shreveport for the Year 1875* (Shreveport, Louisiana: Shreveport Time Print, 1875), 42, 49, listing and advertisement. Also, "Stoner & Waring," *The Daily Shreveport Times*, 4 February 1877, third page, col. 3.

⁴¹¹ 1880 U.S. census, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, folio 383C (stamped), p. 45 (penned), enumeration district (ED) 20, dwelling 412, family 430, J. H. Stoner household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 October 2011); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 449.

daughter of J. H. and E. A. Stoner died at age 14 months and 21 days on 19 October 1874. The funeral was planned for the following afternoon at the family residence on Louisiana Street.⁴¹² John's partnership with Waring apparently dissolved prior to October 1881, as he was now advertising his business as "J. H. Stoner, Undertaker."⁴¹³ The partnership may have unraveled when Waring filed suit on 26 August 1880 against John for failure to pay the remaining \$96 he owed Waring.⁴¹⁴ In 1881 and 1882 John and his wife resided at the corner of Marshall and Texas Streets, John doing business there as a carpenter and undertaker, and Mrs. J. H. Stoner as a dressmaker.⁴¹⁵

On 12 June 1884, John H. Stoner and John Caldwell sold Lots 1-4 and the western half of Lot 5, adjoining Lot 4, in Block 33 in the city of Shreveport to the United States Government for \$10,000. John's share came to \$3750-Lot 1 and his half interest in Lot 2.⁴¹⁶ By November 1887, the federal government had built and begun operating the U. S. Post Office on the location.⁴¹⁷ On an 1896 map of Shreveport, these lots appear as "Post Office." They front Texas Street running northeast toward the river, and they begin on the corner of Marshall and Texas, diagonally opposite the Caddo Parish Courthouse.⁴¹⁸

Although the namesake for Stoner Avenue has not yet been determined, John Henry Stoner is a fair candidate. In addition to selling prime real estate to the government, he had also served the local citizens of Shreveport for at least fifteen years as a respected carpenter and undertaker. His role during the yellow fever epidemic remains an open research question, but his occupation probably put him at risk to some degree. Between 18 November 1878 and 22 April 1884 he also served as a Trustee for his unnamed ward in the City Government of Shreveport.⁴¹⁹

Beginning with the 1885 tax year, John stopped appearing as a resident, instead being taxed as a non-resident on the five acres he had continued to hold south of George W. Stoner's Red River Tracts. This continued through tax year 1887. In 1888 he dropped from all Caddo Parish tax assessments, suggesting he had divested himself of that land. In 1891-1893 a J. H. Stoner appeared in the non-resident listing liable for tax on five acres in Cook's Subdivision, then dropped from the parish tax rolls in 1894 and 1895.⁴²⁰ Clues to John's apparent migration from the parish in 1885 appeared in a Galveston, Texas, city directory for 1886-7, in which a John H. Stoner appeared as an undertaker.⁴²¹ On 10 September 1896, a J. H. Stoner, resident of Galveston County, Texas, sold to Charles R. Reynolds, a resident of Harris County, Texas, about 4.5 acres in the west half of Ten-Acre Lot no. 2 in the city of Shreveport.⁴²²

PETER BURRIS STONER

Peter began appearing in Caddo Parish related records in 1870. Previously mentioned, an 1870 city directory listed P. B. Stoner, "of firm Stoner & Bro," and boarding at the Brooks house.⁴²³ It is uncertain when the directory information was gathered, but effective 1 June 1870 P. B. Stoner, a 37-year-old Kentucky-born merchant with \$5000 in personal property, appeared with Sam Morrison, a

⁴¹² "Died," Mary Jane Howell Stoner death and funeral notice, *The Daily Shreveport Times*, 20 October 1875, first page, col. 4.

⁴¹³ "J. H. Stoner, Undertaker," *The Daily Shreveport Times*, 9 October 1881, first page, col. 2.

⁴¹⁴ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 368, W. W. Waring vs. J. H. Stoner (1886); Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. The suit dragged on until judgment was filed against Stoner on 21 June 1886.

⁴¹⁵ Waldo's *Directory of Shreveport, La.* (1881) (probably New Orleans: J. Curtis Waldo, Southern Publisher and Photo-Engraving House, n.d. (1881)), 43. Morrison & Fourmy's *General Directory of the City of Shreveport for 1882-1883* (Houston, Texas: Texas Directory Publishers, 1882), p. x, 160.

⁴¹⁶ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 2: 253-253, John Henry Stoner and John Caldwell to the United States Government, warranty deed, 12 June 1884; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁴¹⁷ O'Pry, *Chronicles of Shreveport*, 113.

⁴¹⁸ Wm. R. DeVoe, "DeVoe's Map of Shreveport, La. and Environs" (n.p.: n. pub., 1896), 17.4 x 23.7 inches, black & white, scale 1 inch = 860 feet when viewed at full scale; digital image prepared from laminated copy held by LSUS Archives and Special Collections, Noel Memorial Library, Shreveport and used with permission.

⁴¹⁹ White's *General Directory and Business Guide of the City of Shreveport, for 1884-5* (Shreveport, Louisiana: T. E. Price, n.d.), 54.

⁴²⁰ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1885, 1886, & 1887: non-resident lists show 5 acres in Section 5, T17N-R13W; 1886, 1887, 1888, & 1889: negative results for J. H. Stoner, all lists; 1891, 1892, & 1893: non-resident lists show 5 acres; 1894 & 1895: negative results for J. H. Stoner, all lists.

⁴²¹ Morrison & Fourmy's *General Directory of the City of Galveston 1886-7* (Galveston, Texas: Morrison & Fourmy, 1886), 363, entry for John H. Stoner, Undertaker; digital images, "U. S. City Directories, 1821-1989 (Beta)," Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 June 2012).

⁴²² Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 17: 276-277, John Henry Stoner to Charles R. Reynolds, warranty deed and acknowledgment, about 10 September 1896; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. John Henry Stoner was listed as resident of Galveston County, Texas.

⁴²³ Forrest's *Shreveport General Directory For 1870-'71*, 31.

Louisiana-born merchant with \$1000 in personal property, in Shreveport, Louisiana. They were not listed in a household or family unit, but the enumerator probably meant by his entries that both men were living in Irishman Philip Dugan's household.⁴²⁴

On 18 May 1871, P. B. Stoner signed a marriage bond to marry Miss Lucy B. Kerly. The surety was H. C. Rogers. Although a marriage return was not filed,⁴²⁵ the date correlates with that supplied by Mrs. Lucy Boone Kerly-Stoner, the probable wife of Peter Burris Stoner, for a 1922 Boone family publication.⁴²⁶

Judging from the goods it advertised, the grocery provisions business of George W. Stoner and his brother Peter Burris Stoner probably started as a natural fit with George's packery business, after the latter's start-up in the late 1860s. Newspaper advertisements indicated they specialized in corned beef, dried beef, hams, tongues, ox marrow, tallow, meats, foot oil, bacon, pork, lard, and additional meats and other provisions. Evidence that they were in business together in 1871 appears Caddo Parish tax assessment rolls where Stoner Bros had capital invested in trade of \$6000.⁴²⁷ They changed locations at least once in 1872, moving next door on Leevee Street to a location above Walsh & Boisseau's business.⁴²⁸

As with many businesses of this nature and time, transportation of goods to remoter markets carried risks. Stoner Brothers was no exception. On the 20th of March they received a dispatch that the steamer *Anna* sank in low water enroute from Jefferson, Texas, near Mooringsport, carrying a half load of furniture and "western produce." By inference the Stoner brothers owned part of the shipment. The steamer was raised and sent to Jefferson and eventually returned to Shreveport by the end of March.⁴²⁹

Whether the fallout from that event led to the firm's dissolution is not directly known. By April, however, George and Peter had dissolved their business arrangement. J. E. Featherston became Peter's new partner, after which the firm was known as P. B. Stoner & Company. The new business described itself as Commission and Forwarding Agents and Steamboat Agents, specializing in "Western Produce of every description." G. W. Stoner explained the changes in a notice accompanying the advertisement for Peter's new firm.⁴³⁰ See Figure 13.

The family did not remain long in Caddo Parish. Between the reported Louisiana birth of their son Mike L. Stoner age 7, and the Texas birth of their daughter Hellen[?] age 6, Peter and Lucy probably moved their family to Texas. By 1 June 1880, they appeared in the federal census in Gainesville, Cooke County. Lucy's mother surnamed Kerley lived with them as well as two younger children born in Texas.⁴³¹ Lucy's age 26 infers birth in the range 2 June 1853 to 1 June 1854. That and her reported Louisiana birthplace correlate with the 10 January 1854 Shreveport birth given by the wife of Peter Burris Stoner.⁴³² If Mike's and Hellen's age are accurate, Peter and his family migrated to Texas between 2 June 1872 and 1 June 1874.

⁴²⁴ 1870 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch., Shreveport P. O., ward 1, p. 1, line 2, P. B. Stoner. The first household of the list appeared on line 3, as the Philip Dugan household.

⁴²⁵ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Marriage Book 3: 658, P. B. Stoner and Lucy B. Kerly, 1871, recorded bond with original signatures; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁴²⁶ Hawthorne, "The Stoner Family," 553, Peter Burris Stoner married 18 May 1871, Lucy Boone Kerley, "born 10 January 1854 at Shreveport, La.;" citing information supplied by Mrs. Lucy Boone-Kerley Stoner.

⁴²⁷ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1871, Tableau 2 p. 47, entry for "Stoner Bros." Peter B. Stoner was not personally listed.

⁴²⁸ "Provisions," *The Daily Shreveport Times*, 10 March 1872, second page, col. 6.

⁴²⁹ "Sinking of the Anna," *The Daily Shreveport Times*, 21 March 1872, fourth page, col. 2. Bagur, *A History of Navigation on Cypress Bayou and the Lakes*, 362-3, citing the previous article and a second published 24 March 1872 by the same newspaper.

⁴³⁰ "P. B. Stoner & Co." and uncaptioned notice by G. W. Stoner, *The Daily Shreveport Times*, 7 April 1872, second page, col. 4.

⁴³¹ 1880 U.S. census, Cooke Co., Tx., pop. sch., p. 8, ED 111, dwell. 66, fam. 69, P. B. Stoner household.

⁴³² Hawthorne, "The Stoner Family," 553, Lucy Boone Kerley, "born 10 January 1854 at Shreveport, La.;" citing information supplied by Mrs. Lucy Boone-Kerley Stoner.

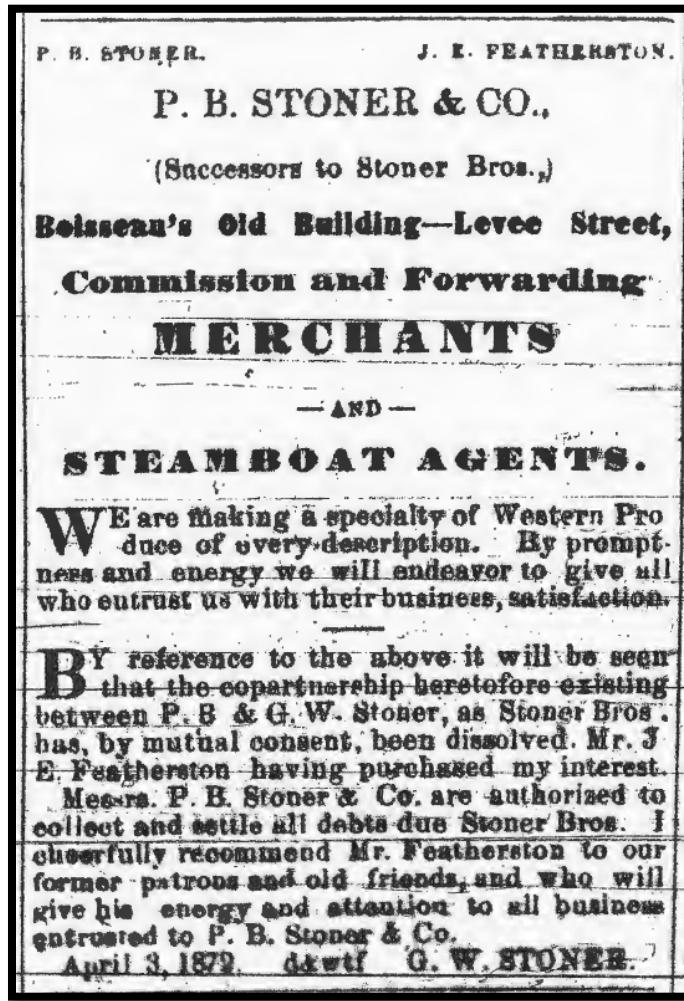


Figure 13. George & Peter Stoner Changing Partners

The Nurseries, Orchards, and Other Interests: George and Lizzie through 1907

George Washington Stoner was probably typical of men at this time. Those having the means to do so often practiced more than one occupation, or engaged in partnerships or companies that would put their money or land or both to use. It is clear through his investment actions that he felt meat packing at the Shreveport site was potentially lucrative, but not without risks, perhaps influenced by previous experience at Jefferson. At any rate, George diversified.

On 10 April 1869 George had acquired the 2nd of his two Red River Tracts, a twenty acre tract previously discussed lying in its southwest quarter.⁴³³ This property was not associated with the meat packery business. He doubled its size on 20 September of the same year. George W. Stoner and Robert B. Patterson jointly purchased from John Dickinson twenty acres consisting of the east half of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 32, T18N-R13W, for \$2000 cash and a \$2250 promissory note due 20 September 1870. This was George's 4th acquisition in Section 32, and—with the 2nd acquisition—the two comprised all forty-acres square in the

⁴³³ Caddo Ph., La., conveyance, Wise to Stoner, 10 April 1869.

southwest corner of Section 32.⁴³⁴ George eventually bought out Patterson's half interest on 8 February 1871 for about \$1200 in cash plus his assumption of the promissory note due Dickinson by Patterson.⁴³⁵

George put the forty acre combined tract to use as a fruit and nursery business. It was first known as "Louisiana Nurseries" with initial evidence of it appearing in a local newspaper article three months later in December 1869.⁴³⁶ It also appeared on DeVoe's 1873 "Map of Shreveport," (see Figure 12). George took on partner John M. Samuels to help run the business. John was probably the J. M. Samuels enumerated in the 1870 federal census for Caddo Parish as a twenty-two year old nurseryman, reportedly born in "Canada West."⁴³⁷

George and orchards were not strangers. George would testify twenty two years later that he had had an orchard in Kentucky but noted that it was for private use.⁴³⁸ It seems logical that Samuels became his partner through his nurseryman background and the youth and energy he brought to the table, while George was more of silent partner providing the land, occasionally marketing the company, and ultimately managing the financial aspects.⁴³⁹ This was a near perfect arrangement at the time as the demands of the meat packing business were escalating concomitantly.

Land expansion occurred rapidly, *not* in the Red River Tracts, but three to four miles west of Shreveport straddling the Vicksburg, Shreveport, and Texas Railroad line and the Shreveport Texas Wagon Road. George W. Stoner and John J. Hope purchased 250 acres described as the "Fairgrounds and Race Course" from Matilda P. G. Allen, Henry E. Allen, and James S. Allen. The land lies in the south half of Section 10 in T17N-R14W.⁴⁴⁰ Today the land comprises the site of the Independence Bowl and State Fairground Complex, lying on the north side of Interstate I-20 near its Jewella exit. Events will show that this site eventually became the family homestead for George and Lizzie and, with changes, served them for the remainder of their lives. An early map of Stoner and Hope's joint acquisition appears in Figure 15. An overlay of a modern day map shows the land that eventually survived family ownership and passed by inheritance to George and Lizzie's descendants in Figure 1. Hereinafter the tracts of land geographically associated with Stoner in this region are designated Stoner's "Jewella Tracts."

On 21 January 1871 George W. Stoner purchased for \$1494.47 John J. Hope's half interest in 116.45 acres of the 250-acre parcel that the two had acquired jointly two months earlier. Hope continued to hold half interest in the remaining acreage. On the same day George quitclaimed his half interest in 18.91 acres in a different parcel of the 250-acre tract to Hope. Thus, at the end of the day at this

⁴³⁴ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, John Dickinson to George W. Stoner & Robert B. Patterson, warranty deed, 20 September 1869, original authentic act no. 15180; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁴³⁵ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book S: 228-230, Robert B. Patterson and Amanda (Walpole) Patterson to George W. Stoner, quitclaim deed, 8 February 1871, original instrument not deposited; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁴³⁶ J. Bagur, Ph.D., to Talman Stoner, email, "Re: G. W. Stoner," 11 August 2008; quoting "Louisiana Nurseries," *The (Shreveport, Louisiana) South-Western*, 22 December 1869, page and column not specified; copy supplied by Talman Stoner, Beaverton, Oregon, 2009.

⁴³⁷ 1870 U.S. census, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Shreveport Post Office, p. 398 (stamped, reverse), p. 10 (penned), dwelling 92, family 92, J. M. Samuels in C. C. Ritter household; digital images, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>) : accessed 12 April 2012); NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 508. "Canada West" is synonymous with Upper Canada, one of two provincial bodies that comprised Canada when it became a Dominion of Great Britain in 1867.

⁴³⁸ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Mrs. E. H. Stoner and Husband v. Texas and Pacific R. R. Co., October, 1892, bound transcript of lower court files and evidence, Clerk of Supreme Court's minutes dated 20 October 1892, Shreveport docket no 348, p. 46, George testified that he was born in Kentucky and had an orchard there, time frame unspecified, but the orchard was not used for business purposes; MSS no. 106, Series I.K, Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Archives, Earl K. Long Library, University of New Orleans. Note that the docket number series are unique to the locations where the court held its session and may be redundant with docket numbers of Louisiana Supreme Court trials held in other locations.

⁴³⁹ The provision of land for the first orchards is previously described. Marketing and expansion efforts are cited as they occur.

