

ALLEN GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

End of Year 2025

PO Box 789, Kinder, LA 70648

Issue No. 263



ALLEN GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2025

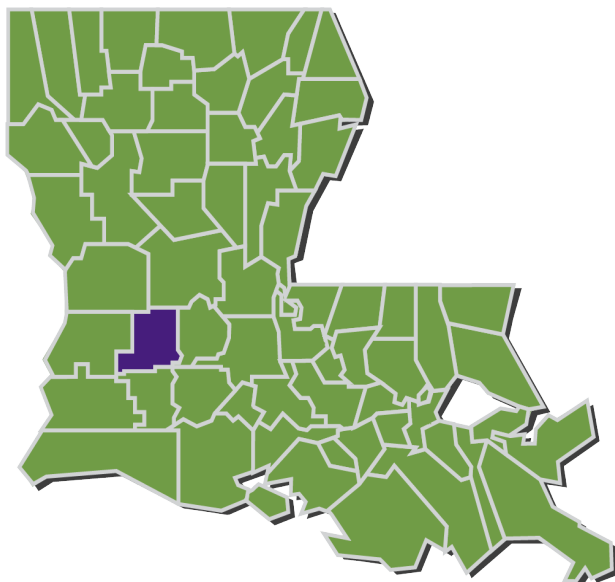
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THE ALLEN GENEALOGICAL and HISTORICAL SOCIETY was organized in May 1985 to collect, organize, process, and preserve genealogical material. The purposes of the Society are to promote interest in genealogy, to assist and encourage genealogical researchers in gathering material on historical events and people of Allen Parish, and to help complete family histories. AGHS was incorporated in March 1990.

AGHS regular meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM in the genealogy room of the Kinder branch of the Allen Parish Library, located at 833 4th Street, Kinder, Louisiana. Members are willing to help visitors with research, and to answer questions they may have.

MEMBERSHIP fees are \$20 per calendar year per person, and includes a digital subscription to the CROSSROADS newsletter. Any correspondence and dues should be sent to AGHS, PO Box 789, Kinder, LA 70648. The Society's email address is allenghs.contact@gmail.com.

The Allen GHS website is www.allenghs.com. The website has a page dedicated to posting the current issue of CROSSROADS, as well as an archive of previous issues. QUERIES may be submitted by email, and all queries are posted on the "Queries" link of the website. When sending a query, please include all pertinent information such as names, dates, and places, along with your name and contact information.



EDITORIAL POLICY: We encourage and welcome contributions of genealogical and historical material that pertain to Allen Parish locations and families for inclusion in CROSSROADS. The Society does not assure responsibility for accuracy or for any copyright infringement of submitted and published material. We reserve the right to edit and/or reject material we deem not suitable for publication.

DONATIONS of genealogical and historical materials such as books, periodicals, family histories, newspaper clippings, old photos, and filled out 5-generation charts are accepted by the Society and each item donated will be cataloged and placed on file in the genealogy room of the Kinder Library to be used for research. Memorials and honorariums are also welcomed by the Society.

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Note: Books posted for sale in Crossroads prior to 2024 are out of print and are no longer for sale.



House Speaker Mike Johnson Recognizes Allen GHS



Allen GHS President Laura Hall (left), and Allen GHS officer Dr. Jon Buck Ford (right), accept Certificate of Congressional Recognition from Whitney Lambright, Director of Outreach and Community Liaison for Speaker Mike Johnson. (photo by Wanda Carole Wrinkle Ford)

United States Speaker of the House Mike Johnson recognized the Allen Genealogical and Historical Society's 40th Anniversary with a Congressional Certificate in ceremonies held at the Allen Parish Cultural Center in Kinder on December 2, 2025.

"It is a great honor for us to be able to acknowledge the anniversary of your Society on behalf of the Speaker," said Whitney Lambright, Director of Outreach and Community Liaison for Speaker Mike Johnson. "I know that he wishes that he could be here today, but he's in Washington DC, so I'm honored to be able to do this on his behalf."

