

The Genie

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



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY

ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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

THE GENIE
TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

Purpose

Organizational Structure

President's Message

Contributed by Glenda Efferson Bernard

Vice President's Message

Contributed by Reed Mathews

Periodical Exchange Review

Contributed by Reed Mathews

Ruth Remembers the Kicking Cow

Contributed by Ruth Roberts Frank Berlin

Chatman Cemetery

Contributed by Isabelle Woods

Ancestors and Descendants of Margaret (Short) Wilson of Guilford County, NC and Shelby County, TX

Contributed by Marieta Childs

Field Trip to Mansfield Female College Museum

Contributed by Sylvia Powers

Louisiana's Last Ten Confederates

Contributed by Isabelle Woods

James Blair Gilmer – Planter and Entrepreneur

Contributed by Dale Jennings

Chronicling America

Contributed by Sonja Dowling Webb

What Granddaddy Did to Upset Grandma

Contributed by Sonja Dowling Webb

Field Trip to Homer, Louisiana

Contributed by Barbara Dean Kronenberg

Spring Genealogy Seminar

Contributed by Jim Johnson

Shape of Shreveport (Presented by Sonja Webb)

Contributed by Suzanne Stimits

The Murphy Mystery

Contributed by Kathryn Benson

2017 August Seminar

Contributed by Jim Johnson

ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 4463

Shreveport, Louisiana 71134-0463

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

The purpose of this organization is:

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



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

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

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

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

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

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The President's Message

“I love to be able to post my old family photos online,” one young researcher mentioned. Another said, “My tree on Ancestry.com is filled with photos of so many of my ancestors.” Yet a third person was overheard saying, “I don't post photos, especially those which my grandmother left behind.” Do you typically post the photos you have on Facebook, Instagram, Shutterfly, or Twitter so that other family members can view them? If you don't post these photos from days of long ago, do you have a problem with copying a photo from someone else who has placed a photo online?

Our photo sharing capabilities have mushroomed exponentially within the last few years. We can capture a photo of someone in Louisiana, and it can appear almost instantly on a relative's smartphone as he drinks a latte at a Paris bistro and on a cousin's iPad in Australia at the same time. It seems that family historians have multiple choices of sharing sites for these precious photographs, but many are uncertain how best to share them or even if to share them at all. The consequence of not sharing them might be that they are left to sons and daughters who do not prize them as we do.

What are some of the positives of sharing these gems online? Primarily, we may connect with relatives we never knew, or we may learn new information that lessens the cloudy view which we had of our pictured ancestor. We also may help countless others who are not blessed with an inheritance of age-old family photographs. Last August, 2016, devastation occurred from flooding in the Baton Rouge area. As a result, thousands of citizens in parishes surrounding the many tributaries of the rivers there still are not living in renovated homes! Many lost everything! Allowing these people to see and copy photos of their families can bring indescribable joy for both parties!

On the other hand, once information is posted online, it will belong to the world. The original owner has no control of where it goes, how it is labeled, or if it is “cropped” to distortion. It may very well become reposted by someone else with no credit given to the original owner. If that occurs the original owner may never be known and will be unable to be contacted for more information. Comments and thanks may never get to the proper person.

This issue is controversial and individual, to say the least. There is no right or wrong conclusion that we can make at this time. We don't know the future of social media or the internet, as we know it today. Do we keep those old, treasured, original prints to ourselves and hope that a descendant will become enamored just as we? Or do we step out “into the unknown” and make our photographs available to others?

We would like to hear your thoughts on this subject. You can comment by responding on this email address: altgenassn@gmail.com .

Glenda Efferson Bernard

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Contributed by Reed Mathews

The spring of 2017 has offered many educational opportunities for the members of the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association. (My reports sound like broken records, but it is true.) For our May meeting, Tarah Thomas, Library Technician in the Genealogy Department at Shreve Memorial, spoke on "Strategies for Researching Acadian – Cajun – Creole Ancestors." Mrs. Thomas pointed out that French-speaking immigrants came to Louisiana in three waves. The first came in fairly small numbers directly from France in the late 1600s and early 1700s. At first, the colony of Louisiana was a weak sister of France's more populous and more productive colonies in Canada and the Caribbean. However, as France's new-world empire unraveled, Louisiana became a haven for the Acadians of Nova Scotia, who formed the second wave in the 1760s, and for refugees of the revolution in Sainte Domingue (now Haiti), who formed the third wave in the 1790s. Of the three groups, the Acadians/Cajuns came in the greatest numbers, by far. The Cajuns essentially rebranded Louisiana culture with their easy-going, fun-loving style.

Tracing Louisiana ancestry to 17th and 18th century France, possibly by way of Canada or the Caribbean, can be very difficult. Because much of the immigration from French-speaking lands came before Louisiana became American in 1803, immigration records, such as passenger lists and naturalizations, are unavailable for the most part. French and Spanish colonial records, Catholic Church records, and land records, therefore, become very important for researchers. Some of the most important colonial records have been published in abstract form. Several serial publications provide abstracts of church records for southwest Louisiana, the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and the Diocese of Baton Rouge, as well as other regions. Colonial land owners had to prove their property claims to the U.S. government after 1803. The proofs, which often document early 19th century owners' descendancies from recipients of royal land grants made perhaps several decades earlier, are published in the *American State Papers* series. DNA testing has offered new possibilities in making connections in the past 20 years.

For our June meeting, Jackson Sibley discussed "Plantations along the Upper Red River 1839-Present Day." Mr. Sibley has collected histories of 60 plantations that are located on the Red River between Shreveport and the Arkansas border and has published this information in a book by the same title. Mr. Sibley descends from pioneer families who came to Bossier and Caddo Parishes in the 1840s, and the region has remained his home. He discussed the unique history of northwest Louisiana, explaining that although Henry Miller Shreve cleared the Red River raft up to the location of Shreveport, it was Lieutenant Eugene A. Woodruff who finished the work of clearing the raft above Shreveport in 1873. He told the stories of many of the pioneers who developed the upper Red, including Mary Bennett Cane, the Pickett family, and the Gilmers. Most of the old homes have been lost, and several of the properties have been bought and sold many times.

Mr. Sibley has also supervised the creation of a wall map that locates these plantations which is a perfect companion to his book. He modeled his map "Plantations on the Upper Red from Arkansas to Shreveport" on Persac's map, "The Plantations on the Mississippi from Natchez to New Orleans 1858," and derived it from "an original 1887 river survey by the United States

government.” Tracts of land on both sides of the river are labeled with the name of the plantation or the owner’s name. His assistant, artist Diane Long, who accompanied Mr., Sibley to the meeting, has colorfully illustrated not only the map that complements the book, but she is also working on three other maps, which depict the plantations along the Red from Shreveport south to the Cane River region below Natchitoches. These maps truly are collectors’ items.

Our Education Committee continues to do wonderful work. Hornbook sessions have included episodes of “The Shape of Shreveport,” a series of documentary histories of the city, and Sonja Webb has presented a wealth of information that is available from historical newspapers on the Library of Congress’s website “Chronicling America.” In June, Glenda Bernard presented “Everybody Has a Story,” in which she emphasized the important role of story tellers to their families and to the larger culture. As they had in 2016, our Education Committee planned a second major educational day this year in addition to our annual seminar in August.

On April 1, the Association hosted an all-day seminar featuring the founder and mainstay of 4yourfamilystory.com, Caroline M. Pointer. The seminar struck a very good balance between basic genealogical practices and technological possibilities. One nuts-and-bolts genealogical tool that Mrs. Pointer advocated was the family-research timeline. In a case study from her own family, she showed how timelines may be used in the analysis of discrepant sources. She explained that chronologies help researchers come to a fuller understanding of their ancestors’ lives.

In her discussion, “Power your research with a research plan,” Mrs. Pointer explained that many family researchers are haphazard in seeking information. This chaotic approach wastes time and energy and generally fails to provide satisfactory answers. By defining explicit research problems and identifying sources that might offer answers, researchers can prioritize their research so that they may direct their energies more wisely. Mrs. Pointer answered the question of her great-grandmother’s two birthdates and solved the mystery of the multiple versions of her great-grandmother’s name by employing just this kind of research plan.

In “Did you really look everywhere online?” Mrs. Pointer offered a laundry list of 23 free genealogical websites, as well as a few lesser-known subscription sites. I have to admit that I had not heard of several of these sites. The first five sites give a taste: USGenWeb Archives, Genealogy Trails, My Genealogy Hound, Findagrave.com, and the Library of Congress.

There is more, of course. Connections to the 50 states’ archives are offered through a wiki from familysearch.org. The Louisiana Digital Library seems promising, and Katherine Wilson’s Facebook Genealogy Groups and Pages List appears to be a treasure trove. PERSI (Periodical Source Index), the 2.5-million-entry index of historical and genealogical publications created by the staff of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, is now free to search through the subscription database, findmypast.com. The greater message is that researchers who feel they are getting “everything” from the same old websites are likely missing out.

Mrs. Pointer’s “10 Tech Tools to help you collaborate with family for your research” include cloud-based services such as dropbox and blog; communication through social media and Skype; and family trees published through ancestry.com, myheritage.com, and familysearch.org. In her

tenth item, DNA testing, she assessed the three top testing services and explained that GEDmatch.com was a free site to which the public may upload their DNA test results for analysis and collaboration with others. Mrs. Pointer answered many questions from participants concerning DNA testing.

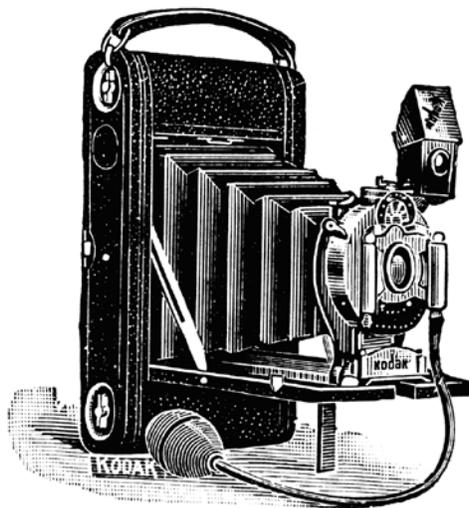
Mrs. Pointer was well organized, and her handouts allowed participants to follow her discussions easily. She was patient and professional in answering questions, giving freely of her knowledge. Again, the facilities at St. Jude's were perfect for our requirements, with the staff of St. Jude's responded well to our needs. The hot lunch was well above average for such events.

I would like to thank our education committee members for their great work in preparation for this seminar. Sonja Webb worked tirelessly through much of the year to make the day a success. On behalf of the Association, I would like to recognize Sonja, the members of the Education Committee, and all of the volunteers who contributed to make this a memorable event.

It is basically the same people who are preparing even now for our annual seminar in August. (It is like being a kid again and having two birthdays in one year.) This year's August seminar features Cari Taplin. Look for information concerning this event in this issue of *THE GENIE*. I hope to see you there.

I recently made a pilgrimage to my Rogers-family homeland in Baltimore. The Rogerses are my mother's family. They are very dear to me. In my 27 years of doing family research, I had never visited Baltimore. The trip was all too brief, but it was a singular experience, the likes of which I had not had in many years. I hope you all get to trek back to your family homes this summer and discover more than you have ever known about your forbears. Take pictures.

Reed Mathews
Vice President



Periodical Exchange Review Contributed by Reed Mathews

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

Our Heritage. The San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society publishes *Our Heritage* quarterly. The fall and winter 2016-2017 combined issue is a commemoration of family members who served in World War I. The cover is card stock, and it is staple-bound. There are 112 numbered pages, a table of contents, and an every-name index. Color illustrations adorn the front and back cover, and black and white photographs accompany the articles. Sources are generally cited for articles in end notes.

Editor, Larry W. Lockett, provides some of the historical background of World War I. Lockett introduces this issue with “Remembering World War I and Family Members of that Era.” In “San Antonio: World War I and Influenza,” he explains that military bases near San Antonio served as important supply depots for the armed forces and as training grounds for the troops. The Spanish Flu pandemic arrived in San Antonio in the middle of the war effort. In two months in 1918, 10,606 cases were treated. Lockett evokes something of the soldier’s life in “Mail Call: Soldier Communications during WWI” and “Military Identification Tags in WWI.” In “Women’s Roles during World War I,” Lockett discusses the women who served as volunteers with the Red Cross and those who served as nurses at home and abroad.

Family historians will find information in this issue that may help them in their research. Judith Lockett’s “Liability and Loyalty: German Descendants in America, 1914-1918” explains how government propaganda demonized Germans and how Americans of German descent suffered. Many German Americans across the country denied their heritage so that they might fit in better; therefore, much of their culture was lost. In “1917-1918 Draft Registrations: Almost Another Census,” Nancy Wright Brennan explains that 9.5 million men registered for the draft on June 5, 1917, a day known as “Liberty Day.” There were two subsequent draft registrations, and together the three registrations covered all men in America born between September 11, 1872, and September 12, 1900. Larry Lockett’s “World War I Bibliography” lists sources for researching World War I ancestors and their military units.

Most of the articles in this issue of *Our Heritage* honor veterans of World War I who were family members of the submitters. Larry Lockett memorializes several of his relations in his articles “The Five Flaig Brothers,” “Jeremiah R. Blodgett – Steamfitter, Newark Shipyard,” “Allen C. Redding: Band Corporal, 6th Division, WWI,” and “Gennaro ‘James’ Velti: Pvt, 3rd U.S. Cavalry, WWI.” Nancy J. McNamara honors 10 of her and her husband’s family members in “Our Family World War I Heroes,” and Katherine Nelson Hall discusses the participation of her grandfather and three of his brothers in “The Nelson Family in World War I.”

The experiences of participants in the war varied widely. William Allen Myers' father, "Pvt. Charles Stillwell Myers, U.S. Marine Corps, 1918," had hardly joined the service before the end of the war precipitated his discharge. Nevertheless, Charles S. Myers was very proud of his contribution, and a marker on his grave commemorates this. David Barkley swam the icy Meuse River on November 5, 1918, to gain recognition of the Germans. Although Barkley drowned in his attempt to return to his lines, the information that his patrol provided changed the course of the war. David Barkley was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for bravery in service to our country. It was only in 1989 that it became known that Barkley's mother's Mexican heritage made him the first Hispanic to achieve this recognition. There are a dozen more stories in these pages.

This issue of *Our Heritage* is amazing. The last veteran of World War I has died, and only the oldest among us have any personal memory of that cataclysm. Larry Lockett, the Publications Committee, and the members of the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society have done wonderful work to preserve the memories of family members who participated in World War I. The SAGHS' *Our Heritage* was awarded third prize for an official publication/journal by the Texas State Genealogical Society in 2016. It is a well deserved honor.