⁴⁴⁰ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Matilda P. G. Allen, Henry E. Allen, and James S. Allen to John J. Hope and George W. Stoner, warranty deed, 16 November 1870, original authentic act no. 16196; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

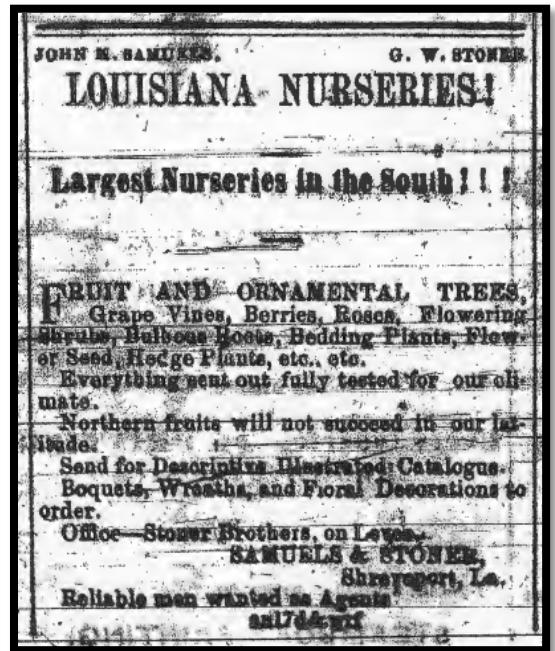


Figure 14. Local Advertisement, Spring 1872

location, George owned 116 acres in full and the remaining 115 acres (250-116-18.91) in half-interest. Part of this land fronted the Shreveport Texas Wagon Road on its south side, and most of it was traversed by the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Railway Company's track.⁴⁴¹

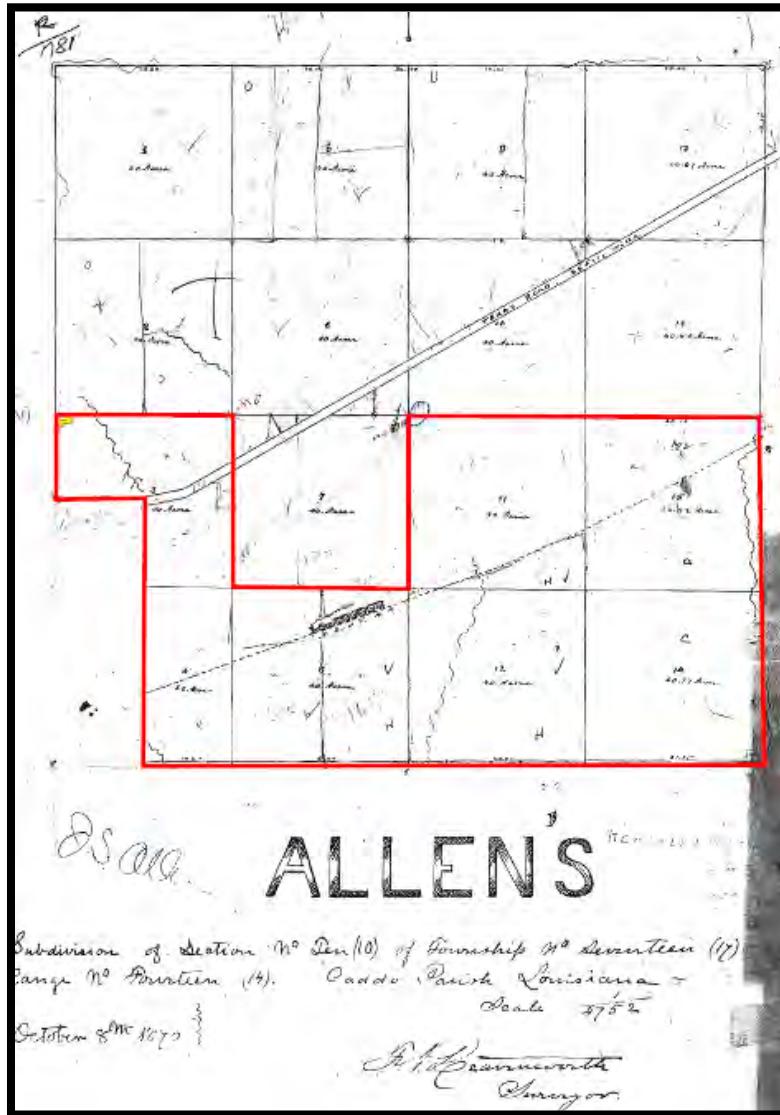


Figure 15. The Jewella Tracts: Outline of Land Purchased by Stoner & Hope, November 1870, T17N-R14W

In the summer of 1871 the "Caddo Race Course" was completed and races began at least annually.⁴⁴² The Caddo Jockey Club chaired by C. S. Lewis met and agreed on 8 January 1872 to form a joint stock company to raise \$25,000 in \$25 dollar shares, with which it announced its intention to purchase and run the Caddo Race Course.⁴⁴³ The course probably fell a collateral victim to the yellow fever

⁴⁴¹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, John J. Hope to George W. Stoner, quitclaim deed, 21 January 1871, original authentic act no. 16347; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Also, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book S: 183-185, G. W. Stoner to John J. Hope, quitclaim deed, 21 January 1871; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁴⁴² *Commercial Directory of the City of Shreveport for the Year 1875*, 4.

⁴⁴³ "Fair Grounds and Race Course," *Daily Shreveport (Louisiana) Times*, 10 January 1872, second page, col. 3, and 11 January 1872, second page, col. 3.

epidemic which hit the city of Shreveport and its environs hard in the fall of 1873, because the Jockey Club had not “kept up.” The *Commercial Directory of the City of Shreveport for the Year 1875* expressed its wish that the club reorganize and resume the annual races.⁴⁴⁴

Stoner, however, sold on 16 September 1871 his *fourth* interest in the Jewella Tracts lying *north* of the “S.P.R.R” [Southern Pacific Railroad] in Lots 11, 12, and 15 (See Figure 15). This land and its improvements was called the “Caddo Race Course.” The acreage was not stated, but a visual estimate of 40–50 acres suffices. The quitclaim was sold for \$3000 in 3 promissory notes due in 12 months from date of sale, one from each of the three buyers.⁴⁴⁵ At this point in time, however, Stoner supposedly owned a 1/2 interest in the property, shared with John J. Hope. Since his wife's 1901 succession did not include any portion of the Race Course property,⁴⁴⁶ George may have previously sold half of his 1/2 interest via an unrecorded transaction, leaving him with the 1/4 interest that he sold on 16 Sep 1871. That George held only 1/4 interest in the property is confirmed in two successive suits he brought against the purchasers in 1872 and 1873 for non-payment of the full amount owed him through their promissory notes. The first suit resulted in the seizure and sale by court-ordered auction of the Caddo Race Course property, the proceeds of which did not fully reimburse Stoner. The second suit filed in November 1873 sought the residual amount owed, with which the court agreed; however, the current case file contents show no subsequent steps beyond the closure of evidence in open court, 24 December 1873, and the protest of the three defendants in January 1874.⁴⁴⁷ We are left to deduce from the absence of further civil suits and conveyances involving Stoner on the matter, the absence of the property's description in George's subsequent tax assessments,⁴⁴⁸ and the absence of the property or outstanding notes receivables from both George's and Lizzie's successions, that his ownership and mortgagor roles ceased in late 1873 or early 1874.

On the same day that George sold his interest in the Caddo Race Course, John J. Hope quitclaimed his half interest in Lot 15 of the Jewella Tracts lying *south* of the railroad right of way and all of Lot 16 to George in exchange for the latter assuming the mortgage obligations on the property, land totaling 66.67 acres. Also included in the transaction was complete title to the land in Lot 3 lying north of the Shreveport and Texas Public Wagon Road, another 18.91 acres. This placed another 85–86 acres of the Jewella Tracts under George's complete ownership. Excluding the Caddo Race Course, at the end of the day George owned all of the land initially acquired jointly with Hope from the Allen Succession ten months earlier.⁴⁴⁹ The land in Lot 3 George then sold on 15 November 1871 to Major F. T. Steward.⁴⁵⁰

1871 marked the start of George and Lizzie's orchard business in the Jewella Tracts and the family's relocation to this site. George and some of his neighbors gave firsthand accounts of its early years in depositions and testimony from two trials:

- George testified in May 1892 that he moved to where he now lives about 19 or 20 years ago. He stated in another part of his deposition that he commenced the orchard business in 1871. His earliest plums were large-sized Chickasaw plums that came

⁴⁴⁴ *Commercial Directory of the City of Shreveport for the Year 1875*, 4.

⁴⁴⁵ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book S: 620–621, George W. Stoner to James Cumpston, John Caldwell, and Daniel J. Dodez, quitclaim deed, 16 September 1871; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁴⁴⁶ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 6913, Succession of Lizzie H. Stoner (1901); Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. The case file contents do not hold a formal inventory document or detailed distribution, but her succession triggered Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 7619, Tutorship of the Minors of Sam M. Stoner (1901), Inventories of 5 July 1902 and 14 April 1903; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Additionally, reconstruction of her holding must take into account Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 11731, Ernest & Early Roy Stoner v. Minors of Sam M. Stoner, Dec'd (1907), Partition, 15 January 1908; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁴⁴⁷ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 10th Judicial District Court case file 8556, G. W. Stoner vs. Caldwell, Cumpston, & Dodez (1872); Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 10th Judicial District Court case file 8822, G. W. Stoner vs. Caldwell, Cumpston, & Dodez (1873); Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. The two suits are further discussed in Katherine Brash Jeter, “A Racing Heritage,” *Louisiana History, the Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association* XXX (Winter 1989): 5–22, specifically 20. The author notes that in the 1873 suit, the court ordered the sale and partition of the property in 1880 with Caldwell and Cumpston, two of Stoner's three original purchasers, being the highest bidders. However, the loose document showing the Sheriff's sale in 1880 was not present in the Clerk of Court's case file contents when examined in 2011, suggesting that the document may have been removed.

⁴⁴⁸ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1877, no folio number, G. W. Stoner entry in alphabetical listing. The land description specifically excluded land north of the railroad line in Lots 11, 12, and 15 of the Allen lands, which was the site of the fairgrounds and race course.

⁴⁴⁹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book S: 623–624 & R: 781, John J. Hope to George W. Stoner, quitclaim deed, 16 September 1871; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁴⁵⁰ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, George W. Stoner to Major F. T. Steward, warranty deed, 15 November 1871, original authentic act no. 16794; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

from the “mother trees” on the Dyer place, owned in 1892 by J. J. Ellis. He tested their ability to handle shipment time while still remaining “in good order” by sending some to the Dallas and Ft. Worth markets, valuing them further because they ripened early in the season. The time frame when he did this is not specifically mentioned. The plum trees of which he spoke had been planted about 10-12 years before the 1891 fire that triggered the suit.⁴⁵¹

- The defendant railroad company noted that Elizabeth “began to establish an orchard of fruit trees four miles west of Shreveport” in its 1892 brief to the Louisiana Supreme Court.⁴⁵²
- A. W. Jewell stated in his 1892 testimony that he had lived at Jewella for the past 22 years and was there about two years before the Stoners arrived there, living on property adjacent to him. Jewell later became an agent for the Pacific Express Company for about ten years, which ended about four or five years previous to his testimony; thus he was an agent about 1878-1888. He handled shipments for Stoner then, averaging about 24 or 25 twenty-four-quart-crates a year with one year reaching “probably fifty” crates. Jewell’s various occupations included a grocery business, a railroad express company agent, running a pump for the railroad, and holding various financial interests in the Woodward and Stoner orchard businesses while he was an express agent.⁴⁵³
- J. T. Lear testified in May 1892 that he had known George ever since he started the orchard [*in Jewella*] and that he “was acquainted with him when he had a nursery at the other place,”⁴⁵⁴ probably alluding to forty acres of the Red River Tracts previously discussed. In an earlier 1883-4 district court trial he stated that he had lived in Shreveport “since the Surrender,” had known of Mr. Stoner’s orchard for about ten years, and that it lay then “about four miles from the river in Shreveport.”⁴⁵⁵
- John Monkhouse testified in May 1892 that he had been in Caddo Parish in the fruit-raising and selling business for the past twenty years and was familiar with the Stoner orchard business. By 1880 he lived in Jewella about a half-mile from the Stoner Orchards. By 1892 Monkhouse himself had orchards holding 6000 trees on about 35 acres, with another 5 acres dedicated to a nursery.⁴⁵⁶

Stoner also advertised his orchard business regionally. A February 1872 ad placed in a Red River County, Texas, newspaper repeated his local claim that Louisiana Nurseries was the largest in the South. By September 1872 the partners had spruced up their advertisements with a more floral motive.⁴⁵⁷

In May 1872, another partnership involving a Stoner surfaced in a local Shreveport newspaper. Brosius and Stoner were creating a map view of Shreveport and collecting subscriptions to support the effort. The success of the venture is unknown, as is Stoner’s identity.⁴⁵⁸

Also in May 1872 George purchased Lot # 18, a 10-acre lot lying in Section 15 of T17N-R14W, from Major F. T. Steward for \$350 cash. Although Section 15 lay directly south of the Jewella Tracts, Lot 18 lies a half mile south of the section line. It formed part of the “Four Mile Spring Place.” Ten and a half years later, Lizzie Stoner sold Lot 18, then described as about ten acres in size, to James Brooks for \$100.⁴⁵⁹ The reason for its purchase and why it was held for more than a decade remains an open question. Perhaps it held a particular grove or stand of older fruit or orchard quality trees that could be used to develop the orchards in the Jewella Tracts.

⁴⁵¹ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 19-56, George W. Stoner deposition. See p. 36 for his move to the Jewella Tracts.

⁴⁵² Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Mrs. E. H. Stoner and Husband v. Texas and Pacific R. R. Co., October, 1892, Brief of Defendant and Appellant (printed), p. 2.

⁴⁵³ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 284-299, A. W. Jewell testimony.

⁴⁵⁴ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 56-69, J. T. Lear testimony.

⁴⁵⁵ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 1476, Mrs. E. H. Stoner vs. Texas & Pacific Railway Company (1884), J. T. Lear testimony; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport. This was a separate earlier case involving the same parties, also triggered by a fire.

⁴⁵⁶ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 137-163, John Monkhouse testimony.

⁴⁵⁷ “Fruits & Flowers for Texas,” *The (Clarksville, Red River County, Texas) Standard*, 17 February 1872, p. 3, col. 5; digital images, “Historical Newspapers,” *GenealogyBank.com* (<http://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 1 November 2011); John’s middle initial “W” in this ad was probably a misprint. “Samuels & Stoner, Louisiana Nurseries,” *The Daily Shreveport Times*, 4 September 1872, third page, col. 3.

⁴⁵⁸ “Local Intelligence,” *The Daily Shreveport Times*, 7 May 1872, second page, col. 3. The map collection held by LSU-S Archives, Noel Memorial Library, was examined in depth at various times 2009–2011. The archives specialize in holdings centered on northwest Louisiana. Other maps appear in this work courtesy of the LSU-S Archives, but none produced under the names Brosius or Stoner were discovered.

⁴⁵⁹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Major F. T. Steward to George W. Stoner, warranty deed, 11 May 1872, original authentic act no. 17417; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Mrs. Lizzie H. Stoner to James Brooks, warranty deed, 8 November 1882, original authentic

George W. Stoner was active in various local civic and political affairs throughout his life. A newly appointed Caddo Parish Police Jury convened on the 3rd of September 1872 at the parish courthouse. The quorum of four nominated and elected G. W. Stoner as President. The principal role of a police jury in Louisiana parishes was not that of a trial jury but as the administrative governing body of the parish. So, for example, the administration and support of the Parish Hospital and the proposal for the construction of a Charity Hospital were key topics at this session.⁴⁶⁰ Earlier attempts to acquire property in support of the Charity Hospital experienced delays, and Louisiana Governor Warmoth appointed a new hospital board in the fall of 1872, naming G. W. Stoner, B. Jacobs, Wm. M. Turner, Jos. Boisseau, and A. H. Leonard. Turner became the board's President and Stoner initially its Secretary.⁴⁶¹ By the board's session on 19 October the Board had grown and altered its makeup, Peter Trezvant becoming Secretary and George its Treasurer, for which he was required to post a security bond. To negotiate and procure \$25,000 in construction bonds for the contract from the Governor, the board authorized Stoner to travel to New Orleans on its behalf. The initial structure faced Oakland Cemetery on Sprague Street. George's role with this hospital apparently ended sometime before 1876 when a different board of directors was appointed.⁴⁶²

By 1873 George's Jewella Tracts formed the bulk of property assessed for his taxes. According to the assessor he held 253 and 1/3 acres valued at \$11,000, comprised of about 200 acres "near [the] Race Track." He also was taxed on horses, mules, and livestock (\$320), carriages and vehicles (\$150), and \$2500 cash invested.⁴⁶³ Recall that at the end of the year the Shreveport locality had just recovered from a yellow fever epidemic and George began to restart his packery in the wake of the 1871-72 meat packing season's disaster. Unfortunately, the 1873-9 economic depression was at hand. The packery did not survive but his fruit and orchard business did.

On 5 July 1874 G. W. Stoner placed a notice in the *Daily Shreveport (Louisiana) Times* that W. E. Embry was acting as his agent for Louisiana Nurseries during his pending absence in the summer.⁴⁶⁴ The planned travel may have been related to the packery business, the bond procurement for the Charity Hospital, or perhaps it involved a visit to Lizzie's or his family—Lizzie would have been expecting her next child, Early Roy Stoner, who was born in October 1874,⁴⁶⁵ and George's mother was widowed and still living.⁴⁶⁶

By 1 December 1875, the nursery business was apparently in full swing—the firm reportedly sold 12,000 fruit trees to E. M. Brown of Nacogdoches County, Texas.⁴⁶⁷ The *Commercial Directory of the City of Shreveport for the Year 1875* carried a full page advertisement for G. W. Stoner, "Proprietor of the Louisiana Nurseries." In the "Addenda" under subheading "Nurseries" appears "Louisiana Nurseries—G. W. Stoner ... Texas Road."⁴⁶⁸

More friends and neighbors gave glimpses of the Stoners' and others' fruit orchard businesses in or near the Jewella Tracts in the mid to late 1870s.

- Luke Wade, who stated he had been living near Jewella since about 1871-2, testified in 1884 that he had been in the Stoner's employ for the past nine to ten years.⁴⁶⁹

act no. 25980; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book S:197, F. A. Leavenworth, Surveyor, map of portions of Sections 9, 10 and 15, T17N-R14W, known as the Four Mile Spring Place, 16 December 1870, recorded 26 January 1871, b&w, scale 1 inch = 7920 inches (660 feet); Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport; this map has not been scanned.

⁴⁶⁰ "Proceedings of the Police Jury," *The Daily Shreveport Times*, 4 September 1872, second page, col. 3.

⁴⁶¹ "The Shreveport Charity Hospital," *The Daily Shreveport Times*, 4 September 1872, second page, col. 2.

⁴⁶² "The Shreveport Charity Hospital," *The Daily Shreveport Times*, 11 September 1872, second page, col. 4. "Proceedings of the Hospital Board," *The Daily Shreveport Times*, 20 October 1872, first page, col. 6. Maude Hearn O'Pry, *Chronicles of Shreveport* (reprint 1978, no place: privately printed, 1928), 264. A fuller history of the Charity Hospital appears in 264-266.