Speaker Mike Johnson was first elected to Louisiana's Fourth Congressional District in 2016. On October 25, 2023, he was voted in as the nation's Speaker of the House, a position he still holds. He is the only Louisiana Representative to ever hold this position.

Ms. Lambright went on to say, "Speaker Johnson appreciates all of your dedicated efforts and your contributions here in Allen Parish and beyond. I know that you don't just bless the people here in Allen Parish, but their families and those who benefit from the heritage that you have here."

"I know it is a diligent, dedicated effort, and we appreciate your service to your community in preserving this great history and heritage that you all have."

"Thank you for everything that you do."

The well-received event was held in conjunction with the Society's annual End-of-Year brunch hosted by the Allen Parish Cultural Center. It was well attended by Society members, and widely covered by local news media.

After enjoying the food, festivities, and fellowship of the brunch, Society members posed for a picture on the steps of the Cultural Center.

"It is a tremendous honor to receive a Congressional Certificate of Recognition from our Representative Mike Johnson," said Dr. Jon Buck Ford, editor of the *Crossroads* newsletter, and liaison with Speaker Johnson's office.

"His work in the US House of Representatives—and as our nation's Speaker—has reinforced the pride we in Southwest Louisiana have for our history and heritage."

"This certificate will be a special and valuable treasure for the Allen GHS archives for decades to come."



Patricia Lowe (left) and Mary Cole look over Certificate of Recognition at the Mike Johnson Certificate event.

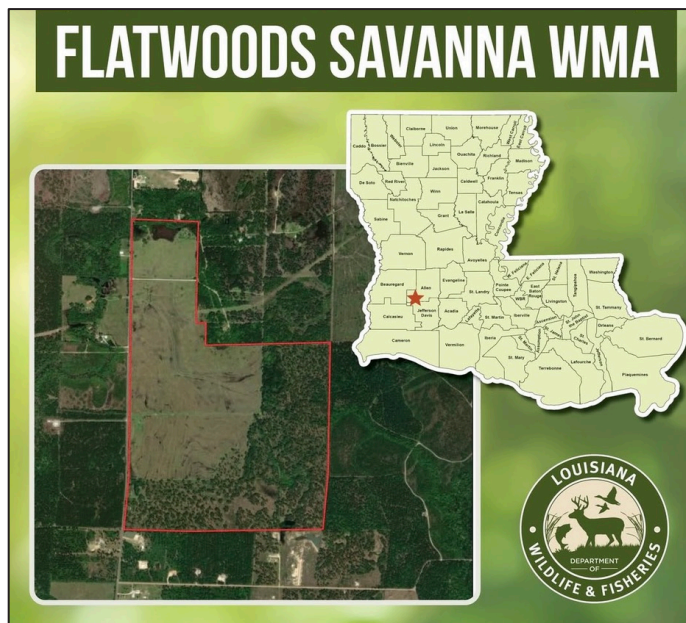
Mike Johnson Certificate Event/End-of-Year Brunch



(L to R) Barbara LaBove Savant, Fran Clemmons, Jennifer Fontenot, Laura Hall, Brendan Brown—KPLC-TV Channel 7, Wanda Carole Wrinkle Ford, Carolyn Fontenot, Mary Cole, Stephen Fontenot, Dr. Jon Buck Ford



Flatwoods Savanna Wildlife Management Area Opens in Allen Parish



Allen Parish area established by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to preserve what may be Louisiana's last old-growth longleaf pine savanna.

In July 2025, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries formally established the Flatwoods Savanna Wildlife Management Area, to preserve what may be Louisiana's last old-growth longleaf pine savanna.

The 426-acre property features mature longleaf pine savanna, flatwood ponds, and areas for re-forestation. Longleaf pine savannas provide habitat for many rare and globally significant species.

"We are proud to add this property to our WMA program, while also highlighting the Louisiana Outdoors Forever program and our conservation partners," said LDWF acting secretary Tyler Bosworth.

"This new WMA fulfills LDWF's strategic plan by providing additional WMA recreational opportunities while also conserving one of Louisiana's most unique habitats."