The Louisiana Genealogical Register. The Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society has published *The Louisiana Genealogical Register* quarterly since 1954. (The LGHS is one of only two genealogical societies in Louisiana which were founded before the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association and which are still operating.) The winter 2017 issue contains 41 numbered pages, including a table of contents and a full-name index. It is staple-bound with a card-stock cover. There are a few black and white photographs. The only genealogical article in this issue was documented with end notes.

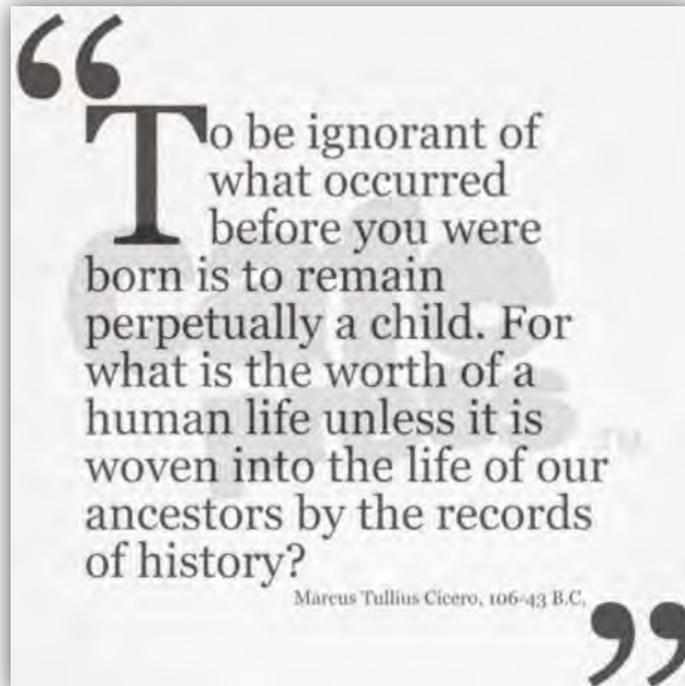
In their article, "Should the Guédry Name Really Be Melanson?" Mark Labine and R. Martin Guidry present the amazing coincidences that appear in the lives of John Laverdure and Claude Guédry. John Laverdure was the son of Pierre Melanson, a French Huguenot, and his wife Priscilla. Pierre Melanson had the dit name of Laverdure. (Dit names were like aliases but without the negative connotation. They were really more like nicknames. They were popular in the 1600s in France, in turn, becoming a part of the culture of Acadia and of Louisiana. "Laverdure," according to the authors, was French for "greenery." It was not uncommon as a dit name.) When Acadia was taken over by the French in 1657, John Melanson and his son John moved to Boston to live among fellow Protestants. They were known from that time forward by the surname Laverdure.

When John Laverdure ran afoul of the law, he failed to appear for his court date in Boston in 1676. Nothing more is known of John Laverdure. Nothing is known of Claude Guédry before 1681, when he had his daughter baptized in Acadia. The Guédrys and the Melansons (kin of John Laverdure) both married into a third family who lived in the same sparsely populated part of Acadia. Claude Guédry was a mariner as was John Laverdure. They both had ties to Boston and Acadia. They both seemed to be educated, and their signatures were similar. Another detail that seems an impossible coincidence is that Claude Guédry also went by the dit name "Laverdure."

Could all these similarities between John Laverdure and Claude Guédry be mere coincidence? Well, yes. Just as it seems that the authors are really making the case that John Laverdure had changed his name to Claude Guédry and moved back to Acadia to escape the law in Boston, they correct this theory. The authors state that DNA tests on the descendants of Claude Guédry and on those of John Laverdure prove that they could not possibly have been the same man. For now the Guédry line still ends with Claude Guédry.

The LGHS offers a First Families of Louisiana Certificate. To get this certificate an applicant must prove that he or she has an ancestor who lived within the current boundaries of the state of Louisiana before December 20, 1803. Advertised in this issue of *The Louisiana Genealogical Register* was the LGHS' 49th Annual Conference in April. This conference was a full day seminar which included five speakers who spoke on Scottish ancestry, Welsh ancestry, Muscogee-Creek ancestry, Canary Island ancestry, and genealogical research at the library. This issue included an announcement for The 4th Annual Folklife Fellow-bration, which will be held October 7, 2017, as well. Details may be found on their website: www.louisianaghs.org.

The Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society is to be admired for its longevity. The *Register* is a worthy publication.



RUTH REMEMBERS

THE KICKING COW

©2016 by Ruth Roberts Frank Berlin

At home, when I was growing up, Daddy always did the milking. Pa, my grandfather, worked in the garden and helped Uncle Bud in his store. My grandfather never did the milking. Fortunately, my Daddy never was ill because a “fresh” cow that has no calf to nurse must be milked twice each day.

One time at my grandfather’s farm three miles north of Greenwood, Louisiana, a cow had something wrong with her. Daddy and Pa drove to the farm and inspected the cow. They decided to bring the cow to town to look after her and to take better care of her than she would have if left at the farm.

The really bad part of this was the fact that this little brown Jersey cow named Ruth had a bad reputation as a “kicking cow.” To compound the problem, Ruth was “fresh,” and had to be milked twice a day. She had kicked and injured several men who tried to milk her. When a man at the farm milked her, he put hobbles on her to prevent her from kicking him. This cow was to be feared!

Pa and Daddy returned to town for Mother, Marilyn, and me. We all went back to the farm so that Daddy, Marilyn, and I could walk Ruth from the farm to town. My grandfather, knowing well the reputation of the cow, picked up a pair of hobbles that were in the farm’s barn and put them in the car. He and Mother drove back home to wait for us to come walking in with the cow.

Finally, we arrived home. Daddy put Ruth in the pasture and gave her water. Then he walked her down past the Old House—Mother’s childhood home place—to the cow barn. Daddy came to the house and rested for awhile. Then he got up, picked up the milk bucket, and headed to the barn to milk Ruth.

Pa recommended that Daddy get the hobbles out of the car, take them with him to the barn, and put them on Ruth so that she could not kick him. Daddy thanked Pa for the advice but made no effort to get the hobbles.

Pa walked from the house with Daddy and reminded him that the cow was a “kicking cow.” Ruth, he warned, could kick Daddy all over the barn—maybe even kick Daddy out of the barn, maybe even kill Daddy. Daddy again thanked my grandfather for his advice but walked toward the barn without the hobbles.

Pa, worried but exasperated, went back into the house. Marilyn and I began to worry about our father and feared Pa was correct about Daddy’s being kicked out of the barn by Ruth and maybe even being gored and killed by her.

Daddy went about taking care of Ruth. He walked down to the “old house,” then up the steps onto the back porch. He walked down the porch to the big room on the northwest corner where the cow feed was stored. Daddy measured out the feed for Ruth.

He jumped off the porch, pick up his feed bucket and the milk bucket, then headed north under the big pecan trees to the barn where Ruth was waiting to be milked. He went into the barn and placed the bucket of feed in the feed trough for Ruth to eat while he milked her. He reached up the wall of the barn, took the milking stool off the wall, and placed it on the ground beside Ruth near her udder. Then, Daddy sat down on the stool.

Time seemed to stand still as Marilyn and I waited for our precious Daddy to come back from the barn. We, of course, had conjured up all types of images of how he would look after Ruth got through kicking him all over the barn and kicking him out of the barn. We were almost in tears anticipating the worse for our father, when we heard him coming up the back steps. We ran to meet Daddy and were totally surprised to find him in excellent physical condition and with a full bucket of milk.

Mother took the bucket of milk, strained, and bottled it. She put away the milk bucket, pans, and cloths. She served our supper in the dining room that warm evening and no reference was made to the kicking cow.

When we were just about through eating our supper, Daddy, with a twinkle in his big brown eyes and a grin on his lips, said to my grandfather, “Mr. Vaughan, when I was milking that cow down at the barn a little while ago, I thought I saw you watching me from behind one of the big pecan trees. Was I correct?”

My grandfather, a very refined and genteel man, was so very embarrassed! He began to sputter and stutter. “Ben,” he said. “Ben,” he said again. “Ben, I was afraid that cow was going to kick you because you would not use those hobbles. I just knew she would kick you out of the barn. I was down there to pick you up when she did that.” Daddy laughed aloud and we all joined in.

We were all greatly relieved that Daddy had not been injured by that cow. My Dad never did put hobbles on Ruth or any other cow he milked. No cow he milked ever even offered to kick him. Daddy had a sweet, wonderful, gentle nature which our animals must have recognized.

And, Daddy seemed to find great humor in the most unexpected places.

CHATMAN CEMETERY
HOMER, CLAIBORNE PARISH, LOUISIANA

Contributed by Isabelle M. Woods

Directions: From Homer's Court House Square, take Louisiana Highway 9 north for three and three tenths of a mile (3.3), turn left on Chatman Loop for one tenth of a mile (0.1). The Chatman Cemetery is on the left. Cemetery was read and recorded on April 5, 2017.



NAME (Last, First, Middle)	BIRTH	DEATH	INSCRIPTION/NOTES
Chatman, Odis	17 Oct 1937	17 Dec 2016	79 Yrs. Metal marker
Gray, Robert "Willie Earl"	01 Mar 1950	26 May 2015	A Hardworking Husband, Father, Grandfather, Brother, Uncle, Cousin, and Friend
Bennett, Carolyn R.	11 Jun 1962	26 May 2006	
Monk, Charley	27 Jan 1938	20 Feb 2013	Photo; Duo w/Betty Monk; Wed on 21 Jun 1959
Monk, Betty	16 Dec 1939	(Blank)	Photo; Duo w/ Charley Monk
Smith, Auther L.	17 Jul 1938	19 Dec 2002	Photo; Duo w/ Mary L. Smith; Wed on May 30, 1960
Smith, Mary L.	10 Mar 1941	(Blank)	Duo w/Auther L. Smith
Chatman, Catherine	16 Jul 1957	25 Oct 1985	Daughter
Green, Jr., Jerry Dewayne	09 Aug 1980	09 May 2015	Metal marker

CHATMAN CEMETERY (continued)

NAME (Last, First, Middle)	BIRTH	DEATH	INSCRIPTION/NOTES
Chatman, Lonnie	1928	1997	His headstone is a small cross in two pieces
Dawson, Morris	06 Aug 1923	02 Feb 2013	Photo; Duo w/ Lizzie Mae Dawson
Dawson, Lizzie Mae	12 Oct 1926	20 Oct 1993	Photo; Duo w/Morris Dawson
Chatman, Ivory	21 Jun 1921	02 Mar 1977	Photo. Footstone: Daddy
Chatman, Leonard	22 Feb 1925	21 Nov 2006	F/S--Cross w/ Name & 1925-2006 Daniel,
Jr., Roger	01 Sep 1960	09 Jun 2011	Beloved Father & Brother
Chatman, Rochester	12 Mar 1897	26 May 1972	Photo on headstone
Chatman, Beatrice	15 Mar 1902	22 Mar 1992	Photo; To Our Beloved Mother From Your Children
Smith, Nettie B. Chatman	06 Jan 1923	29 Sep 2014	Photo on headstone
Seals, Minnie	15 Oct 1912	26 Feb 1989	
Seals, Bennie Bond	16 Feb 1936	24 Jul 1998.	
Chatman, Willie Clyde	27 Oct 1951	21 Jan 1955	In God's Care
Chatman, Almer Ray		10 Apr 1956	In God's Care
Moore, John D.	04 Sep 1914	03 Oct 1969	Brother
Moore, Gabrillon	19 Jan 1888	06 Oct 1966	Age 74 Yrs
Moore, George	15 Jun 1881	10 May 1963	Father
Woodfork, Welton	18 Jan 1918	19 Nov 2000	Your Smile Will Be Remembered. He also has a cross as a marker.
Applewhite, Ivory	15 Jun 1891	28 Oct 1983	.
Bennett, Viola	03 Jul 1915	13 Mar 1984	
Thompson, Zeola Chatman	15 Aug 1916	26 Feb 2008	
Washington, Ella Mae	19 Feb 1943	24 Nov 2006	Beloved Mother, Grandmother & Great Grandmother
Bennett, Glen Duane	16 Jun 1969	27 Aug 2014	Forever in Our Hearts
Bennett, Cynthia Ann	21 Feb 1961	28 Jul 2003	
Chatman, Tribbie	18 Aug 1921	04 Apr 2000	To Mom With Love
Chatman, Joe	20 Aug 1912	29 Mar 1992	
Chatman, Ethel William	01 Jan 1909	16 Feb 1985	
Bennett, Viola	03 Jul 1913	13 Mar 1984	
Chatman, Oree	16 Mar 1918	29 Aug 1974	PVT U S ARMY
Ferrell, Essie Mae	06 Aug 1910	19 Jul 1988	
Chatman, Isaac	27 Jan 1927	27 Dec 1978	
Chatman, Bennie Drew	16 Jun 1945	13 Mar 2002	
Chatman, Jerry	13 Jan 1949	11 Sep 2016	Metal marker
Chatman, Marcie	10 Mar 1924	14 Apr 2003	
Chatman, Mary Ellen	29 Jul 1926	21 Nov 1992	Your Children
Chatman, Levon	14 Feb 1944	04 Jan 1966	Has 2 headstones. Beloved Brother
Chatman, Oscar B.	22 Nov 1944	14 Apr 2013	Loving Brother, Daddy, Grandpa
Chatman, Talton	02 Aug 1890	07 Apr 1940	
Moore, L. T.	30 Sep 1908	10 Jun 1945	Age 36 Yrs
Chatman, Gertrude	15 Jul 1901	19 Oct 1969	To Our Beloved Aunt From Your Nieces and Nephews
Chatman, Elnoria Merritt	1859	10 Oct 1962	Photo; Beloved Mother & Grandmother
Chatman, William M.	24 Aug 1861	18 Aug 1930	Footstone: W. M. C.

CHATMAN CEMETERY (continued)

NAME (Last, First, Middle)	BIRTH	DEATH	INSCRIPTION/NOTES
Chatman, Lenard	12 Sep 1898	14 Sep 1923	Son of W. M. & Elnorie Chatman; Age 25 Yrs 2 Days
Chatman, Jr., William M.	21 Sep 1897	21 May 1938	
Chatman, Eller	1886	1925	
Chatman, Nathiel		28 Feb 1942	Nathaniel vs Nathiel?



I also wanted to let you know you will see two headstone readings for Viola Bennett with different years of birth. She has two headstones. The old one has her birth year as "1915". Someone upgraded her grave site with a new headstone but inscribed her birth year on it as "1913."



ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS OF MARGARET (SHORT) WILSON
OF GUILFORD COUNTY, NC, AND SHELBY COUNTY, TX

Contributed by Marleta Childs

Genealogists are aware of the importance of wills in family research, but they often overlook another important resource: estate records. These documents sometimes provide proof of relationships not found in wills or other sources. They may also furnish clues for extending ancestral lines back several generations. An example is the case of Margaret (Short) Wilson. The estate records of her great uncle were crucial in confirming her family ties, previously based only on circumstantial evidence.

Margaret Short was born in 1804 or 1805 in Guilford or Rockingham County, North Carolina.¹ Nicknamed “Peggy,” she married John Wilson in Guilford County about 13 Aug 1822 (date of bond).²

By 1833, John and Peggy (Short) Wilson moved to McNairy County, Tennessee, where they remained for several years.³ Between 1842 and 1850, however, John and Peggy decided to migrate to St. Francis County, Arkansas.⁴ Probably because their older daughter, Margaret, and her family were already living in the Lone Star State, the Wilsons moved to the Shelby/Rusk counties area in Texas, before 6 March 1854. On that date, a deed involving their son-in-law, James N. Dillen (Dillon), and their son, J. C. Wilson, mentioned land for the use of John and Margaret Wilson during their natural lives.⁵

A farmer, John Wilson owned real estate worth \$712 and personal estate valued at \$3,650 in 1860.⁶ He and Peggy apparently died in Shelby or Rusk County, Texas, between 1860 and 1870 since neither appears on the 1870 census for either county.

John and Peggy (Short) Wilson had four children, whose births were spread out over a period of nearly twenty years. Their oldest child was James C. Wilson, nicknamed “Jim,” who was born about 1824 or 1825 in Guilford County.⁷ (One wonders if the C. stands for Criswell (Creswell) since Jim may have been named for his kinsman, James Criswell (Creswell), who gave land, money, and other items to John Wilson and Peggy’s mother in his will dated 2 September 1822.)⁸

Although he was the oldest, Jim Wilson was the last child of John and Peggy to marry. A school teacher⁹ who did not tie the knot until he was nearly forty years old, he took Margaret A. Davis as his wife on 17 Sept 1863 in Panola County, Texas.¹⁰ In 1866, he and his wife donated part of the land on which the town of Center was established as the new county seat of Shelby County.¹¹ Jim died before 1880, probably in Shelby County.¹²

The couple's second child, Margaret, was the first member of the Wilson family to move to the Lone Star State. She was born about 1826 in Guilford County.¹³ Her nickname was "Maggie," but her younger sister always called her Margaret.¹⁴ About 1842 in McNairy County, Tennessee, Maggie became the first wife of James Nelson Dillen (Dillon). The Dillens decided to leave Tennessee and moved to Shelby County, Texas, about 1848. Maggie died by 1860 in Caledonia, Rusk County, Texas. She is buried in the field behind "the old Elliott place" in Caledonia.¹⁵

David McKnight Wilson, born in 1833 in McNairy County, Tennessee, was the third child of John and Peggy. Nicknamed "Mack,"¹⁶ he married Louisa Davis on 18 Nov 1858 in Panola County, Texas.¹⁷ (Louisa was the sister of Margaret A. Davis, who married Mack's older brother, Jim Wilson.) He went to school in Nashville, Tennessee, where he trained to be a medical doctor. Sometime after 1880, Mack and his family moved from Panola County, Texas, to Arkansas.¹⁸ Mack died on 29 March 1896 in Garland County, Arkansas. He is buried in the Wilson family cemetery in Percy, Arkansas.¹⁹

John and Peggy had their fourth and final bundle of joy about the time their daughter, Margaret, married. Mary Elizabeth Wilson was born on 20 June 1841 in McNairy County, Tennessee. Nicknamed "Betty," she married her first husband, Lewis B. Elliott, about 1858 in Shelby or Rusk County, Texas. After his death in the Civil War, Betty married Larkin Cullen Faulkner (Falkner) about 1870 in Rusk or Shelby County. She died on 1 August 1917 in Rusk County, Texas.²⁰ She is buried in Caledonia Cemetery, Rusk County, Texas.²¹

Some researchers claim John and Peggy Wilson had a fifth child, William Carr Wilson, born about 1844 in Tennessee. However, their younger daughter, Betty, stated she only had two brothers, Jim and Mack. In addition, the 1850 Arkansas and 1860 Texas censuses do not show a child named William in the John Wilson household,²² but the 1850 and 1860 censuses for Shelby County, Texas, list William C. in the household of Henry Wilson.²³

Who were Margaret "Peggy" (Short) Wilson's ancestors? She was one of five children whose parents were James and Margaret (Work) Short.²⁴

Probably born about 1777-1780 in Guilford County, James Short was apparently the son of William Oldham Short and his first wife, whose name is unknown. Although his name is omitted in the transcription in the county will book, James is mentioned in William's original will, according to professional genealogist, Frederic Z. Saunders. William O. Short made his will on 1 March 1815 and died by May of that year in Rockingham County. (For more about the Short family, which Saunders has traced back to the 1600s in Virginia, see his home page in the end notes.)

James Short probably married Margaret Work about 1799 in Rockingham or Guilford County.²⁵ His brother, Aaron, married Margaret's sister, Jane Work, about 16 Dec 1799 (date of bond) in Guilford County.²⁶

Apparently the couples' marital bliss did not last. Margaret (Work) Short and her sister, Jane (Jean), filed for divorce in 1819. By that time, both of their husbands had abandoned their families for other women and left the state, James going to Tennessee and Aaron to Kentucky. The North Carolina Legislature granted divorces to the two women in 1823.²⁷ Estimated to have been born about 1777-1780 in Guilford or Rockingham County, Margaret died by May 1836, when her estate was settled in Guilford County.²⁸

Margaret and Jane (Jean) Short were daughters of Henry Work and his second wife, Margaret Criswell (Creswell),²⁹ who married about 21 October 1775 (date of marriage bond) in Guilford County. John Work, Henry's probable brother, was bondsman.³⁰

Henry Work's estimated date of birth is between 1730 and 1740. Although his ancestry is unproven, he is believed to be the son of Alexander Work and his probable first wife, whose name is unknown. Alexander died in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in 1749³¹ and is believed to be the son of another Henry Work, born about 1680, who immigrated to Pennsylvania where he died in Lancaster County about 1738.³²

Possibly along with some siblings, Henry Work moved from Pennsylvania to Rowan County, North Carolina, where he purchased land on 13 February 1765. Over the years, Henry was involved in various land transactions in Guilford and Rockingham counties. Since the 1790 Rockingham County census lists "Henry Work & Co.," he may have had some kind of work connection with the Speedwell Furnace and Iron Works.³³

Living in Guilford County during the American Revolution, Henry Work was a private who served as a wagoner under Capt. Thomas Flack and Lt. Col. James Martin. Located at the rear of the insurgents, Martin's men captured many of the Loyalist soldiers as they fled from the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge on 27 February 1776.³⁴ Later, Henry supported the Revolutionary forces by selling them 274 pounds of beef on 9 December 1780 and six and one-half bushels of corn on 8 March 1781.³⁵

Dying intestate, Henry Work passed away by February 1793 in Rockingham County. In February 1795, the court appointed Hugh Lynch guardian for Margaret Work and Samuel Maxwell guardian for Jane Work. The next month the court divided Henry's real estate among his heirs. Land was awarded to Margaret and Jane Work and to Joseph T. Joyce and Robert Maxwell in right of their wives, who were Henry's daughters by a previous wife. Henry's widow, Margaret, retained her dower right in the land allotted to her daughters, Margaret and Jane Work.³⁶

Probably born in the late 1740s or early 1750s in Pennsylvania, Henry Work's widow, Margaret, was the daughter of John and Jane (Jean) Creswell (Creswel, Criswell), whose birthdates are estimated to be about 1720-1725. When John made his will on 4 June 1761, his five children—James, Margaret, Sarah, Mary, and William--were all under age.³⁷ (James was born about

1746.)³⁸ John died by 26 March 1764 in West Nottingham Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

In his will, John Creswell named his wife as one of the executors, along with his brother-in-law, David Edmeston (Edmiston, Edminston, Edmundson, Edmunson).³⁹ Since the term “in-law” denotes some type of relationship through marriage, it can refer to either side of the family. David was married to Margaret Donal (Donnell).⁴⁰ If he were kin to Jean, for example, then her maiden name may have been Edmeston or Donnell. However, the term “brother-in-law” in colonial times sometimes had different meanings than the term does today. For instance, it could have referred to a step-brother. David may have been kin, theoretically, if a parent of John or Jean died and the surviving parent then married into the Edmeston or Donnell family.⁴¹ Perhaps further research will determine Jean’s ancestral roots as well as John Creswell’s relationship to other individuals with his surname along the Pennsylvania-Maryland border.

Jane (Jean) Criswell (Creswell) and her children moved to Guilford County, North Carolina, between 1767 and 1775.⁴² On 16 August 1775, her sons, James and William Criswell “of Guilford County, North Carolina,” sold the land in Cecil County, Maryland, that they had inherited from their father, John.⁴³

Remaining a widow for the rest of her life, Jean Criswell died in Guilford County by February 1801. In her will, dated 7 October 1794, she named her children, James Criswell (oldest son), Margaret Work (oldest daughter), William Criswell, and Mary Donnell.⁴⁴ Since Sarah Criswell is not mentioned in the wills of her mother or brother, James, she may have died by late 1794.

As previously stated in this article, Jean Criswell’s son, James, bequeathed land, money, and various items to several people, including his sister, Mary Donnell; his friend, John Wilson; “nephews” [nieces] Margaret Short and Jean Short; and Synthy Ireland, no relationship stated.⁴⁵ (Cintha Short married Shadrack Ireland in Guilford County about 5 June 1822 (date of bond).⁴⁶ Since Cintha was born about 1800, she was the right age to have possibly been a daughter of Margaret or Jane Short.⁴⁷ On the 1830 census, the households of John Wilson and Shadrack Ireland are listed next to each other.)⁴⁸

The estate records of James Criswell were the key to confirming the name of Margaret (Short) Wilson’s mother. One of the documents in the file explains that **the defendants, Margaret and Jane Short, were the only children of Margaret, formerly the sister of James Criswell, and John Wilson married a daughter of Margaret Short.**⁴⁹ Utilizing those details, research into wills, marriage records, deeds, and other records extended Margaret (Short) Wilson’s lineage back several generations.

JOHN WILSON, HUSBAND OF MARGARET “PEGGY” SHORT

John Wilson was born in 1794 or 1795 in Guilford County.⁵⁰ He was a good friend of Peggy Short’s great uncle, James Criswell (Creswell), who bequeathed land and other items to John in

his will.⁵¹ Contrary to unsubstantiated claims about his ancestry,⁵² John's parents, based on circumstantial evidence, appear to have been Andrew Wilson, Sr. (1752-1834)⁵³ and his third wife, Elizabeth McKnight, who married in Guilford County about 29 January 1794 (date of bond).⁵⁴ Since John was born in 1794 or 1795, he was the right age to be Andrew and Elizabeth's son of that name.

Clues to an individual's ancestry can often be found by observing the names of people with whom he or she was closely associated in various records and places. The McKnight name, for example, was carried down in John's family.⁵⁵ James Creswell, Andrew Wilson's family, and the McKnights were all members of the Buffalo Presbyterian Church.⁵⁶ Betty, John's daughter, said her father had seven brothers;⁵⁷ by his three marriages, Andrew had eight sons: Daniel, Robert, James, Andrew (Jr.), William R., Maxfield, John, and David.⁵⁸ James Wilson was bondsman for John's marriage to Peggy Short,⁵⁹ and Robert, Andrew, and David Wilson served as bondsmen with John during the settlement of James Criswell's estate.⁶⁰ In addition, John Wilson moved to McNairy County, Tennessee, as did several sons of Andrew, Sr.⁶¹ Perhaps further research will shed more light on John's ties to the Andrew Wilson family.

End notes:

¹1850 U. S. census, St. Francis County, Arkansas, population schedule, Plain Township (Although Plain Township appears at the top of the sheet, the page is wedged between pages for Richland Township and follows the same chronological household numbers as those for Richland.), p. 42, dwelling 67, family 67, Margaret Wilson, NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 30; 1860 U. S. census, Shelby County, Texas, population schedule, beat 11, p. 85 (handwritten), dwelling 553, family 553, M. Wilson, NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1304.

²Wilma Elliott, great-granddaughter of John and Peggy (Short) Wilson, Sonora, Texas, to Marleta Childs, Center, Texas, letters, 15 July 1963 and 15 November 1963, originals in possession of the author; Wilma Elliott, Longview, Texas, interview by the author, August 1978. (Wilma and her family lived in the household of John and Peggy's daughter, Mary Elizabeth (Wilson) Elliott Faulkner/Falkner for several years.) Annie (Dillen) Weaver, Center, Texas, interview by the author, June 1961; Dola (Dillen) Hamilton, Caledonia, Texas, interview by the author, June 1961; (Annie and Dola were also great granddaughters of John and Margaret (Short) Wilson); Ruth F. Thompson and Louise J. Hartgrove, comp., *Abstracts of Marriage Bonds and Additional Data, Guilford County, North Carolina, Volume 1, 1771-1840*. Greensboro, N. C.: The Guilford County Genealogical Society, 2001, p. 203.

³1830 U. S. census, Guilford County, North Carolina, p. 156 (handwritten), p. 156 (stamped), line 7, John Willson [*sic*], NARA microfilm publication, M19, roll 121; 1840 U. S. census, McNairy County, Tennessee, p. 28, line 22, John Wilson, NARA microfilm publication M740, roll 529.

⁴1850 U. S. census, St. Francis County, Arkansas, pop. sch., p. 42 (stamped), dwelling 67, family 67, John Wilson household. The census shows children David M. born in 1833 in Tennessee and Mary E. born in 1841 in Tennessee.

⁵Shelby County, Texas, Deed Book 8, p. 271.

⁶1860 U. S. census, Shelby County, Texas, pop. sch., p. 85 (handwritten), 442 (stamped, dwelling 553, family 553, John Wilson.

⁷Elliott to Childs, 12 July and 15 November 1963; 1850 U. S. census, St. Francis County, Arkansas, pop. sch., p. 42 (stamped), dwelling 67, family 67, James C. Wilson; 1860 U. S. census, Shelby County, Texas, pop. sch., p. 68 (handwritten), beat 8, dwelling 440, family 440, J. C. Wilson in household of J. Starkey; Wilma Elliott, interview, August 1978; (She said Jim's middle name was a family name, but did not remember what it was.)