⁴⁶³ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1873, folio 76. George's remaining acreage was erroneously described as being in T17N-R13W. The correct township is T18N-R13W. The cash "invested" column probably represents money loaned at interest.

⁴⁶⁴ "Notice," *The Daily Shreveport Times*, 5 July 1874, third page, col. 4.

⁴⁶⁵ George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828-1901, Early Roy Stoner birth, 3 or 30 October 1874.

⁴⁶⁶ Hawthorne, "The Stoner Family," 552 for deaths of George's father "Michael Lower Stoner" and mother "Katheryn Frances Emerson."

⁴⁶⁷ "State News, Nacogdoches County," *Galveston (Texas) Daily News*, 1 December 1875, second page, col. 5; digital images, *Galveston Daily News* (Galveston, Texas) database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>) : accessed 5 August 2011).

⁴⁶⁸ *Commercial Directory of the City of Shreveport for the Year 1875* (Shreveport, Louisiana: Shreveport Time Print, 1875), 62, unpaginated page following p. 70.

⁴⁶⁹ Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case file 1476, Stoner vs. Texas & Pacific, 1884, Luke Wade testimony.

- Pete Palmer began working for the Stoners about 1875 and was still doing so at the time of his May 1892 testimony. He principally worked in the nursery, and he grafted and sold fruit.⁴⁷⁰
- O. C. Carr lived a half mile from the Stoners near Jewella. His primary business was vegetables. He planted his first Caddo Chief plum tree in 1875 when he was given a tree from his friend Dyer.⁴⁷¹
- Madison Miles, aged 36 in 1892, worked on Lizzie's orchard from 1874 for 12 years, and helped propagate the "mother trees" on Dyer's place to Mrs. Stoner's orchard beginning in 1877.⁴⁷² He was referring to a Chickasaw plum variety that the local community called a Caddo Chief Plum.
- J. J. Ellis testified in May 1892 that he had lived on the Dyer place since 1878, and that he eventually acquired ownership of it.⁴⁷³
- John Bond lived in Jewella, adjacent to one of Stoner's orchards, since about 1874. His own orchard totaled 1/2 to 3/4 acre in size as of 1892.⁴⁷⁴
- Geo. L Woodward began living in Jewella area about 1876. He been in Caddo Parish since about 1843. Woodward stated that Stoner's whole place comprised 156 acres in 1892.⁴⁷⁵ Woodward was probably referring only to Stoner's Jewella Tracts.
- Frank Hicks testified that he moved into the Jewella area in the fall of 1878 and remained there until about 1890. He held about thirty-five acres, ten of those in orchards.⁴⁷⁶

The Dyers and Stoners were also associated in another capacity—philanthropy. Sophronia (Godey) Dyer, wife of D. Henry Dyer, donated from her separate property an acre of land for the "promotion of Education and the moral and Religious Sentiment of the community in which she resides." She made the donation to three trustees George W. Stoner, Alva W. Jewell, and D. Henry Dyer in February 1877. The square acre lies in T17N-R14W, in the southeast quarter touching the line between sections 9 and 10. It is possible that this land may have been inadvertently disposed of during the succession of Mrs. Sophronia Dyer, or by one of the other trustees, as George purchased what is believed to be the same one acre lot from Lewis E. Carter on 9 January 1885 for the very low price of ten dollars.⁴⁷⁷ George later donated the land and school, known as the Jewella Schoolhouse, to be used for public school purposes, to the Caddo Parish School Board in November 1900. George signed the document as the "Trustee for Jewella Schoolhouse."⁴⁷⁸ The schoolhouse lay adjacent to George's Jewella Tracts. His connection with its history suggests that some of his younger children—perhaps Ernest and Early Roy Stoner—attended school there.

George continued to buy land parcels in the region surrounding his Jewella Tracts. One half mile due east of the Jewella Tracts' northeastern corner lay a parcel of land sold to George W. Stoner by William and Robert Cain for \$400 cash on 15 April 1879. It consisted of several small, adjacent parcels totaling about 11.4 acres, in Sections 2 and 11 of T17N-R14W. The land was bounded on the north by the Shreveport Texas Wagon Road, subsequently named Greenwood Road, and on the south by the train track associated with the Vicksburg, Shreveport, & Texas Railroad, running roughly parallel to it. This land stayed in the family for almost three years,

⁴⁷⁰ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 97–108, Pete Palmer testimony.

⁴⁷¹ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 269–273, O. C. Carr testimony.

⁴⁷² Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 70–75, Madison Miles testimony.

⁴⁷³ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 75–82, J. J. Ellis testimony.

⁴⁷⁴ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 267–269, John Bond testimony.

⁴⁷⁵ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 226–233, Geo. L. Woodward testimony. Note out-of-order transcribed page numbers carefully—page 224 is followed in the binding by 226, 225, and then 227 in that order. Woodward's testimony starts on 226 skips the page labeled 225, and continues on 227.

⁴⁷⁶ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 186–193, Frank Hicks' testimony.

⁴⁷⁷ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Lewis E. Carter to George W. Stoner, warranty deed, 9 January 1885, original authentic act no. 27683; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. The Dyer succession has not been researched to verify the disposal, but a comparison connects the land description of this conveyance to the 1877 donation.

⁴⁷⁸ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Geo. W. Stoner to Caddo Parish Board of School Directors, donation, 16 November 1900, original authentic act no. 46863; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. The land descriptions described in this document and the original 1877 donation do not match perfectly—the 1900 acre lies directly south of the 1877 acre—but the 1900 conveyance clearly references the 1877 conveyance while describing George as the "donee trustee." The acre intended in 1900 was clearly the one received in 1877. A single error in the surveyed land description can account for the platted difference.

being sold to Louis Romagosa on Christmas Eve 1881 for \$600 in cash and promissory notes.⁴⁷⁹ Today this site is found directly south of Greenwood Road opposite the main U. S. Post Office. Why George purchased the land is unknown. For future reference hereinafter these parcels are designed as Stoner's Greenwood Tracts.

1879 brought some bumps in the family history's road. In April a hail storm destroyed Lizzie's peach trees. She then started plum trees of the Chickasaw variety, according to her civil suit opponent the Texas & Pacific Railroad.⁴⁸⁰ Sometime before September, George became ill and the family retreated together to the mountains in Arkansas for four months seeking his recovery. The particulars were given by George himself in a letter written to Dr. J. B. Martin on Louisiana Nurseries' printed letterhead.⁴⁸¹ The timing of the family's presence in Arkansas in 1879 is another possible research avenue with respect to son Sam Stoner's history—were George's reasons for the Arkansas trip completely medical in nature?

The U. S. nonpopulation census schedule for 1880 Caddo Parish more or less brings together the principal agricultural contributions of the Jewella Tracts, the Red River Tracts, and smaller tracts for G. W. Stoner. The enumerator made the following entries: 360 acres of land, 350 of which were improved, and 90 of the latter were cultivated but untilled (e.g., orchards, permanent meadows, pastures). The enumerator listed the farm's land, fencing, and buildings at \$3500, farming implements and machines at \$50, and livestock at \$450. Other specifics given were: four horses, three mules, two milk cows, five head of cattle, and two hogs. In 1879 he had planted forty acres in Indian corn which yielded 300 bushels, and 60 acres in oats yielding 250 bushels. With respect to his orchards, the census enumerator entered for 1879 production 8[or 5?] acres containing 1500 apple bearing trees and 20 acres holding 3000 peach bearing trees. Of market garden produce, Stoner reported \$2200 worth sold in 1879. In summary, if the 1 June 1880 figures are accurate, about 26% of Stoner's 350 improved acres comprised orchards and pasture, with the remainder used for farm crops and garden produce. Strikingly, no enumeration was made of the number of bushels of either apples or peaches produced from these trees.⁴⁸²

The 1879 hail storm, described firsthand in more detail by George Stoner and Pete Palmer, helps explain why. George previously had lost plum trees to a fire, planting peach trees in their place, but these were destroyed in April 1879 by a "cyclone and hail storm." Pete Palmer confirmed the initiation of a new plum orchard as some time in 1880, "some time since the hail storm that destroyed the orchards entirely." During the process of recovery, Stoner had his men set 1-2 year old plum trees out year by year, not all at once. The oldest trees eventually bore fruit for the eight years preceding Pete's testimony in 1891.⁴⁸³ George's and Pete's testimony of total destruction could be exaggerated, but it is consistent with the 1880 census' absence of orchard products for the agricultural year 1879.⁴⁸⁴

G. W. Stoner and his wife Elizabeth also appeared in the 1880 population census schedule for Caddo Parish. George's children appeared as follows: Sam, 20, born in Texas; Sterling, 13, born in Kentucky; and Ernest and Early, born in Louisiana, ages 9 and 6 respectively. Relative to the 1870 reported census household, Martin appeared in 1880 listed by the name Sterling, which corresponded with his birth entry in George W. Stoner Family Bible. Sallie, who died in 1873 during the yellow fever epidemic, did not appear, as expected. Of the two children born to Lizzie in the 1870s and therefore not present in the 1870 census household, George Wilson Stoner and Early Roy Stoner, only the latter was enumerated. George Wilson Stoner's death is inferred by his 1880 household absence.⁴⁸⁵ Also enumerated in the household were Agnes Nicklas, a Scots-born girl of 12, and nurseryman Charles Chapman, age 21

⁴⁷⁹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Robert and William Cain to George W. Stoner, warranty deed, 15 April 1879, original authentic act no. 22737; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Mrs. Lizzie H. Stoner to Louis Romagosa, warranty deed, 24 December 1881, original authentic act no. 25175; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁴⁸⁰ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, Brief of Defendant and Appellant, 3.

⁴⁸¹ G. W. Stoner to J. D. Martin, letter, 15 September 1879; Edward & Benjamin Jacobs Papers, Collection No. 140, Box 1, Folder #22; LSUS Archives and Special Collections, Noel Memorial Library, Shreveport, Louisiana; the stationary's letterhead reads "Louisiana Nurseries, G. W. Stoner, Proprietor." The letter is partially reproduced on the cover of the Phase 2 Reports.

⁴⁸² 1880 U.S. census, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, "Louisiana 1880 Nonpopulation Agricultural Schedules: Ascension–Claiborne Parishes," enumeration district (ED) 19, p. 9 (penned), G. W. Stoner; NARA microfilm publication T1136, roll 9.

⁴⁸³ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 19-56, George W. Stoner testimony, and 97-108, Pete Palmer testimony.

⁴⁸⁴ A careful reading of the preprinted 1880 census agricultural schedule calls for agricultural produce marketed in 1879, not 1880.

⁴⁸⁵ When newspapers of this region and timeframe are eventually and fully digitized, George Wilson Stoner's death may surface. The few newspapers of the area that are digitized in the Library of Congress' "Chronicling America" series did not yield clues.

born in Mississippi.⁴⁸⁶ Chapman would later serve as a witness to one of George W. Stoner's most important conveyances, but no familial relationship between the two men has surfaced in records reported in this work.

1880 and 1881 Caddo Parish tax assessment records for G. W. Stoner correlated with his known land acquisitions in the parish, namely the Red River Tracts, Jewella Tracts, Greenwood Tracts, and a ten acre parcel he bought in Section 15 south of the Jewella Tracts. His 1881 assessments included \$4500 for land, \$275 for horses, mules, and livestock, and \$100 for carriages and wagons.⁴⁸⁷ In 1882, however, George disappeared from the assessment rolls.

George left the tax rolls and Mrs. E. H. Stoner took his place for the same property beginning in the 1882 tax year. How this came about is unique to the requirements of the Louisiana Civil Code and the history of the family leading up to the transition.

George transferred ownership of all his real and personal property to his wife Lizzie H. Stoner, whose separate or “paraphernal” property had been inherited from her father, Samuel B. Wilson, formerly of Kentucky, and then used by George in accordance with provisions of the Louisiana Civil Code at the time.⁴⁸⁸ The private act executed by George restored Lizzie’s separate property. A private act is one prepared outside the immediate presence of a notary or authorized parish official. Geo. S. Copes and Chas T. Chapman witnessed the private act conveyance. Both witnesses then acknowledged the free will and act of George Stoner before the deputy parish recorder. By this act, George no longer owned any real or personal property in the state of Louisiana. By law, however, Lizzie still would need either his or a judge’s approval to dispose of what was now her own separate property.⁴⁸⁹ Thus readers must not over-interpret Lizzie’s post-1881 sales of land as being owned in full or part by George even though his signature appears in the document or as part of the document’s title. Following this conveyance, then, Lizzie legally owned—separately and completely—the Red River Tracts, Jewella Tracts, Greenwood Tracts, and the 10-acre parcel in Section 15, T17N-R14W. A complete transcript of the conveyance appears on the next page.

⁴⁸⁶ 1880 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch., p. 51, ED 19, dwell. 603, fam. 603, G. W. Stoner household.

⁴⁸⁷ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1880, folio 99; 1881, folio 103.

⁴⁸⁸ Dainow, ed., 1972 Compiled Edition of the Civil Codes of Louisiana, 17: 57–62, Articles 2383–2391, Louisiana Revised Civil Code of 1870. With the exception of Article 2386, which was amended by the Louisiana Legislature, Acts of 1871, no. 87, the 1870 articles applied to the Stoners in 1881. In particular, Articles 2384 – 5 describe the conditions under which husband is allowed to “manage” his wife separate property; and Article 2391 gives the wife a right of action against her husband for the restitution of her paraphernal property.

⁴⁸⁹ Dainow, ed., 1972 Compiled Edition of the Civil Codes of Louisiana, 17: 65, Article 2397, Louisiana Revised Civil Code of 1870, applied.

Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Restitution and Accounting of Paraphernal Property

George W. Stoner to Lizzie H. Stoner, 17 December 1881

Original instrument no. 25158, filed and recorded 17 December 1881

Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport

Reverse side of folded document reads "Sale of Real and Personal Property"

Document is an original handwritten and signed private act restoring paraphernal funds (separate property) to grantor's wife. The private act was then acknowledged separately before the deputy parish clerk, and deposited the same day with the deputy parish recorder. The clerk of court's transcript appears in Conveyance Book Z: 530–531, the typescript appearing to be a second or third generation re-recording of the clerk's original recording. Transcript prepared by P. B. Adderley, CG, Shreveport, Louisiana, 1 July 2012.

"

[Instrument no.] 25158

State of Louisiana}

Parish of Caddo }

Know all men, by these presents that I, G. W. Stoner, considering myself to be of sound mind and a correct idea of justice do hereby sell, transfer and deliver unto my wife Lizzie H. Stoner all of my property, both real and personal of every description in said parish and state. To have and to hold unto her and her heirs and assigns forever. This transfer is made to reimburse and return to her, my said wife, the amount of paraphernal funds received by her from the succession of her father Samuel B. Wilson, formerly of the State of Kentucky [*overwriting an illegible word*][,] and expended and used by me since our marriage, amounting to the sum of ten thousand dollars for which I have never accounted to her.

Done and signed on this the 17th December 1881.

G. W. Stoner

Attest

G. S. Copes,

Chas[.] T. Chapman

State of Louisiana}

Parish of Caddo }

Before me the undersigned authority personally appeared George S. Cope and Chas. T. Chapman whose names appear signed to [the foregoing] act as witnesses, who upon [being?] sworn depose and say that they saw G. W. Stoner sign the foregoing act, and that they signed it as witnesses in each others [presence] on the day and date therein [one word illegible][.]

Geo S Copes
Chas T. Chapman

Sworn to and subscribed [two or three illegible words] on this the 17th day of [December] A D 1881.

F. A. Leonard, Deputy [Clerk]
& Ex officio Deputy [Recorder]"

George's 1881 conveyance to his wife Lizzie contains important direct and indirect evidence of relationships, locations, and events. Furthermore, where the conveyance's information associated with corresponding information in the George W. Stoner Family Bible, there were no conflicts:

- George was married to Lizzie H. Stoner.
- Lizzie was the daughter of Samuel B. Wilson, "formerly of the State of Kentucky."
- Based up on the value inherited by Lizzie Wilson, her father was presumably a man of means when he died.

- The phrase “formerly of the State of Kentucky” suggests that Samuel did not die there, or at the time the instrument was signed that he no longer lived there.
- The term “succession” applied to Wilson’s estate suggests he might have died in Louisiana, as the term is closely associated with Louisiana’s Civil Code, as opposed to the common law used in other states.⁴⁹⁰ On the other hand Samuel’s death might have occurred outside of Louisiana, and George chose to express Lizzie’s inheritance clothed in the formality of the Louisiana Civil Code for legal purposes.
- Wilson pre-deceased the 1881 conveyance, perhaps as early as the couple’s first presence in Louisiana, as time was presumably needed for George to put his wife Lizzie’s \$10,000 inheritance to work.
- The witnesses’ relationships with George or Lizzie as potential kin remain unresolved; however, a Charles Chapman was present in George W. Stoner’s 1880 census household.⁴⁹¹

George’s restitution of his wife’s separate property was not a superficial act. 1882 tax assessors clearly show Mrs. E. H. Stoner being taxed for the same property as her husband in previous years.⁴⁹² Moreover, she would execute several conveyances of the land now in her possession in her own right over the next two decades, as well as instituting crucial civil suits against the railroads operating in their rights of way through her property.

George apparently held separate funds of his own or income from separately owned property, as he continued to acquire land, make leases, etc. It is also conceivable that Lizzie fronted her own funds for several of George’s pending actions.

For \$60 cash George acquired at a Sheriff’s Sale roughly 50 acres in the east half of Section 9 in T17N-R14E north of the Shreveport-Marshall (Texas) Wagon Road and south of the Texas & Pacific Railroad. A gap exists between the two described parcels, as the railroad is south of the wagon road on maps examined in that period.⁴⁹³ Both parcels, however, adjoin the Jewella Tracts’ western edge and are henceforth considered part of it. George acquired this land as a result of an unpaid promissory note issued to him for \$481.75 at 8% interest dated 5 February 1877 and due same day in 1881. By February 1881 Mrs. Dyer was a non-resident of the state and her husband who authorized his wife’s promissory note had died. Only the amount of land needed to satisfy the debt was seized to satisfy the judgment.⁴⁹⁴

An interesting civil suit in January 1884 shed further light about George Stoner’s early presence in the Red River Tracts and captured a change in George’s firm’s letterhead. J. W. Broxon leased George’s “yellow house near where the old Packery was below Shreveport” and all the land associated with house for the year 1883 for \$100 in four promissory notes of \$25. Broxon was entitled to take \$15 off the rent if he built a cistern 10 feet deep and 7 feet across. The lease agreement was signed by both parties on George’s letterhead on 13 January 1883, the document of which was submitted as evidence and survives in the case file. The pre-printed letterhead reads “Louisiana Nurseries, G. W. Stoner, Proprietor, Shreveport, La.,” and a clause “Catalogue Sent on application.” Broxon sub-leased the house to Dr. J. S. Smith for \$50. George brought suit in the Justice of the Peace court in Ward 4 against Broxon in 1884 for non-payment and successfully persuaded the court to seize moveable property present on the premises to satisfy the judgment. However, in the course of doing so, the court seized two cords of wood, a wagon, and a cart belonging to Dr. Smith, who promptly “intervened” in the case to reclaim his property. The appeal was filed in the 1st Judicial District Court for Caddo Parish, and the court found for Smith, directing the lower court to annul and reverse its decision. During the course of the suit George took pains to address the court on slightly different letterhead regarding Dr. Smith’s pending deposition. The handwriting and signature are consistent with that of the

⁴⁹⁰ The author has also seen the term “succession” used in Texas research. Texas has a legal tradition influenced by Spanish civil law traditions. Texas, California, and other states having a Spanish and hence civil law heritage may have legal traditions based upon community property concepts found in civil law.