According to a press release from Louisiana W&F, this is the only known site of mature longleaf in Southwest Louisiana, and the only known site in the state with mature longleaf pine flatwoods, and natural, unmodified flatwood ponds.

Longleaf pine savannas and woodlands once stretched over 90 million acres of the southeast U.S. – from Southeast Virginia to East Texas – to form the backbone of the region's rich biodiversity. Today, it exists in only ~5% of that range.

Once prominent in Louisiana, wet longleaf pine flatwoods savanna now represents one of the most threatened habitats in North America, existing in fragments within a small fraction of a 1-2 million-acre range that once spilled into portions of Calcasieu, Beauregard, Vernon, Allen, Jeff Davis, Evangeline and Rapides parishes during pre-settlement times.

The unique and complex environmental conditions of the longleaf pine grasslands provide habitat for diverse flora and fauna, including 60 percent of the amphibian and reptile species in the southeast and at least 122 threatened or endangered plant



species.

In Louisiana, 216 rare species tracked by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife Diversity Program utilize or depend on longleaf pine natural communities, and many of these species that were once abundant are now considered critically imperiled.

The following "project partners" provided critical support in making this dream become a reality: [Atira Conservation](#), [EJK Foundation](#), [Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation](#), [Restore the Earth Foundation](#), [Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation](#), and [The AES Corporation](#).

The WMA is located in Southwest Allen Parish between the towns of Reeves and LeBlanc, Louisiana. The WMA is bordered by Snooky's Road to the west, and private lands to the north, south, and east. Please be mindful and respectful of adjacent private property

Allen Parish Flatwoods Savanna



Mary Cole—Shining Star Behind the Spotlight!



Mary Cole—Allen GHS Member Since 1986

In each issue of Crossroads, Allen GHS will feature one of its members. This issue will shine the spotlight on Mary Cole.

Mary Cole is the longest tenured member of the the Allen Genealogical and Historical Society. Records show that she first joined the Society in January of 1986—and has been an active member ever since.

“I’ve been interested in genealogy my entire life,” said Mary.



Ralph and Liza (Fontenot) Carpenter

“I grew up outside of Oberlin, and I was close to my grandparents Ralph Carpenter and Liza Fontenot Carpenter, who lived nearby.”

“Every Sunday, my grandfather would take us for a ride. We’d pile up in his white station wagon, and he would tell us stories.”

“We would go by his old place—where he grew up.”

The area Mary refers to is near Carpenter’s Bridge, which is located on the Carpenter’s Bridge Road. The Bridge, named after Mary’s ancestor, was a timber bridge originally built in 1965 to accommodate passage across

Ouisika Chitto Creek. It was replaced in 2024 with a concrete reinforced bridge.

“My grandfather was a farmer, and a logger, and he was also my school bus driver,” said Mary. “We lived right behind him.”

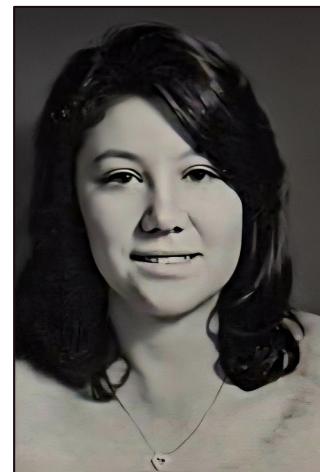
“I remember, in 1977, I had just gotten married,” continued Mary. “I made a Christmas gift for them.—a portrait for my grandfather and my grandmother. And I put all their brothers and sisters around them. I thought it would be nice remembering their brothers and their sisters.”

“My mother—Bonnie (Carpenter) Willis—helped me collect the pictures. And I put the pictures in two frames—one with my grandfather and his siblings, and the other with my grandmother and her siblings. And I labeled them; that was their present.”

“When it came time, they opened their presents last. I waited, and gave them my presents last.”

“And all they could do is look at them, and cry.”

“And grandmother hung them up, and she would pass by and look at the pictures, and tell stories about them. That’s when I learned a lot about my ancestors.”



Mary Willis, Oberlin High School, Senior 1977

Allen Genealogical and Historical Society

"Betty Sarver got me involved in the Genealogy Society," recalls Mary.