⁸Will of James Criswell in Guilford County, North Carolina Will Book B, pp. 165-166 (file 530), FHL microfilm reel C.04680001, "Guilford County, North Carolina, Records of Wills, 1771-1859, Vols. A, B, C." The will is also available on Ancestry.com. A full transcription of the will can be found on the website USGenWeb at <http://files.usgwarchives.net/nc/guilford/wills/criswell578nwl.txt>; accessed 29 July 2012. There is an abstract of the document in Irene B. Webster, *Guilford County, North Carolina, Will Abstracts, 1771-1841*. Privately printed, 1979, p. 89.

⁹1860 U. S. census, Shelby County, Texas, pop. sch., p. 68 (handwritten), dwelling 440, family 440, J. C. Wilson in household of J. Starkey; Wilma Elliott, interview, August 1978.

¹⁰Panola County, Texas, Marriage Record, Book B, p. 211.

¹¹Shelby County, Texas, Deed Book 39, pp. 232-234; Shelby County, Texas Deed Book 58, pp. 494-495. Because the Shelby County courthouse burned in 1882, R. L. Parker, the county clerk in 1866, made an affidavit regarding the original deed.

¹²Wilma Elliott, interview, August 1978. Jim is not listed on the 1880 census.

¹³1850 U. S. census, Shelby County, Texas, population schedule, p. 37 (stamped), dwelling 508, family 508, Margaret's name erroneously appears as Marthy Dillion, NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 915.

¹⁴Wilma Elliott, letters, 15 July and 15 Nov 1963.

¹⁵Annie (Dillen) Weaver, interview, June 1961; Dola (Dillen) Hamilton, interview, June 1961. Margaret (Wilson) Dillen is not listed on the 1860 census. Related through the Wilsons, the Dillen, Elliott, and Faulkner families lived near each other in the Caledonia area. Since Maggie's younger sister married Lewis B. Elliott, the land on which Maggie is buried probably belonged to Lewis or his family.

¹⁶Elliott to Childs, 15 July and 15 November 1963; Wilma Elliott, Longview, Texas, to Marleta Childs, Lubbock, Texas, letter, 2 November 1978, original in possession of the author.

¹⁷Panola County, Texas, Marriage Record, Book B, p. 9.

¹⁸Elliott to Childs, 2 November 1978; 1880 U. S. census, Rusk County, Texas, population schedule, enumeration district 66, p. 296B (stamped), dwelling 71, family 71, David Wilson household, NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1322.

¹⁹“David McKnight Wilson,” Findagrave.com (<http://www.Findagrave.com>), accessed 12 July 2016. Although the website states his year of birth was 1828, information on the 1850 Arkansas and 1860 Texas censuses and from his sister, Betty, gives the year as 1833.

²⁰Elliott to Childs, 15 July and November 1963 and 2 November 1978.

²¹Caledonia Cemetery, Caledonia, Texas, tombstone inscription for Elizabeth Faulkner, wife of L. C., transcribed by the author, June 1961.

²²Elliott to Childs, 15 July and 15 November 1963; 1850 U. S. census, St. Francis County, Arkansas, pop. sch., p. 42 (stamped), dwelling 67, family 67, John Wilson household; 1860 U. S. census, Shelby County, Texas, pop. sch., p. 85 (handwritten), dwelling 553, family 553, John Wilson household.

²³1850 U. S. census, Shelby County, Texas, pop. sch., p. 36 (stamped), dwelling 505, family 505, Wm. C. Wilson in household of Henry Wilson; 1860 U. S. census, Shelby County, Texas, pop. sch., p. 83 (handwritten), p. 441 (stamped), dwelling 541, family 541, beat 11, Will Wilson in household of Henry Wilson.

²⁴“Short-L Archives,” message board, Rootsweb/Ancestry.com (<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/SHORT/2006-07/1152837914>), accessed 17 October 2016, Fredric Z. Saunders message dated 3 July 2006, hereinafter referred to as Saunders, “Short-L Archives.”

²⁵“Fredric Z. Saunders Genealogy,” home page, Rootsweb/Ancestry.com (<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=fzs&id=11625>), accessed 1 June 2016. Saunders provides a verbatim copy of William O. Short’s original will in which James is named. (Because the documents found in the will books in county courthouses are actually handwritten transcriptions of the originals—which were retained by individuals—the clerks sometimes made errors.); Fredric Z. Saunders, “Genealogy of Short Family of Guilford Co., NC, and Franklin Co., Mo.,” family pages, (<http://home.netcom.com/~fzsaunders/short/html>), accessed 1 June 2016, hereinafter referred to as “Genealogy of Short Family.”

²⁶Thompson and Hartgrove, *Abstracts of Marriage Bonds and Additional Data*, p. 166. In later deeds and legal records, Jane’s name sometimes appears as Jean. During this era, the given

names Jane and Jean were often interchangeable. (Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck, *The Name Is the Game: Onomatology and the Genealogist*. Baltimore: Clearfield Company, 2013, p. 24.)

²⁷Saunders, “Short-L Archives; Saunders, “Genealogy of the Short Family;” Donald R. Simpson, “The Work Families of Early Guilford County,” *The Guilford Genealogist*, Volume 31, Number 1, Issue 104 (Spring 2004), p. 8.

²⁸Simpson, “Work Families,” p. 8. Margaret Short’s estate papers are available online at Ancestry.com. The administrator of her estate, Pleasant Hopkins, is probably the same man who was the bondsman for the marriage of Levinia Short and William Luter, 16 August 1836. (Thompson and Hartgrove, *Abstracts of Marriage Bonds and Additional Data*, p. 113).

²⁹Will of Jean Criswell in Guilford County, North Carolina Will Book A, pp. 67-68 (file 72), FHL microfilm reel C.04680001, “Guilford County, North Carolina, Records of Wills, 1771-1859, Vols. A, B, C.” The will is also available on Ancestry.com. An abstract can be found in Webster, *Guilford County, North Carolina, Will Abstracts*, p. 12; James Criswell Estate Papers, Ancestry.com, Guilford County, Estate Records, Ca. 1778-1933 in North Carolina, Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998 [database online], image 310, (<http://search.ancestry.com>) accessed 1 June 2016, hereinafter referred to as “James Criswell Estate Papers.”

³⁰Thompson and Hartgrove, *Abstracts of Marriage Bonds and Additional Data*, p 208.

³¹Simpson, “Work Families,” p. 4.

³²Von Gail Hamilton, *Work Family History, Volume II: A Companion to the 1969 Edition*. Mesa, Ariz.: Privately printed, 1994, p. 17.

³³Simpson, “Work Families,” pp. 4-5. For more information about the Speedwell Furnace and Iron Works Mill, see Robert W. Carter, Jr., “Mills in Simpsonville Township, Part II,” *The Journal of Rockingham County History and Genealogy*, Volume III, Number 2 (October 1978), pp. 58-86. Henry Work is mentioned on pages 61, 62, and 78.

³⁴James Hunter Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, *Early Families of the North Carolina Counties of Rockingham and Stokes with Revolutionary Service, Volume 2*. Privately printed, 1981, pp. 144-145; Bobby Gilmer Moss, *Roster of the Patriots in the Battle of Moore’s Creek Bridge*. Blacksburg, S. C.: Scotia-Hibernia Press, 1992, p. 239; Nancy Poquette, “A History of Guilford County Militia: 1775 to Spring 1776,” *The Guilford Genealogist*, Volume 32, Number 3, Issue 110 (Fall 2005), pp. 26, 38.

³⁵“North Carolina Revolutionary Pay Vouchers, 1779-1782,” database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2WT-PRKB> and <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2WT-5VYS>), accessed 20 November 2016.

- ³⁶Simpson, "Work Families," p. 6. Henry Work's estate papers are available online at Ancestry.com.
- ³⁷Will of John Creswell, Chester County, Pennsylvania, Will Book D, Volume 4, pp 448-449. In the will's text, he spells the surname "Creswel," but he signs it "Criswell." After Jane's move to North Carolina, her name appears as Jean.
- ³⁸Raymond Dufau Donnell, comp., *Buffalo Presbyterian Church and Cemetery, Greensboro, North Carolina*. Greensboro, N. C.: The Guilford County Genealogical Society, 1994, p. 13.
- ³⁹Chester County, Pennsylvania, Will Book D, Volume 4, pp 448-449.
- ⁴⁰Will of David Edmeston, Chester County, Pennsylvania, Will Book C, Volume 5, p. 334. In his will, David calls his wife, Margaret,"ales" (i. e., alias) "Donal" [*sic*].
- ⁴¹"In-law," Colonial Legal Terminology, "Bob's Genealogy Filing Cabinet," (<http://www.genfiles.com/articles/colonial-legal-terminology>), accessed 11 June 2016.
- ⁴²George Ely Russell, *Creswell-Criswell Genealogical Records*. New Market, Md.: Catocin, Press, 1987, p. 53.
- ⁴³Cecil County, Maryland, Land Records, Volume XIV, p. 129.
- ⁴⁴Guilford County, North Carolina Will Book A, pp. 67-68.
- ⁴⁵Guilford County, North Carolina Will Book B, pp. 165-166.
- ⁴⁶Thompson and Hartgrove, *Abstracts of Marriage Bonds and Additional Data*, p. 91.
- ⁴⁷1850 U. S. census, Guilford County, North Carolina, population schedule, Northern Division, p. 382 (stamped), dwelling 117, family 117, Syntha Ireland, NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 632. Syntha, age 50, was a pauper living in the poorhouse.
- ⁴⁸1830 U. S. census, Guilford County, North Carolina, p. 156 (handwritten), p. 156 (stamped), line 7, Shadereck [*sic*]Ireland, line 8, John Willson [*sic*].
- ⁴⁹James Criswell Estate Papers, image 310.
- ⁵⁰1850 U. S. census, St. Francis County, Arkansas, pop. sch., p. 42 (stamped), dwelling 67, family 67, John Wilson; 1860 U. S. census, Shelby County, Texas, pop. sch., p. 85 (handwritten), 442 (stamped, dwelling 553, family 553, John Wilson.
- ⁵¹Guilford County, North Carolina Will Book B, pp. 165-166.
- ⁵²For example, some researchers say his parents were John and Sarah (Boone) Wilson. John and Sarah did have a son, John, (born in 1795), who went to Texas, but he married twice and died in

Travis County in 1852. (“TNLINCOL-L Archives,” Message Board, Rootsweb.Ancestry.com (<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/TNLINCOL/2005-11/1132438457>) accessed 30 November 2016).

⁵³Donnell, *Buffalo Presbyterian Church and Cemetery*, p. 77. Andrew’s dates are based on the church data. The article, “Andrew Wilson Family Records” (see footnote below), gives the dates 1753 and 1835, but Andrew’s will was probated in 1834.

⁵⁴Thompson and Hartgrove, *Abstracts of Marriage Bonds and Additional Data*, p. 202; Raymond D. Donnell, “Andrew Wilson Family Record,” *The Guilford Genealogist*, Volume 24, Number 4, Issue 79 (Fall 1997), pp. 197-198.

⁵⁵Elliott to Childs, 15 July and 15 November 1963 and 2 November 1978; Annie (Dillen) Weaver, interview, June 1961; Dola (Dillen) Hamilton, interview, June 1961; James Taylor, Garrison, Texas, to Marleta Childs, Lubbock, Texas, letter, 18 July 1972, original in possession of the author. James was a great grandson of Dr. David McKnight Wilson.

⁵⁶Rev. S. M. Rankin, *History of Buffalo Presbyterian Church and Her People*. Greensboro, N. C.: Jos. J. Stone & Co., 1934, pp.27-28, 31, 34, 48; Guilford County, North Carolina Will Book B, pp. 165-166. (In his will, James Criswell gave some money to the church.) Donnell, *Buffalo Presbyterian Church and Cemetery*, pp. 13, 76-77.

⁵⁷Elliott to Childs, 15 July and 15 November 1963 and November 1978.

⁵⁸Will of Andrew Wilson, Sr., Guilford County, North Carolina, Will Book B, pp. 502-503 (file 694). His will is also available on Ancestry.com. An abstract is in Webster, *Guilford County, North Carolina, Will Abstracts*, p. 120; Donnell, “Andrew Wilson Family Record,” p. 198.

⁵⁹Thompson and Hartgrove, *Abstracts of Marriage Bonds and Additional Data*, p. 203.

⁶⁰James Criswell Estate Papers, image 282.

⁶¹Donnell, “Andrew Wilson Family Record,” p. 198; 1840 U. S. census, McNairy County, Tennessee, p. 28, line 22, John Wilson; line 29, Andrew Wilson [Jr.]. The census shows John and Andrew lived fairly close to each other.



Field Trip to Mansfield Female College Museum

Contributed by Sylvia Powers

On 13 April 2107, Glenda Bernard, Suzanne Stimits, Peggy Lacour, Mary Ann Heinsohn, Jim Johnson, and Sylvia Powers visited the Mansfield Female College Museum to soak up some history and do a bit of research in the genealogy library located there. I was happy to see that all the books were still on the shelves, as the director of the museum, Van Reech, Jr., had shared with us that the resident “spirit”, Pegleg, used to come in after hours and tip over the book shelves, scattering the books on the floor. The shelves have now been bracketed to the walls. (Pegleg, whose peg is on display in the museum, was a young Confederate soldier whose leg was amputated in this very building in 1864 when it was converted to a Confederate hospital during the Civil War. You can read more about this in the attached history of the college/hospital/museum.) Not only did we get a bit of research done, but we also “got in a plug” for ALTGA as we were included in the documentary being filmed that day at the museum... a very successful day all around!



Suzanne Stimits, Peggy LaCour, Jim Johnson, Sylvia Powers and Mary Ann Heinsohn

The following article is a history of the museum (source Michael Stotts). The article was given to me by the director Van Reech, Jr., and it is with his permission that I am sharing it with our readers.

HISTORY OF THE MANSFIELD FEMALE COLLEGE "Oldest Female College West of the Mississippi River 1855-1930

In the 1850s, Reverend Thweatt, a visionary and liberal thinker, recognized the need for a school of higher learning expressly for females west of the Mississippi River. His travels took him into north Louisiana where he visited Caddo Parish. It is at this point that he met Reverend William E. Doty.

When Reverend Thweatt and Reverend Doty met in Caddo Parish, Reverend Thweatt decided that Reverend Doty shared many of his views on education. Reverend Thweatt also knew that Reverend Doty was an intelligent man with wealth and influence. Reverend Thweatt and Reverend Doty decided that Mansfield was the spot to start a college for women.