⁴⁹¹ 1880 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch., p. 51, ED 19, dwell. 603, fam. 603, Charles Chapman, age 21, b. Mississippi.

⁴⁹² Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1882 and 1883, folio numbers are illegible but entries for Mrs. E. H. Stoner carry general land descriptions previously associated with her husband George. No entries appear for G. W. Stoner.

⁴⁹³ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 1: 647-648, Sophronia Dyer to G. W. Stoner, sheriff’s sale and warranty deed, 1 April 1882; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport.

⁴⁹⁴ The 50 acre estimate is based upon visual examination of old survey maps of the township. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 522, G. W. Stoner vs. Mrs. Sophronia Dyer (1881); Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport. Disposition of all but about 9 acres occurred before George W. Stoner’s succession in 1907, not all of which has been accounted for in indexed conveyance records.

George W. Stoner who bought land in the Red River Tracts and the Jewella Tracts. The different letterhead he used this time, 8 December 1884, reads, “Louisiana Nurseries and Fruit Orchards, G. W. Stoner, Proprietor, Jewella, Caddo Parish, La.” [emphasis added] The case file also contains genealogical information about Dr. Smith, who deposed that he traveled widely in 1883, to Missouri on account of some land, to Little Rock, Arkansas to visit family, and to New Orleans to visit his unnamed daughter. He was a medical doctor, apparently, because he claimed that Broxon sold about \$200 worth of medicine on Smith’s behalf “in river country,” and additional medicine and books were stored in the rented house at the time.⁴⁹⁵ The yellow house on the Red River “near where the old Packery was” was possibly the Stoner’s homestead for the first few years of its presence in Louisiana, until the family removed to the Jewella Tracts.

MRS. E. H. STONER V. TEXAS & PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY, ROUND 1, 1884.

On 11 September 1883 Harry Spencer, then aged eleven to twelve years old, and his companion John Green witnessed a one to one and a half foot long, burning chunk of wood thrown from the engine of an eastbound Texas & Pacific Railway train into the dry grass along its right of way after it had passed the Jewella Station. At the time it was crossing through orchards owned by Lizzie Stoner on both sides of the right of way. The grass caught fire and spread south about thirty three feet to a hedge previously established by G. W. Stoner, running parallel to the right of way, which had been placed there to not only limit access by stray livestock, but also presumably to hinder thieves, tramps, and “footmen.” The hedge had been planted and in successive years cultivated and tied to a skeleton fence to aid its development. The fire burned along the hedge for 600–1200 feet, estimates of actual length and extent of damage varying with testimony. It broke through in several spots, spreading into Mrs. Stoner’s orchards lying south of the right-of-way, killing a wide variety of trees “in orchard:” Italian Chestnut, English Walnut, apple, pecan, peach, cherry, wild goose plum, and California Privet trees. It also killed about 152 apple tree nursery stock, which was defined by one witness as tree stock about 1-2 years old.

The boys tried to put out the fire in its early stages and failed. Harry ran and reported it to Mr. Stoner, who dispatched workers to put it out. Luke Wade and Steward A. Jewell were in Stoner’s employ. Jewell lived on Stoner’s place and Wade lived nearby. They assessed the damage for Stoner at his request, Luke noting at the time that Mr. Stoner was “feeble” and not able to walk a half mile.

On 30 September 1883 a second fire allegedly started by the Texas & Pacific Railway Company in its right of way spread to and destroyed about seven to eight acres of pasture grass, and George had to hire several men to put it out.

Mrs. Elizabeth H. Stoner, with the assistance and authorization of her husband G. W. Stoner, petitioned the court for damages by both fires against the Texas & Pacific Railway Company on 29 December 1883. Witnesses for the plaintiff included Spencer, Green, Wade, and Jewell, previously discussed; and Ben Smith, L. G. Snell, and J. T. Lear. Witnesses for the railway company were S. H. Spangler, deposed in Harrison County, Texas; two other railway company employees M. McDonagh and Bailey Scott; and an A. Currie, who had known Stoner “some 8 or 10 years.” Principal arguments revolved around the extent of damages and repairs needed, and to a far lesser extent the fire’s causes.

J. T. Lear’s testimony was particularly interesting. He had lived in Shreveport “since the Surrender,” and that, “the premises [George Stoner’s Jewella Tracts] are used for a nursery and orchard and have been for years.” He stated he had known Stoner’s orchard for about ten years, and that it had been “moderately cultivated for the last 4 or 5 years.” Presumably because Lear was a gardener by occupation with experience in horticulture, George invited Lear to his place on an unspecified Sunday several months after the fire to assess the extent to which the hedge fence was still damaged or recovering. His testimony dealt in part with what would be required to restore or repair it. Lear’s visit included a midday “dinner” of mutton, mashed potatoes, bacon, buttermilk, and biscuit.

The jury found for Mrs. Stoner, awarding \$368 in damages plus 5% annual interest from the 7 January 1884 date of judicial demand.⁴⁹⁶

⁴⁹⁵ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 1463, G. W. Stoner vs. J. W. Broxon (1883); Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport.

⁴⁹⁶ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 1476, Mrs. E. H. Stoner v. Texas & Pacific Railway Company (1884); Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport.

For the remainder of the decade, extent records documenting the Stoners' lives focused upon their orchards and nurseries with occasional reference to friends, neighbors, and other interests that surfaced in the period.

George and Lizzie began shipping fruit to Texas markets as early as 1883. The Ft. Worth firm of Zeller and Stanley received plum shipments from Geo. W. Stoner from Jewella, principally in the years 1883 or 1884. Stanley deposed (in 1892) that Stoner's plum trees were quite young and had just begun to bear fruit at that time. The size of the shipment was estimated at 240–480 quarts of plums and came by way of the Texas & Pacific Railway Company using the Texas Express Company or the Pacific Express Company. One clue as to the preference for the Caddo Chief Plum was that it ripened earlier and that it was suitable for both cooking and eating.⁴⁹⁷

By May 1884, George Stoner's success as a nurseryman was evident. The local Shreveport daily newspaper touted him: "The pioneer and most successful fruit grower of this section of the state is, no doubt, our friend Col. G. W. Stoner, whose attractive home and well laid fields are the admiration of every one." The article's author reported that Stoner had just shipped the first Simpson Early peaches of the season by the Pacific express company, and that the peaches had been tried for the previous two years alongside six other varieties in his "extensive orchard." On the day of the article, George was in the process of shipping addition peaches to Fort Worth by rail, and that shipments to other destination markets in Texas, such as Dallas, were planned.⁴⁹⁸

In November 1884 George paid \$80 cash for fifteen acres in the northeast quarter of Section 16 in T17N-R14W. It was located less than a half mile southwest of the Jewella Tracts and part of the succession of Mrs. Sophronia Dyer. The land had been owned by the Dyers since they bought it from R. H. Parker on 26 April 1870. George sold this land to James J. Jackson and Alfred Dickson on 22 February 1887.⁴⁹⁹ Although George and Lizzie Stoner had a long association with the Dyers as neighbors, no unique connections between the Stoners, Jackson and Dickson have been established. The size and cost of the land involved and its relative timing compared to other land transactions do not suggest land speculation, so one hypothesis is that Jackson and Dickson were or perhaps had been employed by Stoner.

In addition to George serving as the Trustee for the Jewella School, the Stoner family also contributed land for religious causes. Lizzie donated one acre in extreme southeast quarter of the Jewella Tracts to the trustees of the Midway Baptist Church in consideration of "the regard she has for such purposes" on 5 December 1884.⁵⁰⁰ The following May an article appeared in the *Shreveport (Louisiana) Times* describing the organizational meeting of a "Midway Church," at which a Confederate veteran the Rev. Mr. Loftus gave the inaugural sermon.⁵⁰¹ The description of the church's location could not be confirmed as that matching the land donated by Lizzie, but this church is a candidate for her benevolence.⁵⁰²

New neighbors who would eventually testify in Lizzie's 1892 suit against the Texas & Pacific Railroad surfaced in the mid-1880s.

- About 1884, neighbor S. H. Sibly bought ninety three acres, living three quarters of a mile east of "Judge Stoner." In his testimony he mentioned other neighbors, such as the (unnamed) father of W. T. Suell[?], and A. W. Jewell.⁵⁰³
- Walter Monkhouse acquired his own place in the Jewella area about 1884 and continued in the fruit orchard and nursery business first established by his father. By 1892 Walter had 15–18 acres in orchard and about 100 Caddo Chief plums, and that they had begun to bear at about four years of age.⁵⁰⁴

⁴⁹⁷ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 4–10, Stanley deposition.

⁴⁹⁸ "Jewella," *The Daily Shreveport Times*, 29 May 1884, fourth page, col. 2.

⁴⁹⁹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Succession of Mrs. Sophronia Dyer to George W. Stoner, warranty deed, 24 November 1884, original authentic act no. 27565; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Also, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, George W. Stoner to James J. Jackson and Alfred Dickson, warranty deed, 22 February 1887, original authentic act no. 30027; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁵⁰⁰ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Mrs. Lizzie H. Stoner to Trustees of Midway Baptist church, donation, 5 December 1884, original authentic act no. 27593; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁵⁰¹ "Midway Church," *The Shreveport Times*, 31 May 1885, p. 4, col. 2.

⁵⁰² A reasonably exhaustive title search of previous owners of the property has not been conducted by the author.

⁵⁰³ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, Brief of Defendant and Appellant, 3; also bound transcript, 213–233, S. H. Sibley testimony.

⁵⁰⁴ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 163–186, Walter F. Monkhouse testimony. [His father John Monkhouse also testified in this suit, cited separately.]

On 5 August 1885 Lizzie prepared her last will and testament in advance of a planned trip to Kentucky. She left all her property to "my husband G. W. Stoner," indicating that she had "friends & relatives in Kentucky & Tenn[essee]." Witnesses were Anna Jewell and Lucy Steward. The will was proved and marked "ne varietur" [Latin for "it must not be altered"]⁵⁰⁵ by District Judge A. D. Land on 25 February 1901. Although Lizzie desired that all of her possessions be inherited by her husband, the law prevented her from disposing of the portion of her estate reserved by law to her "forced heirs," in this case her legitimate children and their descendants.⁵⁰⁶ The will was in the form classified under Louisiana Civil Code as an "olographic" testament—entirely written, dated, and signed by the hand of the testator.⁵⁰⁷ The witnesses appeared to be female. As such they were legally incapable of being witnesses to testaments in that time period. This by itself did not render the testament null and void, since Louisiana law did not require an oligraphic testament to be witnessed at the time it was prepared. The process of proving the will required two credible witnesses at the time of probating the will,⁵⁰⁸ which are discussed later in the narrative. Her will is transcribed below:

Lizzie H. Stoner, Olographic Testament, Jewella, Caddo Parish, Louisiana

Prepared 5 August 1885, Proved 25 February 1901

Original instrument deposited in District Court case file no. 6913, Succession of Lizzie H. Stoner, 25 February 1901

Also recorded in Caddo Parish Conveyance Book 26: 603, 25 February 1901

Original instrument and conveyance book in Caddo Parish Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport, Louisiana

Original document is an olographic testament meeting requirements of Louisiana Revised Civil Code of 1870. The clerk of court's recording in Conveyance Book 26: 603 is not an accurate transcript—the typescript appearing to be a second or third generation re-recording of the clerk's original recording. Transcript prepared by P. B. Adderley, CG, Shreveport, La., 1 July 2012, using the original will passed before District Judge A. D. Land.

Ne varietur [4-line judge's order "It must not be altered" overwrites will at a 30 degree angle from vertical; placed in the upper left corner and in the lower right corner of the testament]
February 25th 1901

A. D. Land
District Judge

This [sic] Jewella[,] Caddo Parish[,] La[.]

This ~~instr~~ [word crossed out] instrument of writing is for the Purpose of recording that as I am about to take a Long Trip visiting friends & relatives in Kentucky & Tenn & as there ["there" overwrites an illegible word] is always danger of dying either by accident or otherwise, I wish this as my Last Will and Testament & as my husband G. W. Stoner have [sic] together accumulated all we have of property of every kind, It is my Will that all of my Property of every kind shall be his to divide & otherwise do with as he may think proper.

This the 5th day of August 1885[.]

Lizzie H. Stoner

Attest
Anna Jewell
Lucy Steward

Lizzie and George began to divest themselves of their property in the Red River Tracts on 21 June 1886. Lizzie sold to John C. Wimbish the 20 acres previously acquired by her husband George and Robert Patterson from John Dickinson in 1869, and which had formed half of George's first nursery. This land was subsequently acquired by Allendale Heights Co. Ltd., and partitioned in a May 1904 Survey into 126, roughly 35x125 foot lots as part of what was called then the Wimbish Subdivision. By 1904 this land lay within the Shreveport city limits.⁵⁰⁹

⁵⁰⁵ Henry Campbell Black, *Black's Law Dictionary*, 4th ed. (St. Paul, Minnesota: West Publishing Co., 1968), 1181.

⁵⁰⁶ Dainow, ed., 1972 *Compiled Edition of the Civil Codes of Louisiana*, 16: 851–853, Articles 1493 and 1495 of the Louisiana Revised Civil Code of 1870.

⁵⁰⁷ Dainow, ed., 1972 *Compiled Edition of the Civil Codes of Louisiana*, 16: 908, Article 1588 of the Louisiana Revised Civil Code of 1870.

⁵⁰⁸ Dainow, ed., 1972 *Compiled Edition of the Civil Codes of Louisiana*, 16: 910, 946, Articles 1591 and 1655 of the Louisiana Revised Civil Code of 1870. Article 1591 continued barring women witnesses until modification by Louisiana Legislature, Acts of 1908, no. 30.

⁵⁰⁹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Mrs. Lizzie H. Stoner to John C. Wimbish, warranty deed, 8 April 1886, original authentic act no. 28826; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Shreveport, Louisiana, "Wimbish Subdiv's," May 1904, b & w survey map, 100 feet = 1 inch when viewed at full scale; Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 33:770; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

Her next sale to W. P. Belcher occurred on 1 November 1889 when she sold 2.12 acres in the extreme southwest corner of Section 32 in the Red River Tracts.⁵¹⁰ This was the first disposal of land in the remaining 20-acre half of George's first nursery.

George served in two other civic and cultural capacities before the century ended, as chairman of the local fair association, as an officer of a regional historical society, and as a petitioner representing the citizens of his ward:

- Fairs sponsored by various organizations, such as the Caddo Jockey Club previously mentioned, had been a staple of the countryside for a few years, but the organization that chartered the fairs in the Shreveport vicinity from 1877 to 1906 was known as the North Louisiana Agricultural and Mechanical Fair Association. G. W. Stoner reportedly served as the association's temporary chairman at its inception. Its first chartered fair occurred under the title "The Louisiana State Fair and Shreveport Exposition." Some of the fairs were advertised under different titles, such as "The First Annual Fair of the North Louisiana Agricultural and Mechanical Fair Association," which ran 10–13 November 1886 at the Fair Grounds.⁵¹¹ The Stoner family nursery business must have been well represented at many of these fairs, and transportation was no issue as their orchards lay adjacent. In 1906 the charter for the "State Fair of Louisiana" was issued, and a G. W. Leopard signed the charter.⁵¹²
- "Col." G. W. Stoner became a charter member and 1st elected president of the newly formed North Louisiana Historical Society in August 1890.⁵¹³
- George's role in the civic affairs of the parish surfaced again in April 1892 when he presented a petition signed on the 6th of April by interested citizens of wards 4, 5, and 7, to the Caddo Parish Police Jury. The citizens prayed for the creation of a new ward in the parish carved principally from ward 4, the largest ward in the parish and in which the city of Shreveport also existed; and small strips of Wards 5 and 7. George was appointed with fellow citizens J. J. Ellis, and James R. Herndon as a committee on behalf of the parishioners to "locate the line of the said ward 9," with J. M. Foster appointed to contract with a surveyor to make the survey and map of the new ward. Their collective energies in the matter apparently came to naught: not until 1914–1915 did the government revise the ward boundaries to add a ninth ward.⁵¹⁴

By 1889, George and Lizzie's son Ernest was involved supporting their fruit and nursery business. He did so as an Express Agent for the railroad at Jewella Station. In that year he shipped plums for his father to the following Texas destinations: Dallas, San Antonio, Ft. Worth, Marshall, Austin, Waco, Galveston, Sherman, Denison and Houston. Many plum shipments were made for 10–15 days. Although he could not recall the exact shipment sizes in his 1892 testimony, he did recall one consisting of 34 crates.⁵¹⁵

MRS. E. H. STONER V. TEXAS & PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY, ROUND 2, 1891.

Events Preceding the Trial

The history of Lizzie's second battle with the Texas & Pacific Railroad dates to 27 February 1890, when U. S. Signal Service reports noted a major winter storm spreading across four northern states that evening. By Saturday, March 1, 1890, the Shreveport region suffered its intensity: "Vegetation looks as if a cyclone had struck it ... the damage to gardens and early corn crops is extensive." The Freeze, as it was later called, affected orchards seriously and factored into the Texas and Pacific's defense arguments when Lizzie eventually sought damages against it. Attorneys for the railroad noted that on or about 1 March 1890, a severe freeze almost destroyed

⁵¹⁰ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Mrs. Lizzie H. Stoner to W. P. Belcher, warranty deed, 1 November 1889, original authentic act no. 33744; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. A plat survey of George's Pecan Grove Subdivision, discussed later, shows the outline of Belcher's purchase.