Sarver was a charter member of the Society, and went on to serve as president of the Society for seventeen years. She was also a distant cousin to Mary, they both having descended from their common ancestor William "Grandpa Billy" Cole.

"Betty invited me," said Mary. "I began coming to the meetings, and I liked it."

"I found out that (charter member) Ridley Fontenot was kin to me, and that got me excited, because my grandmother was a Fontenot. He helped me out on the Fontenot side."

"I worked on any assignment they would give me," said Mary.

One assignment that Mary worked on was documentation of Allen Parish cemeteries.

"At the time, I was going to school at McNeese, working on a teaching degree," said Mary. "We were given an assignment to do something about Louisiana. At first, I wanted to research dog-trot houses, because my husband is a roofer, and he goes all over and knows all about these houses."

"However, I needed permission from the owners to research their homes, and they would tell me no."

"So, I asked my professor if I could do cemeteries. And she said yes, that would be nice."

"And I got carried away!"

"I did all of Oberlin. I got the book *100 Years of Oberlin*. It

listed where the cemeteries were. And I did Oberlin cemeteries; I did Kinder cemeteries; I did many cemeteries."

"There is an album here of the work I did. I traced their origins. I found out who donated the land; who was the first burial."

Mary discovered information she had not known before.

"I found out that at Simmons Cemetery, you could get buried for free. I didn't know that," she said, referring to a black cemetery with roots in the Mittie community. "I thought that was nice."

"I called the Simmons Church, and found out the origins of the cemetery. The church had moved from its original location, but they are still doing burials at the cemetery."

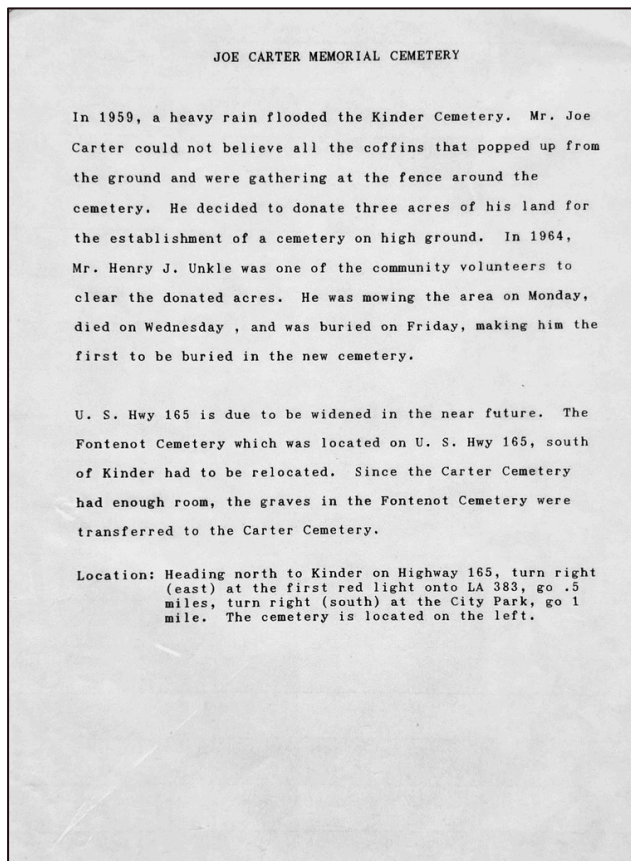
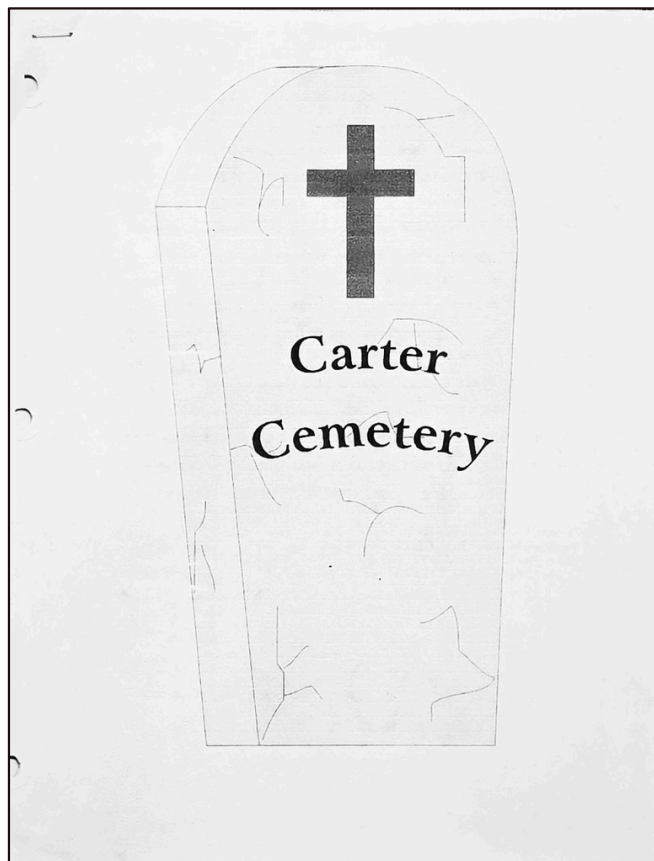
Mary went on to tell about something else she learned during her project.