In the fall of 1855, the cornerstone was laid for the original building. The first session, in the spring of 1855, had seventy-two students. On October 3, 1855, the new fall session opened with ninety students. The original cost for each student was anywhere from \$12.50 to \$26.00 per semester. There was no lodging in the beginning for those young ladies who attended Mansfield Female College, so students had to obtain lodging in the village of Mansfield.

The students took classes such as United States history, Latin, Greek French, German, Italian, English grammar, plane geometry, trigonometry, analytical geometry as well as many other subjects.

The Civil War seriously affected the finances of the Mansfield Female College, and the college was sold to pay debts. The Confederate military took control of the college buildings and used the school as a hospital for its army following the Battles of Sabine Crossroad and Pleasant Hill.

In 1865, members of the Methodist Church and town citizens of Mansfield gave their promissory notes to buy the college for the purpose of placing it back in the hands of the Louisiana Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The college revived. Dorm rooms were added so the young ladies could stay on campus. By the spring of 1880,

the college had developed into one of the most prosperous colleges in Louisiana.

In 1899, during the school year, many new additions were added to the college. A large water tank and waterworks were added to accompany bathrooms for each floor of the main building. In 1901 an elevator was installed in the summer of that year in the main building. In 1904, it was completely furnished with the use of electricity.

Mansfield College claimed to have a ghost of their own that haunted the halls of the institution - the legend of "Old Peg-leg". Peg-leg was a young confederate soldier who was severely wounded in the spring of 1864. His leg was amputated and he died in the college when the institution was pressed into a temporary hospital. The legend was that on a certain night of each year, Peg-leg returned to the college to search for his missing leg.

In 1928 the campus of Mansfield Female College consisted of nine acres. The oldest building, Thweatt Hall, contained the office, library, laboratory and studios. At the north end of Thweatt Hall stood the Sheppard Annex that housed the lobby, classrooms, and dormitory rooms. An archway led from Thweatt Hall to the Bobbitt Dining Hall and Epworth Auditorium. The dining hall had a capacity for two hundred while the auditorium held up to five hundred people. By the 1928-29 school year, the campus accommodated tennis courts and a large swimming pool.

On February 28, 1931, the Louisiana Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, because of debt due the bank, had to pay two promissory notes dated February 28, 1931. This block along with building and improvements were sold for the remainder of the debt.

Source: Mansfield Female College by Michael Stotts

These are some photos that were taken at the Mansfield Female College Museum
Contributed by Jim Johnson



1. Mansfield Female College Museum
2. Piano
3. Civil War surgical instruments.
4. Pegleg's peg, and a hook used to remove bodies from the battlefield.
5. Civil War medicine bottles and equipment.
6. Lt. Thomas A & Mrs. Helen E. Frasen, bullets, grapeshot, shell fragment from an exploding cannon at the Battle of Mansfield, and a sword.

Louisiana's Last Ten Confederates

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

LINEAGE



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LINEAGE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Louisiana's Last Ten Confederates	1
Notice of Meeting	2
Genealogical Events	2
Highlights of April's Meeting	2
Did You Know?	2



Joe Slattery

Louisiana's Last Ten Confederates

Gray, by Jay S. Hoar.¹

Mr. Joe Slattery was the keynote speaker at the Family History Club on April 19, 2013. His presentation entitled, "Louisiana's Last Ten Confederates," was based on the book, *The South's Last Boys in*

A noted historian, genealogist, and photographer for 27 years, Mr. Slattery has earned a Bachelor's Degree in History from Texas A&M College, College Station, Texas. He has been employed for 13 years in the Genealogy Department of the Shreve Memorial Library, Broadmoor Branch, Shreveport, Louisiana. Due to his expertise in Civil War military history, he is in great demand as a consultant. Mr. Slattery also enjoys

cemetery research, enhancing his research with photographs of headstones.

Mr. Slattery began his presentation of the last Confederate soldiers having resided in the State of Louisiana with a cautionary note. Mr. Slattery said that an eleventh Confederate soldier, Mr. William Daniel Townsend (1846-1953) of the 27th Louisiana Infantry, should be included with this group. He was granted a Confederate pension despite the Pension Board's being unable to document Mr. Townsend's military service, according to Mr. Slattery.

Seven of the ten other Louisiana Confederate soldiers lived to be centenarians; three died in their nineties. Mr. Slattery discussed these soldiers in order of their deaths: Ewell Pleasant Thompson (1846-1945), Seborn Taylor Segraves (1846-1946), John Desobree Mire (1847-1946), Alfred Thomas Fuller (1848-1946), Sylinger Henry Wyatt (1845-1947), William Robert Turner (1845-1948), Auguste F. Saucier (1843-1949), Burrell Maricle (1843-1949), Stephen Dupuis (1845-1949), and Robert Pendleton Wilson (1849-1951). He reproduced copies of photographs of Messrs. Segraves, Fuller, Saucier, Maricle, Dupuis, and Townsend from Mr. Hoar's book. He enhanced his presentation with data from the *Guide to Louisiana Confederate Military Units*

1861-1865, by Arthur W. Bergeron, Jr.²

He began with a vivid picture of the hardships a Confederate soldier endured. Among other facts, he stated that a person serving as a drummer did not have a military service record unless he was mentioned by someone in the Company in which the drummer served.

Mr. Slattery discussed two soldiers, Stephen Dupuis and Sylinger Henry Wyatt, who both served with the 1st State Guards Battalion Cavalry under Colonel Benjamin W. Clark. Mr. Stephen Dupuis, was born in 1845 and raised in Center Point, Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana. He was an escort for General Richard Taylor. In 1865, he surrendered in New Orleans, Louisiana. Fluent in French, Mr. Dupuis returned home to raise horses. At 104 years old, he died a widower of four wives and the father of nine children. He was buried at the Campbell Cemetery at Center Point, Louisiana.^{1 and 2}

Mr. Sylinger Henry Wyatt, of Vernon, Jackson Parish, Louisiana, was the first of 15 children born to William and Dianna (Null) Wyatt. In 1863, he enlisted in Colonel Clark's Regiment. He was present at, but did not participate in, the Battle of Mansfield, Louisiana. A farmer all his life, Mr. Wyatt raised cotton, corn and other essentials. Four months before the age of 102 years, he

died at Jonesboro, Jackson Parish, Louisiana. He was buried at the Siloam Cemetery near Gansville, Louisiana, in neighboring Winn Parish.^{1 and 2}

He detailed the life of Mr. Seborn Taylor Segraves, who was one of two sons born to the union of Barnabas and Rebekah (Turner) Segraves of Lafayette, Alabama. He served with the First Trans-Mississippi Battalion Cavalry and was a courier to General E. Kirby Smith About 1867, Mr. Segraves married Mariah Louise Freeman of Bowie, Texas, and became the father of seven children. He died at age 99 in Jennings, Jefferson Davis Parish, Louisiana; but was buried at Beaumont, Texas.¹

Finally, Mr. Slattery discussed Mr. Ewell Pleasant Thompson, who was born at Williamsport, Pointe Coupee, Louisiana, the son of Levi and Clara (Bundick) Thompson. In 1864, he enlisted in Company G, 8th Louisiana Cavalry at Big Cane, Landry Parish, Louisiana. He was a courier under Captain Robert W. Heath. In 1874 he married Mary Athalie Leigh, who bore him ten children. He raised cattle and was a farmer, hunter and fisherman. He died at Florien, Louisiana, at 98 years old.¹

Mr. Slattery's presentation respectfully honored all who served in the War Between the States.

Footnotes:

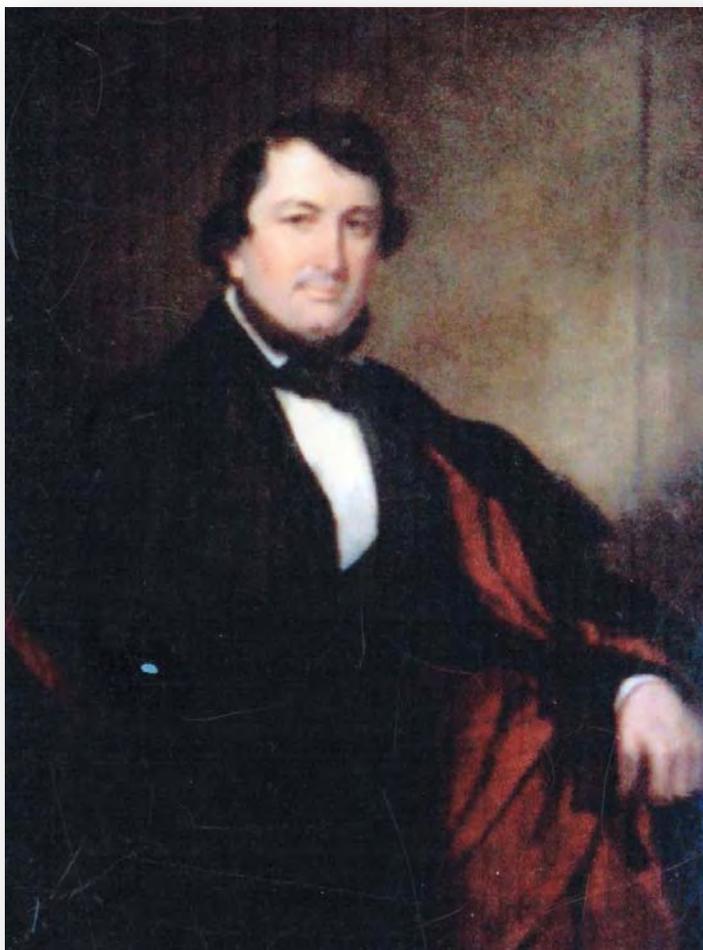
¹Jay S. Hoar, *The South's Last Boys in Gray: An Epic Prose Elegy: A Substudy of Sunset and Dusk of the Blue and Gray*; Bowling Green: Bowling Green State University Popular Press, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403; ©1986, pp. 194-196, 211-212, 279-280, 360-362, 389-390, 431-432.

²Arthur W. Bergeron, Jr., *Guide to Louisiana Confederate Military Units 1861-1865*; Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, ©1989, pages 51-52 and 55-56.

³Ibid., Jay S. Hoar, *The South's Last Boys in Gray, Appendix D, Strange and Little Known Facts,* Item D, page 563.

JAMES BLAIR GILMER – PLANTER AND ENTREPRENEUR

By Dale Jennings



James Blair Gilmer

Original of painting is in possession of James Gilmer descendant Suzanna Meyer

James Blair Gilmer of Bossier Parish, Louisiana, was an active, enterprising man. He acquired great wealth, but he passed from this existence during a turbulent juncture in his life. Former Georgia governor, George Rockingham Gilmer, made astute observations about his relatives in his 1855 book, *Georgians – Sketches of Some of the First Settlers of Upper Georgia*. He said of his cousin, James: “He is enterprising to recklessness and very determined in his purposes.” James would contract a fatal tropical disease in 1856 while embarking on a bold new venture. No substantive biography has ever been done on the life of James B. Gilmer. Some of what has been written about him is inaccurate or misleading (to include some errors repeated earlier by this writer).

James Gilmer’s Scotland-born progenitor, Doctor George Gilmer, immigrated to the Royal Colony of Virginia, settling in Williamsburg, long before the American Revolution. This

American strain of Gilmers was prolific and remained Southerners. They were on the high side of the socio-economic order, some engaging in the professions of medicine and law. However, they were predominantly of the landed planter class. They married within their class, commonly within the same circles of families, and sometimes to their cousins. Those in James' branch were adventuresome pioneers.

Doctor George Gilmer's descent in this line was down through his son, John Blair, and then down through John's son, George Oglethorpe. Dr. Gilmer remained in Williamsburg, but his descendants left the Atlantic seaboard to push out against the frontier. John Blair married Mildred Thornton Meriwether and, after the Revolutionary War, moved out to the newly opened upper Broad River area of northeastern Georgia. There they prospered and had a large family that included George Oglethorpe, who was born there in 1787. James Blair would be the first born of George's four surviving children.

George Rockingham Gilmer tells us that George Oglethorpe was "a man of decision and good understanding. He removed to Kentucky, then Alabama, and afterward to Louisiana, where he died." The governor also said, "He acquired great wealth."

George Oglethorpe Gilmer married Martha Harvie Johnson, daughter of Nicholas Johnson of Broad River, in 1812. They removed to Christian County in southwestern Kentucky, having been preceded there by Gilmer relatives. This is where their first son, James Blair, was born on May 4, 1814. While James was still a boy, the Gilmers and kindred families moved to Madison County, near Huntsville in northern Alabama. There in the fertile Great Bend Valley of the Tennessee River, they prospered in the cotton boom of that era. Recovering from the financial panic of 1819, they attained considerable wealth during the 1820s and 1830s through the large scale growing, ginning, and sale of cotton. James' sisters were born there, Mary Ann Elizabeth in 1824 and Sarah Mildred in 1829. Their brother, George Edwin, was born on January 12, 1835, at about the time that the family moved from Madison County to Montgomery County, Alabama. George Oglethorpe and his mature oldest son continued to prosper in cotton production.

Young James Blair married Eliza Lewis Gilmer, a cousin two years his junior, on July 10, 1834. To this union were born three daughters. They were Mary Boutwell, born in 1835, Martha George (Mattie), probably born in 1837, and Eliza Lewis, named for her mother, born in 1839, shortly before their mother's death on April 25, 1839.

The Gilmers were opportunists, having no aversion to uprooting when they saw an irresistible opportunity. Cheap, fertile land that had not seen the plow was a lure they found hard to resist. In 1839, a much-anticipated opportunity was developing in the upper Red River region of northwest Louisiana. Up until then, the region had had insurmountable barriers to settlement.

The vast area on the west side of the Red River was Caddo Indian treaty land. The river was blocked by the "Great Raft," more than a hundred-mile-long series of log jams that prevented navigation. It also caused great overflows out over its otherwise productive, fertile river plain. Captain Henry Miller Shreve, with funds appropriated by Congress, had by the mid-1830s completed the clearance of the major stretch of the obstruction. The Caddos soon sold their land to the U.S. Government, surveys were completed on both sides of the river, and by 1839, the

land was being opened to public sale. The old Caddo tribal land became Caddo Parish, and in 1843, the western part of Claiborne Parish on the east bank would become Bossier Parish.

The U.S. Government Land Office in Natchitoches, Louisiana, began to auction off its Red River land tracts to the general public in June (the month before to the few with "preemption" rights). James Gilmer was not among the buyers. This is no doubt attributable to the circumstance that his wife had just died in Alabama in late April. Some, like James B. Pickett of South Carolina, came to the area very early and purchased great quantities of choice river land when sales began in June.