⁵¹¹ Maude Hearn O'Pry, *Chronicles of Shreveport* (reprint 1978, no place: privately printed, 1928), 159. "The First Annual Fair of the North Louisiana Agricultural and Mechanical Fair Association," *The Shreveport Times*, 2 November 1886, p. 4, col. 7.

⁵¹² This Leopard was likely the second husband of Francis (Vines) Stoner Leopard, perhaps because of his likely interest as a dairyman, previously discussed.

⁵¹³ Joyce Shannon Bridges, *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Caddo Parish, Louisiana* (Shreveport, Louisiana: J & W Enterprises, 1989), 20.

⁵¹⁴ Caddo Parish Police Jury Minute Book No. 9 (1890–1901), 136–137; microfilm, Caddo Parish Police Jury Minutes Books 1840–1973, LSUS Archives and Special Collections, Noel Memorial Library, Shreveport. *Shreveport City Directory 1915* (Shreveport, Louisiana: L. N. Brueggerhoff, 1915), 34; the first presence of Ward 9 in the Caddo Parish Police Jury occurs in this directory. *Shreveport City Directory 1914* (Shreveport, Louisiana: L. N. Brueggerhoff, 1914), 34, shows only 8 wards.

⁵¹⁵ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 211–213, Ernest Stoner testimony. A crate size was not specifically defined by the record, but the author estimates 24 quarts to a crate.

the Stoners' plum orchard when the trees were "in full leaf" and that they were well-nigh in a dying condition when a fire subsequently occurred eighteen months later in September 1891. By then Lizzie's orchards reportedly held about 3000 trees and covered about 160 acres.⁵¹⁶

On Saturday, 19 September 1891, George and his wife were sitting "on the gallery of the west side of our house" sometime after mid-day dinner, when the orchard fire was reported. The orchard and the railroad track were south of the home, with a 4.5 to 5 acre pasture separating the orchard from the tracks on the orchard's east and south sides. George sent "one of the boys" and all his hands to help put out the fire, then went "down to Jewella" to get six to ten other boys to help put out the fire. On scene he found the railroad section boss and his hands also working to put out the fire. He also found where the section hands had been burning old railroad ties and had not scraped the grass from the immediate area. The windy day allowed the fire to quickly catch the pasture grass afire and it then passed across the pasture to the plum orchard. Over the course of the following month, his neighbors Mr. Snell and Mr. Sandford and the railroad's agents counted the number of trees damaged. George mentions his "son Ernest" as a future witness. The plums that burned were three to six inches in diameter and had been bearing for the past four to six years. George also sold vegetables and "various and sundry kinds of fruit." Some of the damaged plums had been "top grafted" with various special varieties, such as Satsuma, Kelsey, and Ogon plums, all but one of Japanese variety. Of the apple tree varieties he named Shockley, Carters Blue, Ben Davis, and Horn. Also destroyed were twelve Chinese Quince trees planted about ten years earlier. Outside the balance of his orchards, reckoned at 150-160 acres, George rented his land. Although he had planted about 3300 plum trees in the past, George stated that his orchards were primarily covered with peach and pear trees, and that a peach and a pear orchard separated his house from the plum orchard. At times during the testimony, George was referred to as "Colonel" and "Judge."⁵¹⁷

20-21 September 1891: C. C. Snell lived about 500 yards "on a line" to the Stoner orchard that burned. He came to the property to help count the damaged trees a day or two after the fire.⁵¹⁸

26 September 1891: Acting Division Road Master W. H. Thompson assessed the orchard's fire damage on behalf of the railroad company. With him were Stoner's son (unnamed), section foreman A. Scott, Mr. Shaddicker, and Mr. Samuels. Thompson returned again for a survey in October with a Mr. Hayes and the railroad's attorney.⁵¹⁹

The Trials

Summary: The case started locally in the 1st Judicial District Court serving Caddo Parish, which assigned Docket no. 3668. On 16 October 1892 Lizzie filed for damages from a fire caused by the Texas & Pacific Railroad that destroyed pasture and orchard trees. The jury awarded damages that the railroad felt excessive. The railroad requested a new trial, claiming that specific testimony that would have been critical to their case had not been heard at the first trial. A second local trial occurred in the 1st Judicial District Court under the same docket no. 3668. The Stoners received a verdict in their favor again, but with less damages awarded. The railroad appealed to the Louisiana Supreme Court. The latter initially heard the case in Shreveport, assigning Shreveport docket no. 348 to the appellate case; however, the court later removed the case to New Orleans, reassigning it under New Orleans docket no. 11,096. In accordance with the Louisiana Supreme Court's administrative procedures, all of the lower court's proceedings were transcribed and certified as true copies.⁵²⁰ These were organized and bound in one volume, which appears in its original form in the case file. The case focused principally upon how to assess the value of the damages to be awarded, all parties agreeing that the cause of the fire lay with the railroad. The Louisiana Supreme Court let the lower court's most recent verdict stand. What follows below is not focused upon how damages to the orchards were argued by the parties and their witnesses—for that the reader is referred to the complete testimony.⁵²¹ Rather, the intent here is to capture aspects of the lives and histories of the Stoners; the identities of their friends, associates, and neighbors; and

⁵¹⁶ "The Storm West," *The Shreveport Times*, 1 March 1890, p. 1, col. 5, datelined Chicago 28 February. *The Shreveport Times*, 2 March 1890, p. 2, col. 1, for the storm's effects reported in Shreveport region. Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, Brief of Defendant and Appellant, 7; bound transcript, 155-156, 159.

⁵¹⁷ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 19-56, George W. Stoner's testimony.

⁵¹⁸ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 118-121, C. C. Snell testimony.

⁵¹⁹ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 127-131, W. H. Thompson testimony.

⁵²⁰ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 323, certification of pages 1-322 of the same bound transcript as a true and accurate copy of the case file contents under docket no. 3668, signed by Clerk F. A. Leonard.

⁵²¹ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 1-323.

whatever light might be shed on the interactions among them. Some identities and events that witnesses alluded to in the 1870s and 1880s were previously discussed earlier in the narrative. The items below follow a chronological format more closely connected with the trial itself.

16 October 1891: Lizzie petitioned the 1st District Court of Louisiana as part of Case no. 3668 seeking \$9240 in damages to her fruit orchard from the Texas & Pacific Railroad. Among the described items were 680 Caddo Chief plum trees, 124 grafted plum trees, 29 apple trees, 1 pecan tree and 5 acres of pasture grass. The petition stated that her husband Geo. W. Stoner joined and assisted her.⁵²²

14 November 1891: Lizzie petitioned to secure the support of witnesses living in Texas—R. A. Jackson and W. R. (T/L)ietze of Dallas, and T. E. Stanley of Ft. Worth. No relationships were specified.⁵²³

11 December 1891: Witness T. E. Stanley's deposition occurred in Ft. Worth, Texas. Stanley described himself as age 44, a nurseryman for the past 5 years, and a fruit grower for most of his life. He handled the plum fruit business in a partnership with Chas. Zeller under the firm Zeller and Stanley. The firm received plum shipments from Geo. W. Stoner from Jewella, principally in the years 1883 or 1884.⁵²⁴

19–25 December 1891: Sometime in this period, George W. Stoner hosted a Christmas dinner for men, white or black, that had any background with plum trees. He had, or thought he had, the gripe, so he stated before the court that instead of seeking them out one by one, to learn what he could from them in advance of his suit, he had them invited to his place for (mid-day) dinner and then encouraged them to review the damaged orchard and give him their opinions about the damage.⁵²⁵

26 December 1891: Depositions from Albert A. Jackson and W. R. Tietze were taken in Dallas, Dallas County, Texas. Albert was age 29 and a resident of Dallas. He was engaged in the “produce and commission business... for nine years past,” and he received at least one consignment from Stoner’s orchard at Jewella by way of the Pacific Express Company. No kinship with George W. Stoner was overtly stated or implied.⁵²⁶ W. R. Tietze was a 30 years old resident of Dallas, Dallas County, Texas, having been in the vegetable and fruit business for the past seven years. He had received Caddo Chief Plum shipments from George W. Stoner of Jewella by way of the Pacific Express Company for two of those years and sold them readily in the Dallas market, principally as they were capable of reaching the market ahead of other plum types. No kinship was stated with respect to George W. Stoner.

9 February 1892: The court filed on this date George W. Stoner’s authorization for his wife Mrs. E. H. Stoner’s action to prosecute suit no. 3668 before the court, and that he was joining and assisting her.⁵²⁷

May 1892: the first lower court trial occurred. Items and people of interest relative to the Stoner’s life histories follow:

- George enjoyed “homespun tobacco” and kept it in his office.⁵²⁸
- Ernest Stoner stated that he was the son of Mrs. E. H. Stoner and that he was “at home” when the fire broke out.⁵²⁹
- At some unspecified time Henry Minton had gone up to wait on “Judge Stoner.” “When he was sick once and expected to die every minute, I went up there & waited on him.” Henry stated that Pete Palmer, Luke Wade, and Madison Miles were all “colored people.”⁵³⁰

⁵²² Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 1–2, Lizzie Stoner petition.

⁵²³ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 3, Lizzie Stoner petition.

⁵²⁴ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 4–10, T. E. Stanley deposition.

⁵²⁵ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 121–127, George W. Stoner testimony on recall.

⁵²⁶ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 12–14 for Albert A. Jackson deposition, and 14–15 for W. R. Tietze deposition.

⁵²⁷ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 16–17, George W. Stoner authorization. Note that Lizzie’s 16 October 1891 petition filed by her attorneys stated George’s authorization, but neither George nor Lizzie actually signed the petition. The court sought George’s signed authorization, and this document was created under his signature and filed.

⁵²⁸ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 19–56, George W. Stoner testimony.

⁵²⁹ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 69–70, Ernest Stoner testimony.

⁵³⁰ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 108–113, Henry Minton testimony.

- W. H. Thompson was the acting Division Road Master, charged to repair the Texas & Pacific Railway Company's track.⁵³¹
- Isaac Sandford lived about a half mile from Jewella and a quarter mile from the Stoner place, for the previous eight years. He noted that one hundred and twenty four of the damage trees were Caddo Chief plums that were top-grafted with five different types of plums.⁵³²
- H. P. Shadicker worked as an operator for the Texas & Pacific Railway Company at the Jewella junction, and took part in assessing the orchard damage.⁵³³
- John Monkhouse was active in the fruit and nursery business in the local area.⁵³⁴

13 May 1892: The verdict from the 1st lower court trial went for the plaintiff, Mrs. E. H. Stoner, for the amount of damages prayed for-\$9240.⁵³⁵

15 May 1892: The Texas & Pacific Railway Company filed a motion for new trial and supplied supporting witness affidavits.⁵³⁶

6 September 1892: Robert Drumm gave his deposition in Tarrant County, Texas. Drum stated that he was a nurseryman and "seedman" for the previous eighteen years, eleven of the last in Texas.⁵³⁷

September 1892: The second lower court trial occurred, as prayed for by the railroad company. Items and people of interest relative to the Stoner's life histories and their friends and neighbors follow:

- Walter F. Monkhouse stated that he would be 32 years old next June 15, and that he had bought his own place in the Jewella area about eight years previously. He referred to George W. Stoner as Judge Stoner several times in this testimony.⁵³⁸
- Frank Hicks testified.⁵³⁹
- John Monkhouse testified again. He had been in the fruit business all his life, since he was old enough to handle fruit. "I was imported here to handle fruit." He had about 6000 trees in orchards, two hundred of which were Caddo Chief plums.⁵⁴⁰
- Ernest Stoner testified again. Ernest stated that he was a son of the plaintiff and served as the Express Agent at Jewella [station] in 1889.⁵⁴¹
- Major S. H. Sibley testified again. He visited Shreveport for the last 38 or 40 years, and he came to live in Caddo Parish in 1858 or 1859.⁵⁴²
- Geo. L. Woodward testified again. He had lived in Caddo Parish for the last 49 years and in the Jewella area since 1876.⁵⁴³
- L. M. Cozart was 28 years old and engaged in the nursery business four miles south of Shreveport. He came to Caddo Parish on 28 December 1887 and worked for George W. Stoner for 6 months. He left for a few months and came back to work for him from February to May [1889].⁵⁴⁴
- W. G. Snell lived a few hundred yards south of Jewella and a hundred to two hundred yards from the Stoner place. He was 30 years old and worked for Stoner about four years ago in April for wages, but quit. His sole job was to sell Stoner's fruit in the local market.⁵⁴⁵

⁵³¹ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 127-131, W. H. Thompson testimony.

⁵³² Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 113-118, Isaac Sandford testimony.

⁵³³ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 133-137, H. P. Shadicker testimony.

⁵³⁴ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 137-163, John Monkhouse testimony.

⁵³⁵ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 154, Verdict and Judgment, 1st trial.

⁵³⁶ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 155-163, statements and affidavits filed in support of a new trial by the Texas & Pacific Railroad.

⁵³⁷ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 301-308, Robert Drumm deposition and endorsements, Tarrant County, Texas.

⁵³⁸ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 163-186, 193-201, Walter F. Monkhouse testimonies.

⁵³⁹ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 186-193, Frank R. Hicks testimony.

⁵⁴⁰ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 201-211, John Monkhouse testimony.

⁵⁴¹ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 211-213, Ernest Stoner testimony.

⁵⁴² Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 213-226, S. H. Sibley testimony.

⁵⁴³ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 226-233, Geo. L. Woodward testimony.

⁵⁴⁴ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 233-254, L. M. Cozart testimony.

⁵⁴⁵ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 255-266, W. G. Snell testimony.

- John Bond lived in Jewella, adjacent to one of Stoner's orchards, for the past eighteen years. His own orchard totaled one half to three quarters of an acre in size.⁵⁴⁶
- O. C. Carr lived a half mile from the Stoners near Jewella. His primary business was vegetables.⁵⁴⁷
- James M. Martin stated that he was born and raised in Caddo Parish and had been working the real estate business for the past eight or ten years. He had known the Jewella neighborhood all his life. James stated hypothetically that he could offer the Stoner place for sale at about \$10,000 a year earlier, but that the price was driven by its location relative to Shreveport and not by the fruit orchards on it per sé.⁵⁴⁸
- W. B. Jacobs testified.⁵⁴⁹
- W. C. Perrin resided in Shreveport for over 27 years and worked in real estate for the past four years.⁵⁵⁰
- A. W. Jewell lived at Jewella for the past 22 years and was there about two years before the Stoners arrived there, living on property adjacent to him.⁵⁵¹
- George W. Stoner testified again.⁵⁵²

27 September 1892: The verdict from the 2nd lower court trial went for the plaintiff, Mrs. E. H. Stoner. The damage award was reduced to \$3500 at 5% annual interest, and all court costs.⁵⁵³

29 September–14 October 1892: The Texas & Pacific Railroad filed a motion for an appeal to be granted to the Louisiana Supreme Court on September 29 and then its appeal bond on October 14.⁵⁵⁴

19 October 1892: The Louisiana Supreme Court Clerk (Shreveport) filed the Texas & Pacific Railroad appeal under Shreveport docket no. 348.⁵⁵⁵

20 October 1892: The October term of the Louisiana Supreme Court was held at Shreveport with respect to the case. The case was subsequently requested by the parties to be decided in New Orleans.⁵⁵⁶

7 November 1892: The Louisiana Supreme Court Clerk (New Orleans) filed the Texas & Pacific Railroad appeal under New Orleans docket no. 11,096.⁵⁵⁷

2 January 1893: The Louisiana Supreme Court issued its Judgment and Final Decree, letting the lower court's most recent jury verdict stand.⁵⁵⁸

Thus ended the Texas & Pacific Railroad's appeal. From "The Freeze" in March 1890 through "The Fire" in September 1891 and three trials in two years culminating in January 1893, Lizzie and George had battled the elements and a railroad giant in court and won. Weather and fire had taken their tolls on Lizzie's orchards, but they apparently survived. One sign of recovery occurred in August of

⁵⁴⁶ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 267–269, John Bond testimony.

⁵⁴⁷ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 269–273, O. C. Carr testimony.

⁵⁴⁸ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 273–279, James M. Martin testimony.

⁵⁴⁹ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 279–282, W. B. Jacobs' testimony.

⁵⁵⁰ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 282–283, W. C. Perrin's testimony.

⁵⁵¹ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 284–299, A. W. Jewell testimony.

⁵⁵² Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 299–300, George W. Stoner testimony.

⁵⁵³ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 309, Verdict and Judgment, 2nd trial.

⁵⁵⁴ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 321–2, Motion for Appeal, and Bond.

⁵⁵⁵ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, first bound unpaginated sheet.

⁵⁵⁶ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, Clerk of Supreme Court's minutes dated 20 October 1892; the observed document was a copy of the Clerk's minutes, signed by him and affixed with the raised seal of the court. The loose copy is the fourth of four separate sheets of documents glued together as one onto the first unpaginated sheet of the bound transcript.

⁵⁵⁷ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, first bound unpaginated sheet. Note that the docket number series are unique to the locations where the court held its session and may be redundant with docket numbers of Louisiana Supreme Court trials held in other locations in the state.

⁵⁵⁸ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, handwritten Opinion and Judgment (marked "Copied"), 2 January 1893; the last four pages of the five total pages are handwritten by a separate hand, perhaps that of Mr. Justice Watkins. The cover sheet marked "Copied" was prepared by a different hand. The annotated page numbers 31 through 35 were handwritten annotations added after the fact in the researcher's opinion—they may have been copied from the Clerk of Supreme Court's Minute Book or perhaps an Orders Book series.

1893 when a local Shreveport newspaper reported that "Judge" Stoner's nursery was the origin of a LeComte variety pear measuring twelve inches in circumference with a diameter of three and three quarter inches. The article went on to extoll the virtues of the fruit growing business in the area.⁵⁵⁹

Lizzie's third sale of land in the Red River Tracts disposed of 10.5 acres on 6 July 1898 to the Shreveport Bridge and Terminal Company. This land lay in the northwestern portion of the tracts formerly comprising the meat packery business, running parallel to the buyer's railroad track, bounded on the north by the Red River and on the west by the lines of the 3 acre property then owned by David Robinson (originally purchased by Edith Manti from George in 1870).⁵⁶⁰

The 1890s decade brought both joy and sorrow to Stoner family. They gained three grandchildren by son Samuel Michael Stoner and his wife Frances Eliza Vines by 1896 but lost two more sons—Sterling/Martin Stoner (1894) and Sam (1896)—all previously discussed. By the time George and Lizzie were enumerated effective 1 June 1900, they had seen four children predecease them.

Perhaps with the children of deceased son Sam in mind, George purchased a ninety acre tract for \$450 about 2 miles due west of the Jewella Tracts in the southeast quarter of Section 7, T17N-R14W. On the same day he then sold the land to George Leopard, husband of his daughter in law Frances (Vines), and stepfather to Sam's children. Leopard bought the land for three \$150 promissory notes but conveyed it back to Stoner in a few months for the cancellation of the promissory notes. Three years later on 23 December 1902, George resold the same tract of land back to the Leopard family for the same price, this time in cash.⁵⁶¹ As discussed in more detail in the life histories of Sam and Frances, the tract remained the grandchildren's probable homestead through 15 March 1920, with granddaughter Ethel buying ten acres of it in her own right in 1913.⁵⁶²

G. W. Stoner and his wife Lizzie appear in Jewella Precinct in the 1900 federal census for Caddo Parish, Louisiana. George's and Lizzie's Kentucky births in October 1828 and in [no month] 1838, respectively, correlate with the dates found in their family bible records. The number of years married—forty-three—infers marriage between 2 June 1856 and 1 June 1857. The number of children born to Lizzie is six, with two still living—the deaths of Samuel, Sallie, George Wilson, and Martin (aka Sterling) Stoner and the two known surviving sons, Ernest and Early Roy Stoner, are consistent with Lizzie's born(6)/living(2) children's census information. Son Ernest is enumerated with his parents as single and a truck farmer, born in April 1869, which correlates with his birth entry in the family bible records. The fourth person enumerated as a boarder in the household is Mrs. Mcginnis [sic], a white widow born in Louisiana in May 1836 and working as a housekeeper, probably for the Stoners.⁵⁶³ Their second surviving son Early Roy Stoner is enumerated in Ward 5 of Caddo Parish with wife Bennena and daughter Lucille, born 2 months before the census day, in April 1900.⁵⁶⁴

Lizzie was sixty two years old when she predeceased her husband George on 12 February 1901 at the family homestead in Jewella. The family bible entry reads, "Lizzie H. Stoner wife of G. W. Stoner: Borned [sic] in Cumberland County, Kentucky July 26th 1838; – Died [two or three letters illegible] Jewell [sic] La[.] February 12th 1901."⁵⁶⁵ The *Shreveport (Louisiana) Times* reported a day later that "Mrs. G. W. Stoner, an old and estimable citizen of this parish, died at her home in Jewella yesterday evening." The funeral was to take place on the 13th at 3 pm "from the family residence," with no mention of burial arrangements. Her reported age at death—62—infers her year of birth

⁵⁵⁹ "Mammoth Fruit," *The (Shreveport, Louisiana) Progress*, 26 August 1893, p. 8, col. 3; digital images, "Chronicling America, Historic American Newspapers," Library of Congress (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>; accessed 10 April 2012).

⁵⁶⁰ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Mrs. Elizabeth H. Stoner to Shreveport Bridge and Terminal Company, warranty deed, 6 July 1898, original authentic act no. 42859; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁵⁶¹ Caddo Ph., La., conveyances: John B. Lewis to George W. Stoner, warranty deed, 20 October 1899; George W. Stoner to George W. Leopard, warranty deed, 20 October 1899; George W. Leopard to George W. Stoner, warranty deed, 2 December 1899; George W. Stoner to George W. Leopard, warranty deed, 23 December 1902, original authentic act nos. 44918, 44919, 45106, & 52572, respectively.

⁵⁶² Caddo Ph., La., conveyances: Conveyance Book 82:395, George W. Leopard to Ethel Stoner Pike, warranty deed, 1913; Conveyance Book 143:469, George W. Leopard to W. L. Dickinson, warranty deed, 1920.

⁵⁶³ 1900 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch., Jewella Precinct, folio 53 (stamped, reverse), ED 31, sheet 18-A, dwell. 400, fam. 400, G. W. Stoner household. George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828–1901.

⁵⁶⁴ 1900 U.S. census, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Ward 5, p. 77 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 32, sheet 15-B, dwelling 307, family 309, Early R. Stoner household; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 April 2009); citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 559.

⁵⁶⁵ George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828–1901. The handwriting for the combined birth and death record of Lizzie H. Stoner—the last entry—has not yet been correlated with the handwriting of a known author.

as 1838–1839.⁵⁶⁶ The *Shreveport (Louisiana) Evening Journal* noted her burial and that she was the wife of Mr. G. W. Stoner, “nurseryman, at Jewella, and well known in this city.”⁵⁶⁷ No burial site has been located for Lizzie.⁵⁶⁸ Given the extent of their landed estate, the most likely location was a private family cemetery on the Stoners’ Jewella Tracts. Tax records for 1902 were the last to capture Lizzie’s landed estate in her name: 225 acres in the Jewella Tracts and 32 acres in the Red River Tracts.⁵⁶⁹

George petitioned the district court six days later, 18 February 1901, to probate his wife’s 1885 will, stating that Lizzie had died “recently” at her Caddo Parish home. He identified Lizzie as his wife, stating that some of her heirs included the three children of their deceased son Sam Stoner, and that their mother had remarried a George Leopard. He included in his petition a request that their stepfather George be appointed a special tutor for them.⁵⁷⁰ From George’s petition began the court-monitored process to protect the minor’s interest in their grandmother’s and eventually his estate: Tutorship of the Minors of Sam Stoner (previously discussed).⁵⁷¹

In December 1901 and January 1902, George and his two sons Ernest and Early donated or sold small parcels in the Jewella Tracts and Red River Tracts. They donated a half acre of land to the trustees of Jewella Christian Church located south of and fronting Greenwood Road in the northeast corner of the land then owned in Lot 3 of the Jewella Tracts, and a half acre on the west side of the same lot fronting Greenwood Road. They also sold one acre lying due north of the Belcher sale in the Red River Tracts.⁵⁷² Unfortunately in all transactions the children of Sam Stoner were *not represented*, and the ownership shares of George and his two sons were correspondingly *overrepresented*, so the titles were flawed. By law the minors retained a 2/9 share in their grandmother’s succession property.⁵⁷³ To make matters worse, on 24 June 1902, George’s two sons donated their interest in their mother’s succession to their father George “in deference to their mother’s last testamentary disposition.” This quitclaim *only referred to the Red River Tracts*, however. Early later donated to his father his 1/3 interest in his mother’s succession with respect to *the Jewella Tracts* on 25 August 1903,⁵⁷⁴ but there is no extent record showing that Ernest did likewise with respect to the Jewella Tracts before his father’s death in 1907.

Title corrections occurred, but in two phases. First, unfortunately, the court and descendants through early family meetings had incorrectly determined on 8 July 1902 that that minors’ net share was 1/9 of their grandmother’s estate, instead of the correct 2/9 share determined on 15–17 April 1903.⁵⁷⁵ Second, the minors released their collective interest in the Red River Tracts but not the Jewella Tracts, so separate quitclaims were needed to third parties to quiet the titles.

The mess that resulted took time to unwind. The conveyances involved appear in Table 2, grouped by land description. The timing of the shaded corrections occurs *after* corrections were applied to the minors’ share.

⁵⁶⁶ “Died Yesterday,” *Shreveport (Louisiana) Times*, 13 February 1901, p. 5, col. 6. Also, Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case file 27357, Stoner, et. al., v. Hansen-Mason Realty Co., 1920, Plaintiff’s petition, article 6, giving the year of Lizzie’s death and confirming her place of death.

⁵⁶⁷ *Shreveport (Louisiana) Evening Journal*, 13 February 1901, p. 4, col. 4.

⁵⁶⁸ Burial searches with negative results for Elizabeth H. “Lizzie” Stoner include: Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Death Register, Book B, January–December 1901, folios 136–149, line-by-line search for Mrs. Lizzie H. Stoner with negative results; microfilm of same name, Broadmoor Branch, Shreve Memorial Library System, Shreveport. Judy Riffel, editor, *Shreveport Civil Death Records*, Volume 1 1874–1902 (Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane, 2002); this is a transcription of the previously cited microfilm and served as a cross-check. *Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Cemetery Records Volume I* (Shreveport, Louisiana: J & W Enterprises, 1990); negative results for Stoner in general, but the included Jewella Cemetery listing was read line by line.

⁵⁶⁹ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1902, folio 144 for Mrs. S. [sic] H. Stoner.

⁵⁷⁰ Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case file 6913, Succession of Lizzie H. Stoner, 1901, Petition for Probate of Will, 18 February 1901.

⁵⁷¹ Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case file 7619, Tutorship of the Minors of Sam M. Stoner, 1901–1912.

⁵⁷² Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, George W. Stoner, Ernest Stoner, and Early R. Stoner to Moses W. Jackson, warranty deed, 20 January 1902, original authentic act no. 50204; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport.

⁵⁷³ Lizzie’s forced heirs were two sons and the minors of a third deceased son. By law Lizzie could not freely dispose of more than 1/3 of her estate to her husband George, reserving 2/3 of her estate for forced heirs. The minors were thus entitled to 1/3 of the reserved 2/3, or 2/9 of Lizzie’s estate. See Dainow, ed., 1972 *Compiled Edition of the Civil Codes of Louisiana*, 16: 851–853, Articles 1493 and 1495 of the Louisiana Revised Civil Code of 1870.

⁵⁷⁴ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 28:764–5, Ernest Stoner and Early R. Stoner to G. W. Stoner, donation, 24 June 1902; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 33:435, Early R. Stoner to George W. Stoner, donation, 25 August 1903; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport.

⁵⁷⁵ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 7619, Tutorship of the Minors of Sam M. Stoner (1901), Petition and Order for Inventory, 1 July 1902, Petition and Order for Family Meeting, 3 July 1902, Inventory, 5 July 1902, Proces Verbal of Family Meeting of 8 July 1902, and Judgment Homologating Family Meeting of 8 July 1902; Clerk of Court’s Office, Shreveport.

Table 2. Court Actions and Conveyances Transferring the Correct Minors' Share of Lizzie Stoner's Estate.

Correction of Minors' Share Among the Stoner Family in Red River Tracts, beginning 14 July 1902
Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 28:798, Heirs of Sam M. Stoner to George W. Stoner, quitclaim deed, 14 July 1902; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport; quitclaiming 1/9 interest in the Red River Tracts.
Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 35:212, Heirs of Sam M. Stoner (Tutrix Mrs. Eliza F. Stoner and Co-Tutor Geo. W. Leopard her husband) to George W. Stoner, quitclaim deed, 11 September 1903; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport; quitclaiming remaining 1/9 interest in the Red River Tracts.
Correction of Minors' Share Among the Stoner Family in Jewella Tracts, beginning 14 July 1902
Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 28:798, Heirs of Sam M. Stoner to George W. Stoner, quitclaim deed, 14 July 1902; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport; quitclaiming 1/9 interest in nine acres in Section 9 [only] on the west edge of the Jewella Tracts.
Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, George W. Stoner, Ernest Stoner, and Early R. Stoner to Heirs of Sam M. Stoner, quitclaim deed, 16 July 1902; original authentic act no. 51600, Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport; quitclaiming 8/9 interest in 16 acres of southeast corner of the Jewella Tracts to the minors. The 8/9 share was overstated and should have been 7/9. No correction to this transaction has been located; however, the intent to convey the grantors' full interest in the property was effectively accomplished.
Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 35:212, Heirs of Sam M. Stoner (Tutrix Mrs. Eliza F. Stoner and Co-Tutor Geo. W. Leopard her husband) to George W. Stoner, quitclaim deed, 11 September 1903; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport; quitclaiming remaining 1/9 interest in nine acres in Section 9 [only] on the west edge of the Jewella Tracts.
Note that no quitclaim has been found showing the minors' release of their interest in Section 10 of the Jewella Tracts, excluding the 16-acre tract fully owned by them on 16 July 1902 (authentic act no. 51600 above).
Donation of One Acre in Northeast Corner of Lot 3, Jewella Tracts, beginning 2 December 1901.
Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, George W. Stoner, Ernest Stoner, and Early R. Stoner to Hans C. Henrickson and John J. Sneed (Trustees of Jewella Christian Church), donation, 2 December 1901; original authentic act no. 50654, Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.
Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 35:123, G. W. Stoner, Ernest Stoner, and Early R. Stoner to Jewella Christian Church (Claude L. Jones, agent), correction of donation, 23 March 1903; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.
Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 35:482, Heirs of Sam M. Stoner (Tutrix Mrs. Eliza F. Stoner and Co-Tutor Geo. W. Leopard her husband) to Jewella Christian Church (Trustees Claud L. Jones, Edgar D. Bland, & James L. Monkhouse), quitclaim deed, 12 November 1903; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.
Sale of Half Acre in Northwest Corner of Lot 2, Jewella Tracts, beginning 18 January 1902.
Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, George W. Stoner, Ernest Stoner, and Early R. Stoner to T. B. Herndon, warranty deed, 18 January 1902; original authentic act no. 50196, Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.
Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, George W. Stoner, Ernest Stoner, and Early R. Stoner to T. B. Herndon, correction of land description in warranty deed of 18 January 1902 (authentic act 50196), 16 July 1902; original authentic act no. 51602, Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.
Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Heirs of Sam M. Stoner to T. B. Herndon, quitclaim deed, about 16 July 1902; original authentic act no. 51604, Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.
Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 35:211, Heirs of Sam M. Stoner (Tutrix Mrs. Eliza F. Stoner and Co-Tutor Geo. W. Leopard her husband) to T. B. Herndon, quitclaim deed, 11 September 1903; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.
Sale of One Acre in Southwest Quarter of Red River Tracts, beginning 20 January 1902.
Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, George W. Stoner, Ernest Stoner, and Early R. Stoner to Moses W. Jackson, warranty deed, 20 January 1902; original authentic act no. 50204, Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.
No record has been located that corrects this title transfer. However, the minors effectively transferred their full 2/9 interest in the Red River Tracts- 1/9 on 14 July 1902, and the remaining 1/9 on 11 September 1903 - to George, Ernest and Early Stoner (above). Although the initial conveyance to Jackson was defective, by 11 September 1903 the effect was moot.

George W. Stoner sold his remaining stake in the 20-acre west half of the southwest quarter of the Red River Tracts in a series of conveyances from 15 September 1902 through 1 December 1906. He had the land surveyed into eighty lots measuring roughly fifty by one hundred and twenty five feet. The city approved this survey, designated the Pecan Grove Subdivision of the City of Shreveport.

Table 3 lists the transactions that occurred. A survey map entitled, "G. W. Stoner's 'Pecan Grove' Subdn in the City of Shreveport," plats the subdivision and includes the city's approval on 4 September 1902.⁵⁷⁶

⁵⁷⁶ Shreveport, Louisiana, "G. W. Stoner's 'Pecan Grove' Subdn in the City of Shreveport," 4 September 1902, approved 4 August 1902, b & w survey map, 100 feet = 1 inch when viewed at full scale; Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 33:38; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

Table 3. George W. Stoner's Pecan Grove Subdivision Conveyances.

Pecan Grove Subdivision, Conveyances 15 September 1902–1 December 1906
[Note: unless otherwise noted all conveyances occurred in Caddo Parish and the records are located in the Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport]
George W. Stoner to Nel Chew, warranty deed, 15 September 1902; original authentic act no. 51924; the original file copy provided to the author was incomplete. For complete text see Conveyance Book 30:614, George W. Stoner to Nel Chew, warranty deed, 15 September 1902.
George W. Stoner to Jacob White, warranty deed, 18 September 1902; original authentic act no. 51961.
G. W. Stoner to Aleck Owens, warranty deed, 18 September 1902; original authentic act no. 51962.
George W. Stoner to Will Johnson, warranty deed, 2 October 1902; original authentic act no. 52051.
George W. Stoner to Joe Miles, warranty deed, 7 October 1902; original authentic act no. 52065.
George W. Stoner to Nel Chew, warranty deed, 13 October 1902; original authentic act no. 52111.
George W. Stoner to Jerry Ford, warranty deed, 20 October 1902; original authentic act no. 52161.
Conveyance Book 33:63, George W. Stoner to James H. Jackson, bond for title, 18 November 1902.
Conveyance Book 34:10, George W. Stoner to John A. Sewall, Jr., warranty deed, 14 January 1903.
Conveyance Book 34:46, George W. Stoner to David Robinson, warranty deed, 2 February 1903.
Conveyance Book 34:47, George W. Stoner to Alice Carroll, warranty deed, 2 February 1903.
Conveyance Book 34:62, George W. Stoner to Frank Grant, warranty deed, 9 February 1903.
Conveyance Book 34:63, George W. Stoner to Moses W. Jackson, warranty deed, 9 February 1903.
Conveyance Book 34:106, George W. Stoner to Madison D. Miles, warranty deed, 14 March 1903.
Conveyance Book 34:129, George W. Stoner to Elbert Miles, warranty deed, 6 April 1903.
Conveyance Book 34:169, George W. Stoner to Sam Smith, warranty deed, 27 April 1903.
Conveyance Book 34:173, George W. Stoner to Lizzie Smith, warranty deed, 27 April 1903.
Conveyance Book 34:188, G. W. Stoner to Victoria Lumber Company, Ltd. (Jno. R. Jones, President), warranty deed, 8 May 1903.
Conveyance Book 34:190, George W. Stoner to Gus Hall, warranty deed, 9 May 1903.
Conveyance Book 34:204, George W. Stoner to Victoria Lumber Company, Ltd. (John A. Jones, President), warranty deed, 22 May 1903.
Conveyance Book 34:226, George W. Stoner to Alice Johnson, warranty deed, 5 June 1903.
Conveyance Book 34:247, George W. Stoner to Andrew Calmes, warranty deed, 18 June 1903.
Conveyance Book 34:259, George W. Stoner to Fred D. Gilbert, warranty deed, 26 June 1903.
Conveyance Book 34:265, George W. Stoner to Charlie Williams, warranty deed, 2 July 1903.
Conveyance Book 34:326, George W. Stoner to Llewellyn G. Walker, warranty deed, 7 September 1903.
Conveyance Book 34:373, George W. Stoner to Sarah Collins, warranty deed, 19 October 1903.
Conveyance Book 34:603, George W. Stoner to Andrew Kuhn, warranty deed, 25 March 1904.
Conveyance Book 34:691, George W. Stoner to Andrew Kuhn & Charles L. Horne, warranty deed, 17 May 1904.
Early R. Stoner to Andrew Kuhn and Charles L. Horne, quitclaim deed, 17 May 1904, and acknowledgment, 15 August 1907; original private act no. 2713.
Conveyance Book 34:710, George W. Stoner to James H. Jackson, warranty deed, 30 May 1904.
Conveyance Book 37:185, George W. Stoner to Trustees Frank Grant, Dave Robinson, & Mose Jackson, warranty deed, 2 July 1904.
Conveyance Book 36:798, G. W. Stoner to Curran Holt, warranty deed, 7 December 1905.
Conveyance Book 40:349, Moses W. Jackson to George W. Stoner, rescission of warranty deed, 8 December 1905.
Conveyance Book 43:63, G. W. Stoner to Rose Williams, warranty deed, 20 January 1906.
Conveyance Book 40:533, David Robinson to G. W. Stoner, rescission of warranty deed, 29 January 1906.
Conveyance Book 40:703, J. F. Fisher to Geo. W. Stoner, warranty deed, 27 March 1906.
Conveyance Book 43:256, G. W. Stoner to Savannah Chapman, warranty deed, 25 April 1906.
Conveyance Book 43:381, G. W. Stoner to John Watts, warranty deed, 8 August 1906.
Conveyance Book 43:457, G. W. Stoner to Maggie Hamilton, warranty deed, 13 October 1906.
Conveyance Book 42:585, Maggie Hamilton to G. W. Stoner, warranty deed, 25 November 1906.
Conveyance Book 43:519, G. W. Stoner to John Brooks, warranty deed, 25 November 1906.
Conveyance Book 43:520, G. W. Stoner to Jim G. Gilmore, warranty deed, 25 November 1906.
Conveyance Book 43:521, G. W. Stoner to William C. Porter, warranty deed, 25 November 1906.
Conveyance Book 43:522, G. W. Stoner to Maggie Hamilton, warranty deed, 25 November 1906.
Conveyance Book 43:529, G. W. Stoner to Raphial Jackson Porter, warranty deed, 1 December 1906.