Government records show James Gilmer did not begin making purchases until November, although his father did make buys as early as July. They would make up for their slow start later. A cautionary note to researchers: The date that land certificates were signed in Washington D.C., the same date used by the popular "Family Maps" series, is consistently two or more years later than the legal date of the sale at the regional land office. Vacant blocks on the maps for the most part represent state land parcels, the dispositions of which are indicated in the state land register. Copies of both the state and federal registers are maintained at the jurisdictional court houses.

The 1840 census marked the progress of the Gilmers' move to Louisiana. James is shown as a Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, resident, with forty-seven slaves. George's name is shown next to his son's but not as a resident. That is because of the government's requirement that he be identified as the owner of the ten slaves he had brought into the state. George O. Gilmer was enumerated that decade as a resident of Montgomery County, Alabama. The composition of his household there is perfectly consistent with the presence of himself, his wife, two daughters, his son, and James' three daughters. He possessed sixty-eight slaves in Montgomery County.

The most widely used source for research on James B. Gilmer has been the writings of James Turner Manry (J.T.). Mr. Manry was relatively late to the area, some forty years after the arrival of the Gilmers. He put down roots there in the Plain Dealing area and died there as a distinguished citizen and grand old man in 1952, at the age of one hundred. He had an interest in the local history and applied his pen and typewriter to recording his knowledge of James and George O. Gilmer. His first effort was a feature article in the *Shreveport Journal*, dated March 24, 1931, entitled, "Story of Birth of Plain Dealing, Settled Century Ago; Originally Site of Home of George O. Gilmer." It was later republished in the *Plain Dealing Progress* on March 22, 1951, and in the *Bossier Banner-Progress* on March 29, 1952. In his article, J. T. Manry said of George and James Gilmer:

"When they reached Red river [*sic*] they found nothing but swamps and canebrakes but were impressed with the richness of the soil and the possibilities for development. Yet they also realized that without development it was not a fit place to move their families or their slaves. Back from the river a few miles they found a wide expanse of beautiful, undulating, rich, loamy soil underlaid by deep red clay, and abounding in bold springs of purest water, thus making a convenient and desirable base for their future operations. George O. Gilmer, the father of James Blair, bought from the government at cash sale 5,000 acres of this upland in one body, on which now stands the town of Plain Dealing, while James B., the son, bought about the same acreage, known as the Orchard place, a few miles south."

Mr. Manry would have been correct if he meant that the Gilmers found the available land along the river to be inferior. Earlier buyers had purchased the more elevated sandy loam riverside tracts. The upland or “hill land” area where they bought was healthier and not prone to flooding. It was supportive of cotton, corn, and other crops, but its thinner top soil did not compare favorably to the deep alluvial flood-borne soil deposited along the river.

Manry’s description of how the older Gilmer purchased his upland property was, however, misleading. He and his son, James, pieced together their hill land plantations over a period of time, and by methods other than just purchasing from the U.S. Government. These would be their home plantations, as alluded, and they would, over time, go on to acquire many thousands of acres of mostly alluvial land by various means.

Other methods of acquiring land included purchase of land that had been granted to the State of Louisiana by the federal government. Included was the sixteenth section (640 acres) of each 36-section township. These sections were inherent to the regional boards of education to sell or lease for revenue to aid in funding public education. “Seminary” land was also sold to help support the private, secular, state-chartered, lower-education “seminaries.” Other land given to the state for sale to the public was that designated as “swamp,” which at some point might be ditched and drained and made productive. Another method of acquisition much used by James Gilmer was that of military warrant land. Veterans of the nation’s wars usually sold their allotment rather than selecting unclaimed federal lands for themselves. The other way of obtaining land was, of course, by private sale. James Gilmer and his father used all of these, as reflected in the courthouse conveyance records for private purchases, or the previously referenced federal and state land registers.

James T. Manry’s second *Shreveport Journal* article, dated October 8, 1932, was captioned, “Pioneer of Bossier Who Built Elaborate Anti-Bellum Mansion Has a Very Interesting Career.” This article, first published in the *Bossier Banner* on September 29, 1932, has been the most used source of information about James Gilmer and his palatial Orchard Place home. More about the house will follow later. In this excerpt taken from the article, Mr. Manry tells of Gilmer’s arrival to a wilderness area of Claiborne Parish’s Red River region:

“At the time, there were no levees on Red river [*sic*], neither had any of the outlets or bayous been closed, and all of the Red river [*sic*] lands were subject to overflows. Mr. Gilmer made a careful inspection of these lands with the view of locating those least likely to overflow. He then made his selections and bought them from the government. He next went back to the older states and bought negroes [*sic*] in lots of more than a hundred at a time. He built houses and otherwise provided for their health, comfort, and care. Thus, provided with labor, and under his able management, these jungle forests soon melted away – like snow before an August sun. During the short span of a few years, he had cleared and put into a high state of cultivation 13 large Red river [*sic*] plantations, which embraced, with a few exceptions, all of the cultivated Red river [*sic*] lands from South Arkansas to a point below Shreveport.”

Mr. Manry’s account of J. B. Gilmer’s acquisition of land for his river plantations again is at odds with land records showing that the original buyers acquired the choicest land along the river. The way he described the scope and time frame for Gilmer’s far-flung planting enterprise

is exaggerated and certain to be misconstrued. Also, the facts do not bear out that he “bought Negroes in lots of more than a hundred at a time.” Later in the article, he made this statement: “The greater part of the property of Mr. Gilmer was acquired during the second marriage, which under law, became community property.” Paulina, the widow of James Belton Pickett, entered the marriage a very wealthy woman. She brought with her two large Bossier river plantations, (Willow Chute and Hurricane Bluff), one in a state of development (Chalk Level), half interest in another (Sunflower), and one in Arkansas, and their slaves. Additionally, she had several large tracts of alluvial land in Bossier and Caddo parishes, and in Arkansas, that the Picketts hadn’t had time to develop before Mr. Pickett’s untimely death in 1842. Among her other assets were more than one hundred town lots in Shreveport, across the river in Caddo, resulting from her first husband’s partnership in the founding of that town.

Mr. Manry extolled at length James Gilmer’s industry, resourcefulness, integrity, progressive agricultural expertise, and business acumen. Manry had learned this in great part from earlier inhabitants to the area. That is not to say that James Gilmer’s ambition and competitiveness, and perhaps an edgy temperament, did not at times put him at odds with others.

But for the tragic death in his family, the aggressive James Gilmer most probably would have been among the first to compete at the opening of Louisiana’s upper Red River “land rush.” As said, he and his father chose to settle in a healthy upland area far from the river, in the northern part of the parish. George bought two hundred acres of government land there near the Little Cypress Bayou in July 1839. James purchased four hundred acres on the south edge of his father’s land in November of that year. In September 1839, George began buying large amounts of contiguous land on the Little Cypress, extending three miles north.

According to Manry, he first built temporary quarters while preparing his land for planting. He then selected for his permanent house site a tract he bought on January 14, 1840, at what would be the northern most extent of the property (seen in “Family Maps” as East Half of Section 10, Township 22, Range 13, patented by George O. Gilmer in the year 1843). These would be the beginnings of the father’s and son’s Plain Dealing and Orchard plantations, one abutting the other.

The census taker in making his circuit in 1840 did not find James Gilmer in his grand Orchard Plantation home. He would not buy that tract of land, a mile west of his earlier purchases, until February 1, 1841 (W ½ of SW ¼ of Section 27, Township 22, Range 13, patented in 1843 per “Family Maps”). The Gilmers brought their families from Alabama all in good time. However, we are told by Manry that James initially left his youngest daughter, Eliza, with her aunt, a “Mrs. Grafton” (Grattan). His other yet-young daughters, and later Eliza, very well may have continued to live under the care of their grandparents in their substantial residence while James and his father were acquiring and developing additional property.

In December 1839, the younger Gilmer bought another 320 acres of government land three miles west of his first purchases. Over a period of years, he would fill in the intervening expanse with government and military warrant land buys to complete his Orchard Plantation. He went on to purchase a great amount of other upland and alluvial land in assembling his other plantations.

James married the widow Paulina DeGraffenreid Pickett in Jefferson County, Kentucky, most likely in Louisville, on May 18, 1843, as extracted from marriage records (not in 1844 as

commonly claimed). These Bossier Parish neighbors would have known each other well, and no doubt had a lot in common socially and in their aspirations. They both had three children at home. Mrs. Pickett had two sons and a daughter, James (age 8), John (age 2), and Sarah (Sally) (age 5). It may have been about this time that they decided to build a fitting residence, the Orchard Place, to accommodate their combined family. This would have been before he established the town of Collinsburg near the western end of the plantation.

What follows is the origin of some of the misinformation written about the Gilmers and Picketts. J. Fair Hardin is credited as both author and editor of his undated three-volume, *Northwest Louisiana – A History – The Watershed of the Red River 1714-1937*. Not taking away from its overall accuracy, he did make some erroneous statements that have stubbornly persisted through the efforts of undiscerning article writers. Among the most glaring were that, “James Belton Pickett’s principal plantation was ‘The Orchard’ near Collinsburg in Bossier Parish,” and that upon his death, he was interred there. Also, it was erroneously reported that he purchased “hundreds of acres” (rather than many thousands) in Bossier and Caddo parishes; had a Shreveport town house at the corner of Milam and Edwards (actually acquired by his, and James Gilmer’s widow, Paulina, in 1881); and that his widow, “Pauline,” married James Blair Gilmer “whom she later divorced.” She did not.

Hardin’s account of James Pickett’s death is the only known source (itself unsourced) concerning the circumstances of his death: “James Belton Pickett, while returning from a business trip to South Carolina was taken ill and died at Henderson, Kentucky, on April 12, 1850, and his body was returned to ‘the Orchard’ and interred.” (Henderson is on the Ohio River downstream from St. Louis and across the river from Evansville, Indiana, where Pickett apparently did die on either the 4th or 5th of June 1842.)

J. Fair Hardin, in writing about the Gilmers in the book, made errors that have again found their way into the material of unwary writers. One was that the Gilmers came to Bossier Parish from Georgia in the 1830s; that George O. Gilmer had established the town of Plain Dealing (not started until 1888, thirty-nine years after his death); and that he and George E. Gilmer were brothers. He also stated that James Gilmer was born in 1809 and died at age forty-seven; that one of his three daughters was named, “Harriet” (Mattie); and again that James’ second wife’s name was “Pauline.”

To be continued.....



Chronicling America
February 2017 Hornbook
Contributed by Sonja Webb, Education Committee

One of the leading newspaper websites is *Chronicling America*. This truly productive newspaper database is part of the Library of Congress, a government agency, established as a reference library for the United States Congress. It has a vast collection of books, maps, manuscripts, and media. The Library of Congress is the official research arm of the U.S. Congress, having a superb digital presence on the web, and as a public institution, is open to researchers. Their digital catalog offers so many collections that it is easy to lose track of time while browsing them. One collection that genealogists should become familiar with and frequent regularly is *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, which gives the reader a snapshot of American society from 1789 to 1924.

Chronicling America is a long-term project of the Library of Congress and its partner the National Endowment for the Humanities whose goal is the digitizing of historic newspapers collected from across the country dating from 1789-1924. Once digitized, the newspapers will be in a searchable database accessible to the public. The database presently has representative newspapers from most of the states. The NEH offers grant awards to encourage state institutions to digitize local newspaper collections. The partnership between the Library of Congress, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the states is an effort to preserve as many historic newspapers as possible. Grants are offered to the states to scan and catalog local collections. Many newspapers from the period 1789-1924 are no longer in publication and probably out of copyright; therefore, they can be made free to the public. The scanning institution will determine the copyright status. Present-day newspaper companies have their own databases and charge a fee for archival access.

Chronicling America is an awesome website, containing real possibilities of finding historic family information and can be accessed at the Library of Congress' website: chroniclingamerica.loc.gov

The website offers a simple tab system for navigating the site. There are four tabs: **Search Pages**, **Advanced Search**, **All Digitized Newspapers 1789-1924**, and **U.S. Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present**. On the left side is the first tab. The **Search Pages** tab is a simple search. Just below the tab is a button to select the state, to select a range of years, and to type in a keyword, such as a surname. Click the red **GO** button on the far right side. Newspapers matching the criteria of a state, years, and keyword will appear if copies are found in the *Chronicling America* database. Change the keyword and years for different results.

The screenshot shows the Chronicling America website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for "ASK A LIBRARIAN", "DIGITAL COLLECTIONS", and "LIBRARY CATALOGS". A search bar is located at the top right with the text "Search" and "Search Loc.gov" and a "GO" button. Below this is a banner for "The Library of Congress > Chronicling America" and the "National Endowment for the Humanities" logo. The main heading is "CHRONICLING AMERICA Historic American Newspapers". A search bar is located below the heading with the text "Search America's historic newspaper pages from 1789-1924 or use the U.S. Newspaper Directory to find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present. Chronicling America is sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. Learn more". Below the search bar are four tabs: "Search Pages", "Advanced Search", "All Digitized Newspapers 1789-1924", and "US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present". The "Search Pages" tab is selected. Below the tabs is a search bar with the text "All states" (selected), "+ from 1789" (selected), "to 1924" (selected), "+ enter one or more search words", and a "GO" button. An orange arrow points to the "GO" button. Below the search bar is a section titled "Pages Available: 11,650,693" and a "100 Years Ago Today: February 25, 1917 (21 issues)" section. The "100 Years Ago Today" section displays three newspaper pages: "The Columbus Commercial" (4pp., Columbus, Miss.), "Richmond times-dispatch" (48pp., Richmond, Va.), and "The Daily Missoulian" (22pp., Missoula, Mont.). On the left side, there is a sidebar with links for "About Chronicling America", "About the Site and API", "Recommended Topics", and "Help". Below these are "More Resources" including "National Digital Newspaper Program", "NDNP Award Recipients", "Newspaper and Current Periodicals Reading Room", "Ask LC Newspaper & Current Periodicals Librarian", and "Historic Newspapers on Flickr".

The **Advanced Search** is the second tab on the screen. Click it. The window changes, and a few different options appear. The left side of the window offers the option to search by State OR by the name of a newspaper. If searching by state, one can narrow the search by changing the year range, by selecting a language, and by using keywords. Most of the newspapers will be in English, but a German or Italian one may pop up. The **Select Newspaper(s)** option offers a list of digitized newspaper titles. Scroll through the list. From this list the reader can determine if copies of the newspaper he/she is looking for has been digitized.