George continued selling land in the Red River Tracts formerly comprising his meat packery business. On 5 December 1902 he sold 1.5 acres to the Texas & Pacific Railway Company, expanding the area along their right of way.⁵⁷⁷ Four years later George W. Stoner sold another 21.15 acres to A. K. Clingman for \$12,690 in cash and three promissory notes.⁵⁷⁸ After George's death the final parcel of 6.42 acres comprising former packery land lay between two railroad rights of way. After passing through a series of conveyances involving the State of Louisiana associated with the heirs' failure to pay taxes on the property in a timely manner, the court settled the parcel in H. R. Ratcliff's possession on 25 July 1918.⁵⁷⁹

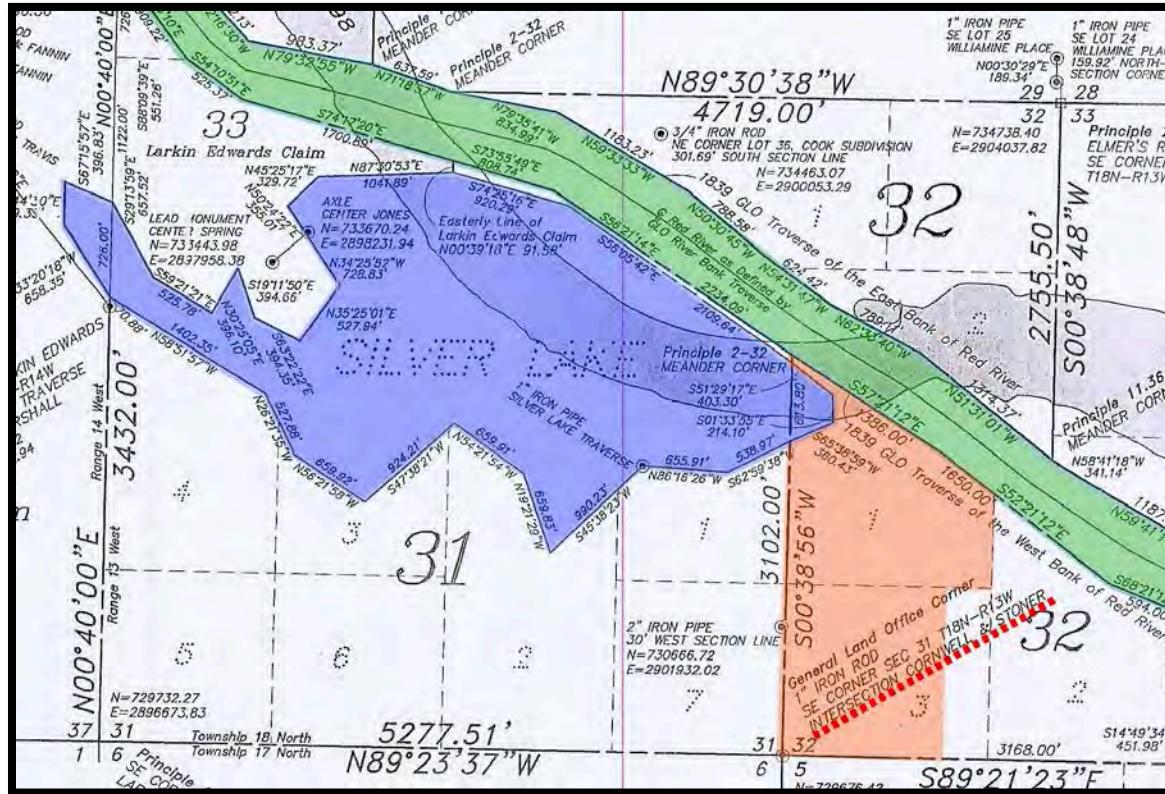


Figure 16. 1839 and 1997 Surveys of Red River Overlaid with George W. Stoner's Red River Tracts

The total acreage of all the former meat packery land sold or transferred by judgment by 1918 exceeded by 3.2 acres the original surveyed amount of 36.35 acres when it was acquired in two purchases by George Stoner in 1868 and 1869. This was probably attributable to the changing course of the Red River, which shifted eastward as it passed north of the Stoner's Red River Tracts over time. The original and resurveyed courses of the Red River as they appeared in 1839 and 1998 are captured in Figure 16, with the original surveyed tracts of George W. Stoner's land overlaid for comparison, shaded orange. The 1839 course of the river is shaded green, and the 1998 course is shaded gray.⁵⁸⁰ Since George's deeds extended to and included the descending right bank of the Red River, the corresponding shift in

⁵⁷⁷ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 33:150, G. W. Stoner to Texas & Pacific Railway Company, warranty deed, 5 December 1902; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁵⁷⁸ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 43:558, G. W. Stoner to A. K. Clingman, warranty deed, 20 December 1906; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁵⁷⁹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, E. Roy Stoner to H. R. Ratcliff, judgment, 25 July 1918, original instrument no. 96399; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. For conveyances of this land occurring within the twelve year interval see: Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyances, Estate of G. W. Stoner to State of Louisiana, unpaid tax judgment, 29 June 1912, original authentic act no. 32488; State of Louisiana to Estate of G. W. Stoner, tax redemption, 8 February 1913, recorded 19 May 1913, original authentic act no. 48750; and State of Louisiana (Estate of G. W. Stoner) to H. R. Ratcliff, tax sale, 16 July 1914, original authentic act no. 50043; all in Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁵⁸⁰ Enoch J. French, Jr., P.L.S., "Dependent Resurvey to Determine the 1839 [Centerline symbol] Red River," Map of Survey for Caddo Parish, Shreveport, Louisiana: French & Son, plat date 13 April 1998, revised 12 April 1999, black and white, 35 x 69 inches, 1 inch=1000 feet, ground

the river's course probably accounts for the additional net acreage. See Figure 17, which partially shows lands southeast of 1896 Shreveport.⁵⁸¹ Some shifting of the river is noticeable compared with its 1839 banks in Figure 16. Although the map shows the owners reported by the surveyor in 1896, the orange shading represents the maximum extent of the five tracts of land that George W. Stoner acquired between 1868 and 1875 (the "Red River Tracts"), which have been extended northward to the contours of the river bank. Also clearly shown is Greenwood Cemetery to the west, a small tract of about 4.5 acres owned by John H. Stoner to the southeast, and Marshall Avenue, which had not yet been renamed Stoner Avenue.



Figure 17. George W. Stoner's Red River Tracts Overlaying DeVoe's 1896 Map of Shreveport & Environs.

Kentucky natives George W. Stoner and his wife Elizabeth Wilson grew up in Cumberland and Monroe County, Kentucky; married; migrated to Tarrant County and Marion County, Texas; and finally settled in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, after the Surrender. For the next forty years they battled heat and drought, a yellow fever epidemic, loss of a promising business during the longest economic depression in U. S. history, fires, cyclones, hail storms, ice storms, and the Texas and Pacific Railroad (twice). They and two subsequent

survey of river banks conducted April 1995–December 1997 from east line of Section 32, T18N-R13W, through middle of Section 20, T18N-R13W, overlaying original General Land Office surveys of T17N-R13W (1839), T18N-R13W (1857), and T18N-R14W (1839); donated by Philip Adderley to LSUS Archives and Special Collections, Noel Memorial Library, Shreveport, 18 May 2011; color shadings on the clipped image added by P. B. Adderley, Shreveport, Louisiana, 2012, showing George W. Stoner's Red River Tracts (orange) as surveyed and purchased 1868–1875, relative to the then-existing banks of the Silver Lake (blue) and the Red River (1839–green upper layer, 1998–gray bottom layer).

⁵⁸¹ Wm. R. DeVoe, "DeVoe's Map of Shreveport, La. and Environs" (n.p.: n. pub., 1896), 17.4 x 23.7 inches, black & white (discolored by age or lamination), scale 1 inch = 860 feet when viewed at full scale; digital image prepared from laminated copy held by LSUS Archives and Special Collections, Noel Memorial Library, Shreveport and used with permission; orange shading added by P. B. Adderley, Shreveport, Louisiana, 2012, showing George W. Stoner's Red River Tracts purchased 1868–1875.

generations created hundreds of records in Louisiana alone that defined not only their lives but also parts of the lives and histories of many kin, friends, associates, and neighbors.

After a long and vigorous life, George Washington Stoner died intestate, probably in May or June 1907, in Caddo Parish, Louisiana. No specific record located to date gives us a specific time of death. The earliest document of record found after his death was a court order to inventory his estate on 22 June 1907; sons Ernest and Early R. Stoner and the minors of his deceased son Sam Stoner [sic] were recognized as his sole living heirs.⁵⁸² The last record in which George appeared alive was dated 20 December 1906.⁵⁸³ No burial site has been located for George, but given the extent of his landed estate at death, the most likely theory is a private family cemetery near his homestead in the Jewella Tracts, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.⁵⁸⁴

The partition of George's 1907 estate listed many personal household items that shed light on family's history in Caddo Parish.⁵⁸⁵ These included the typical items of the period, such as a bedstead, bed, washstand and mirror, and a few horses. Reflecting his standing and wealth in the community, the inventory also included two buggies, a dining table accompanied by a sideboard, ten chairs, and a hat rack; a bureau, a desk and a safe; and a stove and unspecified kitchen furniture. Perhaps silent for much of the time since Lizzie's 1901 death, a piano was included. Atypical for the times was the absence of guns or weapons of any kind.

George Washington Stoner and Elizabeth H. Wilson were the parents of the following children:

- + 2. i. SAMUEL MICHAEL STONER, born 18 May 1860 in Ft. Worth, Tarrant County, Texas,⁵⁸⁶ died 8 May 1896 in Caddo Parish, Louisiana;⁵⁸⁷ and married ca. 21 April 1889, probably in San Bernardino County, California, Francis Eliza Vines.⁵⁸⁸
- ii. SALLIE BELL STONER, born 27 October 1863 in Ft. Worth, Tarrant County, Texas,⁵⁸⁹ died 17 October 1873 in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.⁵⁹⁰
- iii. STERLING STONER, a.k.a Martin Stoner, born 13 June 1866 in Hickman, Fulton County, Kentucky,⁵⁹¹ died between 8 and 11 April 1894, possibly on the family homestead in Jewella, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.⁵⁹²

⁵⁸² Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 170:720, Succession of Geo. W. Stoner to his Heirs, property by judgment & order to take inventory, 22 June 1907; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport; this was the *earliest* dated record located with respect to his succession. The succession case file itself was empty: Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 11378, Succession of G. W. Stoner (1907); Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. The "file" exists as an empty file folder (intentionally, according to the clerk's staff) to indicate that a succession had been opened from the clerk's standpoint, but the contents of the case file are now considered lost or removed. Searches made at the researcher's request to locate file under the other two judicial districts that served Caddo Parish historically also failed.

⁵⁸³ Caddo Ph., La., Conveyance Book 43:558, Stoner to Clingman, warranty deed, 20 December 1906.

⁵⁸⁴ Burial searches with negative results for George W. Stoner include: Caddo Parish Death Register, Book C, October 1906-January 1907, folios 80-102, line by line search for George W. Stoner with negative results; microfilm of same name, Broadmoor Branch, Shreve Memorial Library System, Shreveport. Judy Riffel, editor, *Shreveport Civil Death Records, Volume II 1902-1913* (Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane, 2002); this is a transcription of the previously cited microfilm and served as a cross-check. *Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Cemetery Records Volume I* (Shreveport, Louisiana: J & W Enterprises, 1990); negative results for Stoner in general, but the included Jewella Cemetery listing was read line by line. Digitized newspaper collections for the Library of Congress ("Chronicling America" series) and paid subscription sites Ancestry.com and GenealogyNank.com also with negative result [*Note: at the time this lineage was prepared, the Shreveport Times (owned by Gannett News Services) had not been digitized; this newspaper has been microfilmed, but a search for filmed issues covering the first six months of 1907 failed.*]

⁵⁸⁵ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 47:378-9, Heirs of G. W. Stoner to Each Other, partition, 15 January 1908; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 11731, Ernest & Early Roy Stoner v. Minors of Sam M. Stoner, Dec'd (1907), Partition, 15 January 1908; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁵⁸⁶ George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828-1901.

⁵⁸⁷ "Died," *The Sunday (Shreveport, Louisiana) Judge*, 10 May 1896, eighth page, col. 1.

⁵⁸⁸ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 27357, E. R. Stoner, et. al., v. Hansen-Mason Realty Co.(1920), Plaintiff's petition, article 4; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. The two plaintiffs named themselves and sibling Mary Stoner Holmes as the issue from this marriage and stated 21 April 1889 as their parent's marriage date in California, county not named. Although the children could not have been firsthand witnesses to the marriage, the information probably came to them from their living mother Frances. For the marriage county see "California, County Marriages, 1850-1952," database, *FamilySearch* (<http://www.familysearch.org>; accessed 9 March 2012), entry for Samuel M. Stoner and Eliza Francis Vines, married 7 April 1889; citing Marriage Records, FHL microfilm 1,290,191, p. 481; San Bernardino County, California.

⁵⁸⁹ George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828-1901.

⁵⁹⁰ "Died," Sallie B. Stoner death notice, *The Daily Shreveport Times*, 22 October 1873, first page, col. 7. Also "Died," Sallie Belle Stoner obituary, probably *The Daily Shreveport Times*, annotated "11/23/1873," page and column number not captured; folder: "Danielle Neal's Misc. Genealogical Research Notes," Stoner Family Folder, vertical files; Noel Memorial Library, LSUS University Archives, Shreveport, Louisiana.

- iv. ERNEST STONER, born 8 April 1869 at Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.⁵⁹³ He married on 31 August 1910 in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Mamie F. Snead,⁵⁹⁴ daughter of Jno. J. and Mary Snead/Sneed.⁵⁹⁵ Ernest worked as early as 1889 as an Express Agent at the Jewella railroad junction. In that year he shipped plums for his father to ten different Texas destinations.⁵⁹⁶ He was at home with his father and mother in the Jewella Tracts when the Texas & Pacific Railroad caused the fire which destroyed a large number of the family's orchard trees on 19 September 1891.⁵⁹⁷ Caddo Parish tax assessment records captured him for the first time in 1892, liable for taxes on personal property consisting of two horses, cattle, and a wagon.⁵⁹⁸ By 1897-8 he had parted with the cattle but added two mules.⁵⁹⁹ By June 1900, Ernest was working as a truck farmer, single, and still living with his parents George and Lizzie.⁶⁰⁰ On 12 September 1900 he bought one acre in section 9 of T17N-R14W adjacent to the Mt. Chapel Missionary Baptist Church for \$100, but he gave the sellers the right to reclaim the land within one year by repaying him \$100. This they did on 18 November 1901. It appears that Ernest was in effect loaning the money to the sellers for this period, with the land being collateral.⁶⁰¹ After his mother Lizzie died in 1901, son Ernest was one of her forced heirs, and he also served in the court ordered family meetings that monitored and adjudicated the interests of his deceased brother Sam's minors.⁶⁰² On 9 December 1907, Ernest and Early Roy Stoner petitioned the district court to partition the estate inherited from their father G. W. Stoner, which they together owned in common with the minors of Sam M. Stoner. They named their father G. W. Stoner, their mother Lizzie H. Stoner, and the three minors of Sam M. Stoner-Early Roy Stoner, Ethel Bell Stoner, and Mary Ray Stoner. They stated that their mother had died in 1901 with a will leaving all her property to her husband G. W. Stoner, and that their father died in 1907 intestate, adding that the court had declared in the Succession of G. W. Stoner, case no. 11378, that they and the minors of Sam M. Stoner were the sole heirs of G. W. Stoner. The estate they sought to have partitioned consisted of roughly \$44,000 in real estate, personal property and notes [receivables], and cash. On the 14th of December the Tutrix and Co-Tutor of Sam's minor children answered the suit seeking the partition sought, and the court ordered on 21 December that a partition of G. W. Stoner's property be made "in kind."⁶⁰³ Ernest received his share of the estate on 15 January 1908, valued at \$14,737.42. The landed portion consisted of 55.7 acres in the Jewella Tracts: 46.7 acres in parts of Lots 15 and 16, and 9 acres in Section 9 close to the land inherited by the minors in the same partition.⁶⁰⁴ Ernest left the parish reportedly for Oklahoma sometime between then and September 1908,⁶⁰⁵ and he was also absent from a family meeting held for the minors of Sam Stoner on 5 October 1909.⁶⁰⁶ With respect to his inherited land, Ernest granted a right of way to the Louisiana Company allowing the company to place and operate

⁵⁹¹ George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828-1901.

⁵⁹² The (*Shreveport, Louisiana*) *Progress*, 11 April 1894, p. 5, col. 3; digital images, "Chronicling American, Historic American Newspapers," Library of Congress (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>; accessed 10 April 2012); the article, published on a Wednesday, referenced the family's mourning "this week," so Martin's death is presumed to have occurred on or after Sunday 8 April. If accurate, the age at death places Martin's birth between 8 April 1864 and 11 April 1865. Martin's place of death and funeral arrangements were unstated-implying the family homestead in Jewella.

⁵⁹³ George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828-1901.

⁵⁹⁴ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Marriage Book 36: 32, Ernest Stoner and Mamie F. Snead, 1910, recorded bond with original signature, license, and return; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport; Minister Claude L. Jones officiated the wedding of Ernest Stoner and Miss Mamie F. Snead. Witnesses were G. H. Cassity, M.D., Miss Willie Gordon, and Mrs. C. R. Gordon.

⁵⁹⁵ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 27536, Mrs. Mamie Snead Stoner v. Ernest Stoner (1920); Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport; Mamie's petition stated she had been living with her father Jno. J. Snead at Jewella, Caddo Parish. 1920 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch., ward 4, ED 40, folio 45 (stamped, reverse), sheet 45-B, dwell. 162, fam. 190, daughter Mamie enumerated with her divorced mother Mary Snead [sic].

⁵⁹⁶ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 211-213, Ernest Stoner testimony.

⁵⁹⁷ Louisiana, Supreme Court Case Files, no. 11,096, Stoner v. Texas & Pacific RR, 1892, bound transcript, 69-70, Ernest Stoner testimony.

⁵⁹⁸ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1892, unpaginated folio for ward 4, Ernest Stoner entry. Note that Ernest would have been liable for a poll tax in 1890-1, but those liable *only* for poll tax (and therefore classified "exempt") stopped appearing Caddo Parish's real and personal property tax rolls beginning 1883. Exempt assessment rolls for those liable for poll tax only have not been located for this parish.

⁵⁹⁹ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1897, folio 93; and 1898, folio 94, for Ernest Stoner entries.

⁶⁰⁰ 1900 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch., Jewella Precinct, folio 53 (stamped, reverse), ED 31, sheet 18-A, dwell. 400, fam. 400, G. W. Stoner household.

⁶⁰¹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, J. J. Jackson, J. W. Waddell, & S. J. Sims (Mutual Alliance No. 157) to Ernest Stoner, warranty deed, 12 September 1900, original authentic act no. 46597; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Ernest Stoner to George Hanes, J. W. Waddell, & L. J. Sims (Mutual Alliance No. 157), redemption of warranty deed, 18 November 1901, original authentic act no. 49603; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁶⁰² Numerous transactions describing Ernest's participation are previously discussed and cited in George's, Lizzie's, and Sam Stoner's life histories.

⁶⁰³ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 11731, Ernest & Early Roy Stoner v. Minors of Sam M. Stoner, Dec'd (1907), Interest in Land in Caddo Parish, Early R. Stoner to G. W. Stoner, 25 August 1903, Petition of Ernest and Early Roy Stoner, 9 December 1907, Defendant's Answer, 14 December 1907, Judgment Ordering Partition, 21 December 1907; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁶⁰⁴ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 47:378-9, Heirs of G. W. Stoner to Each Other, partition, 15 January 1908; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁶⁰⁵ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 12370, W. J. Davis vs. Ernest Stoner (1908), for Petition Affidavit and Order for Writs of Attachment, 4 September 1908; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport; the suit claimed that Ernest resided in Oklahoma and a Curator Ad Hoc was appointed to represent him in this suit.

⁶⁰⁶ Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case file 7619, Tutorship of the Minors of Sam M. Stoner (1901), for Proces Verbal of Family Meeting of 5 October 1909; George and Francis Leopard noted that no male relatives of the minors lived within thirty miles.

an oil and gas pipeline on his property in Lots 15 and 16 in the Jewella Tracts, on 1 April 1909,⁶⁰⁷ but on 26 August 1909 he sold the 47 acres in Lots 15 and 16 of the Jewella Tracts to H. R. Ratcliff and Carl Svarva for \$7011 in cash and promissory notes.⁶⁰⁸ The 1910 census enumerator showed Ernest back in the parish, single, and a truck farmer in Ward 4's Jewella Precinct, living on Greenwood Road (a.k.a. the Shreveport-Texas Wagon Road in earlier decades). He is shown as owning his own farm, free of any mortgage.⁶⁰⁹ This land was probably the nine acre parcel in Section 9 of the Jewella Tracts that Ernest had inherited but did not sell until 30 January 1913, to his niece Mary (Stoner) Holmes and her husband Yates for \$4000 in cash and promissory notes.⁶¹⁰ What caused Ernest to sell his remaining land is not immediately apparent, but by April 1914 he left his wife and children,⁶¹¹ and no further records document his presence in the parish. Mamie subsequently filed for Separation from Bed and Board in June 1920, and then for an absolute divorce and permanent custody of their two children, both of which were granted on 23 April 1921.⁶¹² The following day she married T. G. Brigham in Caddo Parish.⁶¹³ The children of Ernest Stoner and Mamie F. Snead are:⁶¹⁴ (a) Phronsie Stoner, born ca. April 1912, probably in Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and (b) Jewell/Joel Stoner, born ca. September 1914, probably in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

- v. GEORGE WILSON STONER, born 27 April 1872 at Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana,⁶¹⁵ died probably before 1 June 1880.⁶¹⁶
- vi. EARLY ROY STONER, born 3 or 30 October 1874 at Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.⁶¹⁷ He married (1) on 2 August 1897 in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Bennena Dennis,⁶¹⁸ died in or before October 1908,⁶¹⁹ daughter of Hiram and Annie Dennis;⁶²⁰ and (2)

⁶⁰⁷ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Conveyance Book 61:92, Ernest Stoner to The Louisiana Company, right of way, 1 April 1909, and acknowledgment, 2 April 1909; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁶⁰⁸ Caddo Ph., La., conveyance, Stoner to Ratcliff and Svarva, warranty deed, 26 August 1909; Ernest was a "single man."

⁶⁰⁹ 1910 U.S. census, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Jewella Precinct, Ward 4, folio 77 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 34, sheet 8-A, dwelling 144, family 146, Ernest Stoner; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>) : accessed 16 April 2009); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 510.

⁶¹⁰ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyance, Ernest Stoner to Yates L. Holmes, warranty deed, 30 January 1913, original authentic act no. 36971; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Mary appeared as the wife of Yates Holmes and the document listed her as "Mary Holmes (born Stoner)."

⁶¹¹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 29717, Mrs. Mamie Snead Stoner vs. Ernest Stoner (1921); Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport; Mamie gave his exact date of departure as 2 April 1914, claiming that Ernest lived in Colorado, Arizona, and California from then until her 1920 suit. No research has been conducted to prove or disprove her statement.

⁶¹² Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 27536, Mrs. Mamie Snead Stoner vs. Ernest Stoner (1920); Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case file 29717, Stoner vs. Stoner, 1921.

⁶¹³ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Marriage Book 57: 36, T. G. Brigham and Mamie Snead Stoner, 1921, recorded bond with original signature, license, and return; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport; Ernest Stoner is listed in this record as the former husband of the bride.

⁶¹⁴ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 29717, Mrs. Mamie Snead Stoner vs. Ernest Stoner (1921); Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Also, 1920 U.S. census, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Ward 4, enumeration district (ED) 40, folio 45 (stamped, reverse), sheet 45-B, dwelling 162, family 190, Phronsie and Jewell Stoner in Mary Snead household; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>) : accessed 16 April 2009); citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 608; the two minors are the children of Ernest Stoner and Mamie Snead—they appear with Mamie in the household, but are incorrectly listed as the daughter and son of their apparent grandmother Mary Snead. Also, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 27536, Mrs. Mamie Snead Stoner vs. Ernest Stoner (1920); Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport; the second child was spelled Joel in this record. The parties both agreed that Mamie had resided in Caddo Parish continuously since the marriage; thus, her children's births likely occurred in Caddo Parish.

⁶¹⁵ George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828–1901.

⁶¹⁶ 1880 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch., p. 51, ED 19, dwell. 603, fam. 603, G. W. Stoner household; no child named George nor any other named child of George's expected age appears in the 1880 household, census day 1 June 1880. Also, 1900 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., pop. sch., Jewella Precinct, folio 53 (stamped, reverse), ED 31, sheet 18-A, dwell. 400, fam. 400, G. W. Stoner household; wife Lizzie's entry includes six children born to her in her lifetime—which correlates with the six births naming her as the mother in George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828–1901—and two still living being Ernest and Early Roy Stoner. Thus, George is one of the four children who died.

⁶¹⁷ George W. Stoner Family Bible Records, 1828–1901; 3rd or 30th October 1874. A space exists where a second digit may have originally appeared but is not legible in the supplied photocopy. Given the "th" that appears after the number, the original entry was more likely 30.

⁶¹⁸ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, Marriage Book 22: 162, E. R. Stoner and Benena/Bennena/Benenna Dennis, 1897, recorded bond (with original signatures), license, and return; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. Three different spellings of Miss Dennis' given name occurred in this record. Witnesses were G. W. Leopard, R. B. Sheley, and T. W. Bens. Early's marriage bond surety was G. W. Leopard, (Early's stepfather).

⁶¹⁹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, conveyances, Early R. Stoner to William S. Penick, Jr., warranty deeds, 18 May & 30 October 1908, original authentic acts no. 6505 and 8538 respectively; Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport. It is typical for deeds of this timeframe to name the wife if the husband is married. In the first October deed, Early appeared without any reference to a wife or his marital status. The second deed described him as a widower, indirect evidence that his wife had died sometime before the deed. Given the absence of recorded children after daughter Irena's 1901–2 birth, Bennena's death may have occurred within a few years of Irena's birth.

⁶²⁰ 1900 U.S. census, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Ward 5, p. 77 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 32, sheet 15-B, dwellings 306–7, families 308–9, Hiram Dennis and Early R. Stoner households; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>) : accessed 20 April 2009); citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 559. Early and Bennena lived next door to Hiram and Annie Dennis. Their children Lucile and Irena lived in Hiram and Annie Dennis' 1910 household enumerated as their granddaughters, but their mother Bennena was not enumerated: 1910 U.S. census, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Ward 5, folio 181 (stamped, reverse)–182 (stamped), enumeration district (ED) 53, sheet 17-B–18-A,

on 15 December 1908 in Bossier Parish, Louisiana, May Flynn, a.k.a. Mary Flynn,⁶²¹ possibly died before April 1930.⁶²² Three years after their marriage Early and Bennena resided with their daughter Lucille in a 1900 census household next door to Bennena's parents in ward 5 of Caddo Parish. Early then worked as a farm laborer.⁶²³ Following his mother Lizzie's 1901 death, he joined with his father George and his brother Ernest helping to handle her estate and that of his brother Sam's minors. Of special note, the court ordered the appointment of Early R. Stoner as the Under-Tutor⁶²⁴ to Sam's children.⁶²⁵ This he appeared to do well. For example, when the court found that the children's undivided collective share of their grandmother's estate was 2/9 versus 1/9, Early petitioned the court to raise the bond required of the Tutrix and Co-Tutor. This the court did, raising it to \$2000.⁶²⁶ In August 1903, Early sought to carry out his mother's last testament wish: he noted that the law prohibited his mother from disposing of more than 1/3 of her property, [*the remaining 2/3 being reserved for her forced heirs*], the forced heirs being his brother Ernest, himself, and "some children of his predeceased [unnamed] brother." In deference to his mother's will that her husband receive all of her property, he donated and transfer his inherited share to his father.⁶²⁷ After his father's death in 1907, Early inherited the same share amount as his brother Ernest and deceased brother Sam, \$14,737.42, on 15 January 1908. The landed portion consisted of 63.12 contiguous acres in the Jewella Tracts in parts of Lots 8, 11, and 12.⁶²⁸ Early sold his inherited land to William S. Penick, Jr., in two transactions, 18 May and 30 October of the same year, for a total of \$7140.87 cash and Penick's assumption of a \$1000 mortgaged owed by Early to another creditor. In the 30 October 1908 transaction, the notary recorded Early as a widower.⁶²⁹ On 31 December 1908, Early sued to recover a \$3563.33 debt—one of three promissory notes given by A. K. Clingman to his deceased father George for 21.15 acres sold to Clingman in the Red River Tracts on 20 December 1906. Early identified himself as a son of George W. Stoner, deceased, and claimed ownership of the promissory note by virtue of the partition of the deceased's estate. The court agreed with the petition and on the same day ordered the seizure and sale of the 21.15 acres to satisfy the debt.⁶³⁰ Clingman sought an injunction barring the seizure and sale of the property, claiming principally that the warranted title conveyed to him by George Stoner was defective. The final results of the case were not present in the case file,⁶³¹ but no evidence has surfaced directly or indirectly that Clingman's claim was upheld. Whether Clingman paid his three promissory notes of \$3563.33 each remains an open question, but no further suits on the matter have been uncovered, suggesting indirectly that he did. With the value of his inheritance in hand and a second marriage two months old, Early resigned the Under-Tutorship of his brother Sam's minors on 15 February 1909.⁶³² Early probably left the parish sometime between then and October 1909 as he was absent from a family meeting held for the minors of Sam Stoner on 5 October 1909,⁶³³ and his last documented appearance in Caddo Parish tax assessment rolls for real and personal property occurred in the 1908 rolls.⁶³⁴ Confirmation of his absence is suggested by the 1910 federal census enumeration in Colorado: an Early Roy Stoner appeared in Denver, age 35 and married to a Mary [sic] Stoner for the past two years. His occupation was street work laborer. The marriage was Early's second and Mary's first. They apparently shared the same dwelling with four other families.⁶³⁵ The man's name, age, birthplaces of his unnamed parents and

dwelling 307, family 310, Hiram Dennis household; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 October 2011); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 509; the apparent left-handed writing resulted in Stoner indexed as "Haney."

⁶²¹ Bossier Parish, Louisiana, Marriage Book P:446, Early R. Stoner And Miss May Flynn, 1908, original license and return (with original signatures); Clerk of Court's Office, Benton. Witnesses were J. M. Cleavor and W. J. Bell. The ceremony was conducted by a Justice of the Peace.

⁶²² 1930 U.S. census, Tarrant County, Texas, population schedule, Ft. Worth City, Ward 4E, enumeration district (ED) 220, folio 40 (stamped, reverse), sheet 16-B, dwelling 50, family 83, Early R. Stoner; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 October 2011); citing NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 2392; the other ten lodgers and the couple running the lodging house are enumerated on the front side of folio 40 (stamped); fifty-five year old widower Early R. Stoner was a lodger and landscape gardener who married for the first time at age 23. If his widower status is accurate and if he only married twice, then his second wife Mary/May (Flynn) Stoner died, probably before census day 1 April 1930.

⁶²³ 1900 U.S. census, Caddo Par., La., ward 5, p. 77 (stamped), ED 32, sheet 15-B, dwell. 307, fam. 309, Early R. Stoner household.

⁶²⁴ Dainow, ed., 1972 *Compiled Edition of the Civil Codes of Louisiana*, 16: 169, Article 275 of the Louisiana Revised Civil Code of 1870. "It is the duty of the undertutor to act for the minor, whenever the interest of the minor is in opposition to the interest of the tutor [or tutrix]."

⁶²⁵ Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case file 7619, Tutorship of the Minors of Sam M. Stoner, 1901, for Judgment Homologating Family Meeting, 3 July 1902.

⁶²⁶ Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case file 7619, Tutorship of the Minors of Sam M. Stoner, 1901, for Petition for New Bond and Cancellation of Old Bond and Orders for the Same, 17 April 1903.

⁶²⁷ Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case file 11731, Stoners v. Minors of Sam M. Stoner, Dec'd, 1907, for [Transfer of] Interest in Land in Caddo Parish, Early R. Stoner to G. W. Stoner, 25 August 1903.

⁶²⁸ Caddo Ph., La., Conveyance Book 47:378-9, Heirs of G. W. Stoner to Each Other, partition, 15 January 1908.

⁶²⁹ Caddo Ph., La., conveyances, Stoner to Penick, warranty deeds, 18 May & 30 October 1908.

⁶³⁰ Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case file 12636, Stoner vs. Clingman, 1908, for Three Day Seizure and Sale Notice, 31 December 1908.

⁶³¹ Caddo Parish, Louisiana, 1st Judicial District Court case file 12675, A. K. Clingman vs. Early R. Stoner, et. al. (1909); Clerk of Court's Office, Shreveport.

⁶³² Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case file 7619, Tutorship of the Minors of Sam M. Stoner, 1901, for Resignation of Early R. Stoner as Under-Tutor, 17 February 1909.

⁶³³ Caddo Ph., La., 1st Jud. Dist. Court case file 7619, Tutorship of the Minors of Sam M. Stoner (1901), for Proces Verbal of Family Meeting of 5 October 1909; George and Francis Leopard noted that no male relatives of the minors lived within thirty miles.

⁶³⁴ Caddo Ph., La., Tax Assessment Rolls, 1908, folio 200 for Early R. Stoner entry of 63 acres, which matches his inherited share's land description in the Jewella Tracts. Listings for 1909 through 1920 carrying this name are consistent with Early's nephew of the same name.

⁶³⁵ 1910 U.S. census, Denver County, Colorado, population schedule, Ward 2, Denver City, folio 109 (stamped, reverse), enumeration district (ED) 54, sheet 5-B, dwelling 72, family 122, Early Roy Stoner household; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 October 2011); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 114.

himself, number of years married and number of marriages are all consistent with the youngest son of George W. Stoner. A 55-year-old widower Early R. Stoner appears in a lodging home run by Oliver S. and Lyla Kennedy in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas, in the 1930 federal census. He was joined by eleven other lodgers. Early reportedly married for the first time at age 23. On the 1 April 1930 census day his reported occupation was landscape gardener. His age, birthplace, occupation, and age at first marriage are consistent with those of George W. Stoner's youngest son Early Roy Stoner and the latter's first marriage to Bennena Dennis.⁶³⁶ If his widower status is accurate and if he only married twice, then his second wife Mary/May (Flynn) Stoner probably died sometime after her last recorded appearance in 1910's census finding and before the 1930 federal census. The children of Early Roy Stoner and Bennena Davis are: (a) Lucille Stoner, born ca. April 1900, probably in Caddo Parish, Louisiana;⁶³⁷ and (b) Irena D. Stoner, born ca. 1901-2, probably in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.⁶³⁸

George W. Stoner was the son of Michael L. and Kitty F. Stoner.

⁶³⁶ 1930 U.S. census, Tarrant Co., Tx., Ft. Worth City, ward 4E, ED 220, folio 40, sheet 16-B, dwell. 50, fam. 83, Early R. Stoner.

⁶³⁷ 1900 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., ward 5, p. 77 (stamped), ED 32, sheet 15-B, dwell. 307, fam. 309, Early R. Stoner household; Lucille born April 1900.

⁶³⁸ 1910 U.S. census, Caddo Ph., La., ward 5, folio 181 (stamped, reverse)-182 (stamped), ED 53, sheet 17-B-18-A, dwell. 307, fam. 310, Hiram Dennis household; granddaughter Irena enumerated as age 8.