The Library of Congress > [Chronicling America](#)

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CHRONICLING AMERICA Historic American Newspapers Search America's historic newspaper pages from 1789-1924 or use the U.S. Newspaper Directory to find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present. Chronicling America is sponsored jointly by the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) and the Library of Congress. [Learn more](#)

Search Pages **Advanced Search** All Digitized Newspapers 1789-1924 US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present

Select State(s): All states Alabama Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware

Or Select Newspaper(s): All newspapers The Abbeville banner. (Abbeville, S.C.) The Abbeville bulletin. (Abbeville, S.C.) The Abbeville messenger. (Abbeville, S.C.) The Abbeville press and banner. (Abbeville, S.C.) Abbeville press. (Abbeville, S.C.) Abbeville progress. (Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, La.) The Aberdeen Democrat. (Aberdeen, South Dakota)

Select Year(s)* Newspaper pages are available for newspapers published between **1789-1924*** from 1789 to 1924

Or Date Range from to

Limit Search: only front page or Specific page

Language All

Enter Search

...with **any** of the words: ...with **all** of the words: ...with the **phrase**:

...with the words: within 5 words of each other

Clear Search

The third tab is [All Digitized Newspapers 1789-1924](#). Click this tab and notice there are three choices for searching: by State, Ethnicity, and Language. For example, select Louisiana, All Ethnicities, and English. Change the ethnicity and language choices to further explore what has been digitized in those categories.

The screenshot shows the Library of Congress website interface for Chroniling America. At the top, there are navigation buttons for 'ASK A LIBRARIAN', 'DIGITAL COLLECTIONS', and 'LIBRARY CATALOGS'. A search bar is located on the right with the text 'Search Loc.gov' and a 'GO' button. Below the navigation is a banner for 'CHRONILING AMERICA Historic American Newspapers' with a description: 'Search America's historic newspaper pages from 1789-1924 or use the U.S. Newspaper Directory to find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present. Chroniling America is sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. Learn more'. Below the banner are three tabs: 'Search Pages', 'Advanced Search', and 'All Digitized Newspapers 1789-1924' (which is highlighted), and 'US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present'. A red oval highlights the search filters: 'State: Louisiana', 'Ethnicity: All Ethnicities', and 'Language: English'. Below the filters is a 'GO' button. The page also shows 'Pages Available: 11,650,693' and a '100 Years Ago Today: February 26, 1917 (65 issues)' section with three newspaper thumbnails: 'Rogue River Courier', 'The Bryan Daily Eagle', and 'Hempden Star-Bulletin'. A sidebar on the left contains links for 'About Chroniling America', 'About the Site and API', 'Recommended Topics', 'Help', and 'More Resources'.

Selecting Louisiana, All Ethnicities, and English for the criteria search will bring results.

Pages Available: 11,650,693

[Print](#)
[Subscribe](#)
[Share/Save](#)
[Give Feedback](#)

Results: Digitized Newspapers

126 newspapers from **Louisiana** in **English** are available for viewing on this site.

State	Newspaper	Browse Issues	No. of Issues	Earliest Issue	Latest Issue	More Info
Louisiana	Abbeville progress. Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, La., 1913-1944		463	1913-03-01	1921-12-31	Yes
Louisiana	The American patriot. Clinton, La., 1854-17??		51	1854-12-27	1856-01-12	Yes
Louisiana	The Avoyelles pelican. volume Marksville [La.], 1859-186?		73	1861-03-16	1864-01-16	Yes
Louisiana	The Banner-Democrat. Lake Providence, East Carroll Parish, La., 1892-current		519	1892-08-06	1909-09-15	Yes
Louisiana	Baton Rouge tri-weekly gazette & comet. Baton Rouge, La., 1865-18??		341	1865-07-01	1869-06-10	Yes
Louisiana	Baton-Rouge gazette. volume Baton-Rouge, La., 1819-1856		866	1837-06-10	1853-01-29	Yes
Louisiana	The Bienville Democrat. Arcadia, Bienville Parish, La., 1912-1980		201	1919-04-03	1922-12-28	Yes
Louisiana	Bogalusa enterprise and American. Bogalusa, La., 1918-19??		231	1918-07-04	1922-12-28	Yes
Louisiana	Bogalusa enterprise. Bogalusa, La., 1914-1918		130	1914-12-31	1916-12-28	Yes
Louisiana	The Bossier banner. Bellevue, Bossier Parish, La., 1859-1952		2954	1859-07-01	1922-12-28	Yes
Louisiana	The Caldwell watchman. Columbia, La., 1885-1946		316	1894-03-23	1916-12-29	Yes
Louisiana	The Carrollton sun. City of Carrollton, Parish of Jefferson, La., 185?-1???		106	1860-06-30	1861-06-01	Yes

A table appears populated with all of the Louisiana newspaper pages scanned to this date. The table data states there are 126 newspapers from Louisiana in English available at the *Chronicling America* site. The reader can browse issues of those listed titles. Notice the columns to the right. The number of issues available for each title is given. The next two columns give the earliest issue and the latest issue dates available. The last column is More Info. Click “yes” to find the closest depository to you with actual copies of that newspaper. It is easy to spend hours combing through this list.

The last tab may be the most exciting for those who wish to see a physical copy of a particular newspaper. There are two search options. The researcher can browse alphabetically for a newspaper title or the second choice can be selected to search where the newspaper was published. For example, select Louisiana, select Caddo Parish, select Shreveport, and select a date range when the newspaper may have been published. There are more options at the bottom of the screen to narrow a search. Click the **Search** button found in the lower right corner. The search results will list those newspapers that match the criteria.

The screenshot shows the 'US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present' search page. A purple arrow points from the 'GO' button in the top right search bar to the 'GO' button in the main search area. A red arrow points to the 'Search' button at the bottom right. Two orange ovals highlight the search filters: one around the 'Browse the Directory by newspaper title' section (labeled '1.') and another around the 'Select where the newspaper was published' section (labeled '2.').

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

ASK A LIBRARIAN DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

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Search Search Loc.gov GO

The Library of Congress > Chronicling America

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE Humanities CHRONICLING AMERICA Historic American Newspapers

Search America's historic newspaper pages from 1789-1924 or use the U.S. Newspaper Directory to find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present. Chronicling America is sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. Learn more.

Search Pages Advanced Search All Digitized Newspapers 1789-1924 US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present

All states + from 1789 to 1924 + enter one or more search words GO

Pages Available: 11,685,757 Print Subscribe Share/Save Give Feedback

Search U.S. Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present

This directory of newspapers published in the United States since 1690 can help identify what titles exist for a specific place and time, and how to access them. Use the options below to select a particular place and time, using keywords to locate specific titles. Titles currently listed: 154,205.

1. Browse the Directory by newspaper title:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

2. Select where the newspaper was published:

Louisiana Caddo Shreveport

Select when the newspaper was published:

from 1690 to 2017

Enter keywords:

More search options:

Frequency: Select Language: English

Ethnicity Press: Select Labor Press: Select Material Type: Select LCCN:

Clear Search

Notice the results returned a list of 80 newspapers that matched Louisiana, Caddo, and Shreveport criteria. Let's say that the Caddo Gazette, Shreveport, La. 1844-1871 is the newspaper of interest. The list mentions that there are issues from 1844-1871 available. Click on the Caddo Gazette choice. Clicking this choice will bring up a page with data about the newspaper and which institutions have copies.

The screenshot displays the 'US Newspaper Directory Search Results' page. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Search Pages', 'Advanced Search', and 'All Digitized Newspapers 1789-1924'. A search bar contains 'All states' and 'from 1789 to 1924'. Below the search bar, it indicates 'Pages Available: 11,685,757' and provides options to 'Print', 'Subscribe', 'Share/Save', and 'Give Feedback'. The main heading is 'US Newspaper Directory Search Results'. Below this, it shows 'Results 1 - 20 of 80' and a 'Jump to page: 1' button. The search results are sorted by 'Relevance' and show 20 results per page. The list includes various newspapers, with the 18th result being 'The Caddo gazette. (Shreveport, La.) 1844-1871', which is highlighted by a yellow arrow. A purple arrow points to the search bar area.

Search Pages Advanced Search All Digitized Newspapers 1789-1924 US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present

All states + from 1789 to 1924 + enter one or more search words GO

Pages Available: 11,685,757 Print Subscribe Share/Save Give Feedback

US Newspaper Directory Search Results

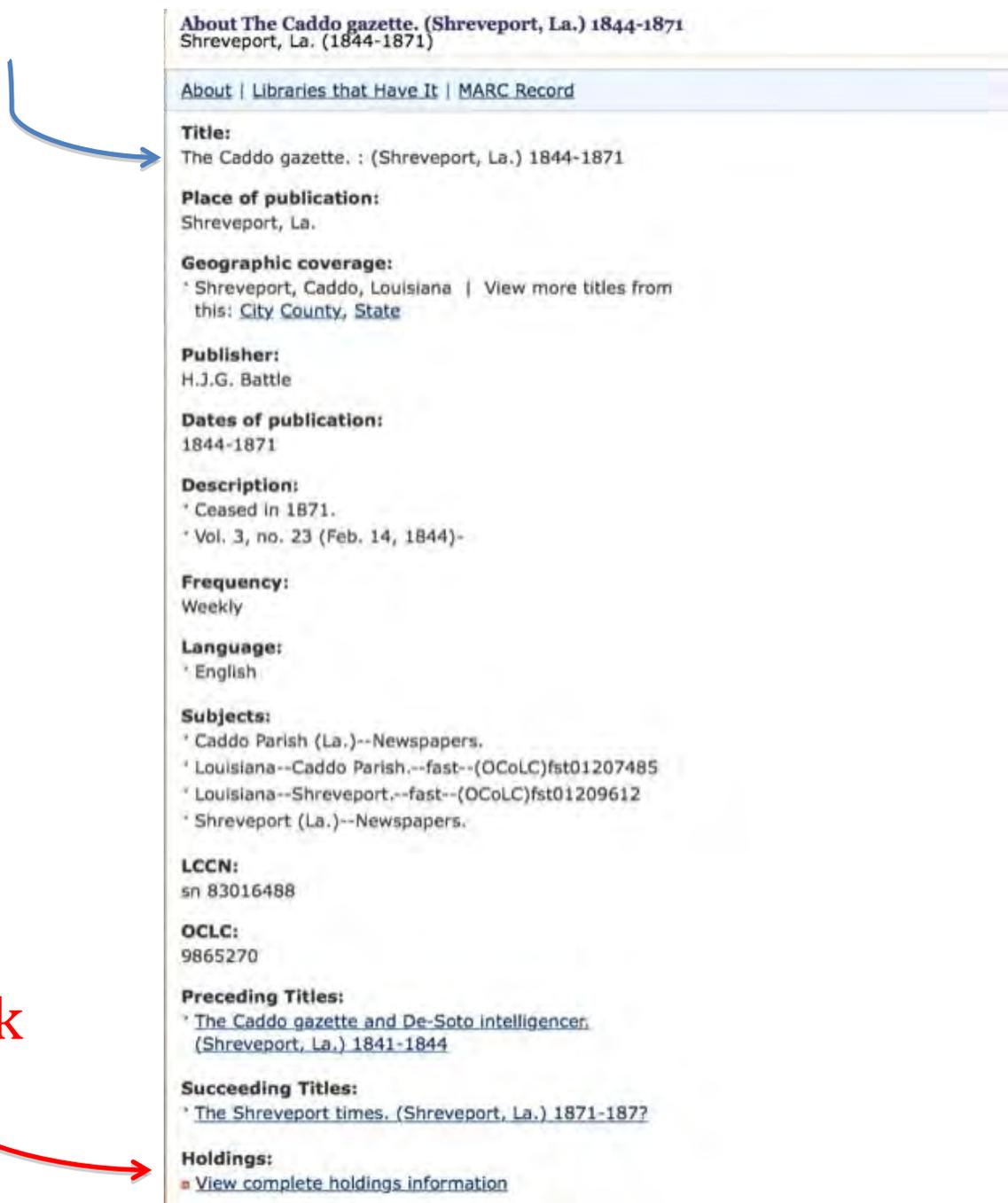
Results 1 - 20 of 80 2 3 4 Jump to page: 1 GO

Your title search returned 80 results

Sort by: Relevance Results per page: 20

1. [The south-western. online resource \(None\) 1852-1870](#)
2. [The Caucasian. online resource \(None\) 1900-192?](#)
3. [Councilor. \(Shreveport, La.\) 1962-1981](#)
4. [The Semi-weekly Shreveport news. \(Shreveport \[La.\]\) 1862-1864](#)
5. [The Progress. \(Shreveport, La.\) 1892-1900](#)
6. [The Caucasian. \(Shreveport, La.\) 1900-192?](#)
7. [The Shreveport weekly news. \(Shreveport, La.\) 1861-1861](#)
8. [Shreveport daily news. \(Shreveport, La.\) 1861-1861](#)
9. [Shreveport semi-weekly news. \(Shreveport \[La.\]\) 1861-1862](#)
10. [Shreveport weekly news. \(Shreveport, La.\) 1862-1863](#)
11. [Semi-weekly news. \(Shreveport \[La.\]\) 1865-1865](#)
12. [Shreveport weekly news. \(Shreveport, La.\) 1866-18??](#)
13. [Caddo free press. \(Shreveport, La.\) 1839-1840](#)
14. [Shreveport intelligencer and Caddo beacon. \(Shreveport, La.\) 1840-18??](#)
15. [The Shreveport sun. \(Shreveport, La.\) 1920-1964](#)
16. [The Shreveport weekly times. \(Shreveport, La.\) 1877-1889](#)
17. [Shreveport evening standard. \(Shreveport \[La.\]\) 1878-1879](#)
18. [The Caddo gazette. \(Shreveport, La.\) 1844-1871](#)
19. [Shreveport bulletin. \(Shreveport, La.\) 18??-1???](#)
20. [The daily Shreveport times. \(Shreveport, La.\) 1871-1877](#)

This page is packed with helpful data. Notice the last entry: **Holdings**. Click this link for institutional holdings.



About The Caddo gazette. (Shreveport, La.) 1844-1871
Shreveport, La. (1844-1871)

[About](#) | [Libraries that Have It](#) | [MARC Record](#)

Title:
The Caddo gazette. : (Shreveport, La.) 1844-1871

Place of publication:
Shreveport, La.

Geographic coverage:
* Shreveport, Caddo, Louisiana | [View more titles from this: City County, State](#)

Publisher:
H.J.G. Battle

Dates of publication:
1844-1871

Description:
* Ceased in 1871.
* Vol. 3, no. 23 (Feb. 14, 1844)-

Frequency:
Weekly

Language:
* English

Subjects:
* Caddo Parish (La.)--Newspapers.
* Louisiana--Caddo Parish.--fast--(OCoLC)fst01207485
* Louisiana--Shreveport.--fast--(OCoLC)fst01209612
* Shreveport (La.)--Newspapers.

LCCN:
sn 83016488

OCLC:
9865270

Preceding Titles:
* [The Caddo gazette and De-Soto intelligencer. \(Shreveport, La.\) 1841-1844](#)

Succeeding Titles:
* [The Shreveport times. \(Shreveport, La.\) 1871-187?](#)

Holdings:
* [View complete holdings information](#)

The **Holding** list provides information on the institutions that hold copies of this newspaper (Caddo Gazette). Look over the list to determine which institution has the copies of the newspapers for the years being researched.

The hard part is to decide which one of these institutions is within close driving distance. If none are close, then check the website regularly to watch for additions to the website database.

HOLDING: Louisiana State Univ, Noel Mem Libr, Shreveport, LA
• [View more titles from this institution](#)
Available as: Microfilm Master
Dates:
• m=<1868:11:14-1869:2:13>
• <1869:2:27-11:12>
Last updated: 11/1989

Available as: Microfilm Service Copy
Dates:
• s=<1844:2:14-1846:12:25>
• <1849:10:24>
• <1850:1:30-2:6>
• <1853:4:23, 5:28, 9:10-17>
• <1855:2:3, 6:2-23>
• <1862:5:3>
• <1865:11:3>
Last updated: 01/1989

HOLDING: Louisiana Tech Univ, Ruston, LA
• [View more titles from this institution](#)
Available as: Original
Dates:
• <1864:8:19>
Last updated: 01/1989

HOLDING: New Orleans Pub Libr, New Orleans, LA
• [View more titles from this institution](#)
Available as: Microfilm Service Copy
Dates:
• s=<1844:2:14-21>
• <1845:2:10-26>

Source: Library of Congress, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov

What Granddaddy Did to Upset Grandma *Contributed by Sonja Dowling Webb*

Granddaddy was a good man who worked hard all of his life. But there were times when he slipped into despair and drank the whiskey to avoid his troubles. Even in an inebriated state, Granddaddy was a crafty old goat. Grandma would get infuriated with him when she couldn't figure out his scheme. Especially after one such period of drinking, he came home with his pint of whiskey unfinished and hid the half-empty bottle in the house. Grandma looked for days trying to discover his hiding place. She never found the hideout, which delighted Granddaddy.



Many years after this period of drinking, I met my father's first cousin. The cousin told me the whiskey bottle story. My grandfather had shared the tale with his brother-in-law, (Grandma's brother), and sister-in-law. Their daughter, the cousin, said her mother had shared the story. The cousin shared the story with me. Grandma never shared the whiskey bottle story with me.

See, Granddaddy would come home intoxicated with his whiskey bottle in hand. He would go to the closet and slip the bottle into the pocket of his winter coat. Grandma never checked the winter coat because at the time they were living in Florida, and the coat was rarely used. He obviously was not too drunk to have selected a clever hiding place. Who knows! Grandma stayed angry with him for a long time! She never found the hiding place for his whiskey bottle, and he never told her his secret.



"I wish I had realized that family history is a perishable commodity. It disappears with time, as memories fade, and as loved ones pass on. I wish I had known that the most important aspect of family history is preserving a record of the present for the future." -Guy Black

www.tmgenealogy.com

Field Trip to Homer, Louisiana

Contributed by Barbara Dean Kronenberg

On Wednesday, May 10, eight members of the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association from the Shreveport, Louisiana area traveled to the Claiborne Parish Library in Homer, LA. Our group had been invited to help with sorting through several boxes of donated genealogical materials. From previous visits with Pam Suggs, the librarian, we had discussed how our Association could assist in some small way with a donation of money, books, or presenting a workshop for interested genealogists. After consideration and because of time constraints, Mrs. Suggs had a special request.

What a delightful day our group had in looking at family materials, trying to decide about the many copies of various family genealogies, making decisions about pictures and duplicate copies, and dividing all of these into groups. What might have taken several days, we were able to accomplish in one short day!

It was a special day to spend time in such a beautiful and spacious library. Any small town would be envious of this lovely facility and the wonderful librarian. And to top off our fun day, Mrs. Suggs had prepared a delicious lunch to make our visit so inviting and appreciated!

As a personal icing on the cake, the great wealth of materials belonged to Jackie Bennett McDonald, my cousin!



**Front Row: Margaret Ford , Glenda Bernard, President, and Sarah White
Back Row: Barbara Dean Kronenberg, Sonja Webb , Ellen Fillippino, , Suzanne LaCour, and Jim Johnson,**

Claiborne Parish Library, Homer, Louisiana
Surname File Folders Organized by Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association,
10 May 2017

The Claiborne Parish Library will soon have an addition to their vertical files. The following list of surname file folders was made for the library:

Atkins
Aycock
Baker
Bailey
Barham
Brazzel
Callaway
Caruthers
Cole
Cooper
Colvin
English
Farley
Ford
Gathright
Grosham/Grisham
Harris
Heard
Jones
Kilgore
Lanier
McAdams (4 folders)
McCasland
McClung
McDonald
McFarland
McClendon
Mitchell
Mullins
Oakes
Oden
Odom
Oxford
Patton (7 folders)
Pierce
Post
Powell
Pryor

Purgerson
Rainey
Redmon
Reynolds
Simmons
Smith
Tait
Taylor
Thompson
Tippit
Traylor
Ward
White
Wynn
Wright

There is a folder of general cemeteries of the area. Also several family binders were left as they were found and were labeled with these surnames:

Bennett (Binder is also labeled Union Parish, LA)
Graves
Green
Higginbotham
Sparks

Spring Genealogy Seminar

Contributed by Jim Johnson



Our spring seminar, held on April 1, 2017, at St. Jude Catholic Church in Benton, Louisiana, was a huge success. The featured speaker was Caroline M. Pointer, a professional genealogist, lecturer, and freelance writer from Conroe, Texas. She is the founder of the blog site, www.4yourfamilystory.com and also the founder of the genealogy research business, For Your Family Story. She enlightened the audience with a wealth of information on numerous genealogy topics. We were also fortunate to have Hearthstone Legacy Publications present with their vast selection of historic maps and county/parish histories. This company is also known as My Genealogy Hound and is located in Joplin, Missouri.

Ms. Pointer's first lecture of the day was "Power Your Research with a Research Plan." In this session, she emphasized the importance of creating a research plan and strategy that will better focus on solving research problems.

The second lecture was "Did You Really Look Everywhere Online?" She cautioned against the exclusive use of any one website or data base to research. She listed numerous websites, most of which are free, that offer a wealth of information to help with the research process as well as several subscription sites that focus on specific areas of research.

In the next lecture, "Research Success is Built on a Line: The Research Timeline", Ms. Pointer explained reasons for using a timeline for research as well as the tools needed for creating a timeline. Every point on an ancestor's timeline is usually relative to something else. Putting events in chronological order to find clues can unlock the ancestor's identity and past.

The final lecture was "10 Tech Tools to Help You Collaborate with Family for Your Research." Advances in technology have resulted in numerous tools, in addition to email, that aid in communicating or sharing genealogy information with others.

Ms. Pointer was an excellent speaker, and her presentations were packed with helpful research tips and strategies.

Shape of Shreveport
(Presented by Sonja Webb)
Contributed by Suzanne Stimits

Why does local historian Gary Joiner want to raise money to erect a statue for a Missouri Yankee who died in Shreveport in 1873? Because he died serving the Shreveport people who were dying of yellow fever. On Saturday, May 13, 2017, the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association met at the Randal T. Moore Center and enjoyed a video telling the story of the Shreveport Yellow Fever Epidemic.

In 1873, Shreveport was a town in recovery from the Civil War. The streets were not paved, there was no electricity, and in hot and humid August, Shreveport was smelly. But steamboats were on the river, and Eugene Woodruff had come to help unclog the log jam. People were optimistic. But suddenly people began to die a terrible, painful death. The Rev. Dalzel of St. Mark's church had seen yellow fever, and he advised people to leave town and not look back. Woodruff's mother begged him to come home, but he said, "These people need help." The newspaper said Dalzel was an alarmist, but after a week of many more deaths, the town was quarantined. People of means had left town. So many were dying that a deep trench was dug, and 1,000 bodies were placed in the huge grave in Oakland Cemetery near downtown. Five priests and two nuns from Holy Trinity died serving Shreveport.



Shreveport went from a population of 12,000 to 4,000 in a very short time. 550 black people died during the epidemic, and many had served by doing police work and burying the dead during the crisis. When cold weather came in November, the worst was over. The people did not know that mosquitoes were the cause of "Yellow Jack." Those who stayed in Shreveport and survived found the strength to start again.

This documentary video is "The Shape of Shreveport" and is available at King Hardware on Line Avenue in Shreveport.

THE MURPHY MYSTERY

Contributed by Kathryn Benson

My grandmother, Beulah Rebecca Murphy McCormick, was a large part of my life as a child and an adult. Grandmother's beautiful flowers, delicious peanut butter cookies, immaculate house, staunch Baptist beliefs, perky conversations.... Constant love.... Always a huge influence on my life. Grandmother died in 1996 at the age of 99, well before I became interested in family history or genealogy. I had been told bits and pieces of her past – her mother dying at a very young age after falling on a creekbank while fishing – her father not remarrying, saying he didn't want his children to have a stepmother – just tidbits from a long life well-lived. My mother died the same year as Grandmother, leaving me a fairly large number of old family pictures. I looked at them often, scanning them, and saving to disc as well as posting a good many on my Ancestry profile pages.

Grandmother's father was George Washington Murphy. I have a fleeting memory of perhaps seeing him while I was a child, rocking in a chair in a back bedroom at my grandmother's home in the United Gas Camp in Carthage, Texas. There is even a picture of him as a young man with his entire family, my grandmother as a toddler, sitting in his lap with his wife Della Azalene Dew Murphy standing behind him and the other three children by his side. Later a family member provided me a picture of the entire family, minus the mother, made in Monroe in possibly the 20s. Yes, I am fortunate to know so much about my grandmother and her family. Still, there is always the ever-so-present past, waving and wandering through my thoughts in a quest to be known and understood

My great-grandfather, George Washington Murphy, was born in Mississippi in 1859, although his tombstone has the date 1861 inscribed upon it, where he lies at rest in Bethsadia Cemetery outside of Many in Sabine Parish. His name is listed on the 1860 census, so I am sure of his birthdate. He was one of several children born to Hezekiah Rabb Murphy and Nancy Murphy in Clarke County, Mississippi.

The Civil War came along, and Hezekiah and his oldest son, William Pickney Murphy, joined the same regiment, the 37th Regiment, Mississippi Infantry. William Pickney remained in Mississippi after the war, but Hezekiah Rabb and the other three sons moved to either DeSoto or Sabine Parish where Hezekiah married a widow, Martha A. Jordan, on 21 December 1870. I would presume that Nancy Murphy must have died around the end of or during the Civil War and is buried in an unknown grave as I have been unable to locate her in any cemetery records. One of the three sons, Albert Green, married a Mobley in Sabine Parish, later moving to Brown County, Texas, where he lived as a rancher. The third son whose name is perhaps Davey C. Murphy disappeared, although we know he must have a story too...still unknown. George Washington Murphy died peacefully in the home of a son in 1951.

Here, for many years, the story ended. Family members circulated a story that Hezekiah was murdered on his own front porch by a member of a gang of outlaws. There is a file floating around Ancestry and saved by several with a good bit of incorrect information. When the truth is unknown, supposition prevails. Where did he die? How did he die? Where is he buried?

Persistence pays off. Two years ago, looking at the website *Chronicling America*, I found a newspaper account of Hezekiah's murder. Yes, he really was murdered. That part of family lore proved to be true. Strangely enough, I found it quite painful to read a factual account of his murder, learning the actual name of the young man who became angry at him, shooting him in the back with a shotgun. I will let you read the article for yourself to see how and why Hezekiah Rabb Murphy was murdered walking up the path to his own home. His burial site is still unknown.

The Opelousas Journal. (Opelousas, La.) 1868-1878, August 19, 1871, Image 2
Image provided by Louisiana State University; Baton Rouge, LA

Persistent link:

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/pages/results/?state=Louisiana&date1=1871&date2=1871&proxtext=haden&x=14&y=15&dateFilterType=yearRange&rows=20&searchType=basic>

It is our painful duty to record the particulars of another brutal murder in our parish, the bare recital of which is enough to make the blood curdle in one [sic] veins. Last Tuesday evening Alexander Haden, Jr., his brother and a man of the name of Kidd, all young men, visited the residence of Mr. H. R. Murphey, an old man and a neighbor of theirs, about eleven miles south of this place, and called him to the gate. When the old man joined them Alex Haden began to abuse him and asked him abruptly why he had been talking about him (Haden). Mr. Murphey quietly told him that he had not done so; Haden insisted that he had and continued to abuse him. Mr. Murphey told him he was a liar and started towards his dwelling, about twenty yards from the gate. He had advanced by a few paces when Haden ordered him to halt, and threatened to shoot him if he did not. Murphy did not stop and told him to shoot if he wished to, whereupon the cowardly assassin fired, putting twenty-three buck shot into his victim's back, killing him instantly. The old man was not armed and did not expect a difficulty, as there had been no previous difficulty between them. Haden is still at large, though the officers of the law have made every exertion to arrest him. His comrades took no part in the affair, but were quiet observers of it. Mr. Murphey was a quiet, peaceable, honest, hard-working man, and he was highly respected in this and his own community. Haden bore a good character previous to the murder. We obtained the above particulars from Justice Womack, who held the inquest over the body of the deceased. – (*Mansfield Reporter*, 22d ult)



*Facts get
recorded.
Stories get
remembered.*



Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association will host an all day seminar and book fair in Shreveport on **August 12, 2017**, featuring **Cari Taplin, CGSM**, Certified Genealogist and Lecturer.

Lecture topics are:

- **Using Lists to Find Proof** (Examining censuses, tax lists, directories, petitions, and other lists as a tool for proving the identity of our ancestors)
- **Using Church Records to Find Ancestral Origins**
- **Canadian Migration Patterns into the U.S.** (Examining some of those migration patterns and the documents they created)
- **From Deeds to Dirt:** Case Studies in Analyzing Research With Maps

Location: Broadmoor United Methodist Church (Pearce Hall), 3715 Youree Drive, Shreveport

Hours: 9:00am - 3:30pm

Barnes & Noble will be on site with a special selection of genealogy and history books.

Registration is now open! Seminar fee is \$40 and includes lunch if pre-registered. Numerous door prizes will be given away. Click [here](#) for a printable seminar flyer/registration form or for online registration and PayPal instructions. Email Jim Johnson at jjohnson747@suddenlink.net for additional information.