"The Oberlin Cemetery has two priests buried in it," said Mary. "And the headstones are facing the wrong way—they're facing west. And the tradition is for headstones to face east—the direction that the sun comes up. They associate the sun coming up as the Lord rising."

"I've been in a lot of cemeteries, and I've learned a lot."

She also added, "My mom had cancer, and she would go with me to the cemeteries. We'd walk the graves, and we would locate the oldest grave, and do our research."

Mary says that she still refers to her work when locating kinfolk on requests.



Mary researched many of Allen Parish's cemeteries.
This is a sample of her submission for the Joe Carter Memorial Cemetery.



Mary Cole—Substitute Teacher at Oberlin Elementary.

Challenging Times

In the mid-1990s, Mary was working on a teaching degree at McNeese. She also worked as a substitute teacher at Oberlin Elementary when her schedule would allow it.

At one point, school administrators asked her to take on a long-term substitute position.

"A teacher was in the hospital," said Mary. "She was dying of cancer. The term was from the end of January until May. They asked me if I could substitute long-term for her. So I took off that semester. And then it was two more semesters with having babies."

Mary's experience in the classroom was a successful one. Students' grades improved, and Mary went above and beyond to see that each student was successful, differentiating instruction to best accommodate students' learning styles.

In 1997, Mary returned to McNeese to complete her student teaching, and finish up her senior year.

"That's when I had my stroke," said Mary. "I never got to graduate."

The stroke was significant. Mary spent months in the hospital and in rehab. Her memory had been affected, as well as

her mental processing abilities.

"After a period of time, Betty Sarver called me, and said, 'We're having our meetings. Won't you come home?' (You know, instead of staying at home). It may trigger some of your memories."

And I said, "Yeah."

"I had forgotten how to do everything," said Mary. "How to look things up, where they come from—everything. I had to learn all that."

"But Betty helped me out. If I had a question about something or someone, she answered it. And if she had a question about someone, she said, 'Why don't you look it up and see what you come up with?'"

"And we compared notes, you know? She would find stuff and I would find stuff."

"Betty had a way of drawing people in and giving them responsibility."

40 Years of Service—and Beyond

As Mary enters 2026, she can look back on 40 years of service to the Allen Genealogical and Historical Society.

Her work is done quietly, and without fanfare.

She always follows through on responsibilities, and her products are of the highest quality.

She is not one to draw attention to herself.

"I'm not comfortable being out front," Mary says. "I prefer to be in the shadows, working in the background. I do anything I can."

She still works on projects for the Society, including the annual Hometown Holidays in Kinder.

She also continues to pursue genealogy work for her and her extended family names—Carpenter, Fontenot, Duhon, Trammel, Turner, Manuel, and Willis, among others.

Thank you Mary Cole for your forty years of dedicated service to Allen GHS!



Pioneer Day, 1989

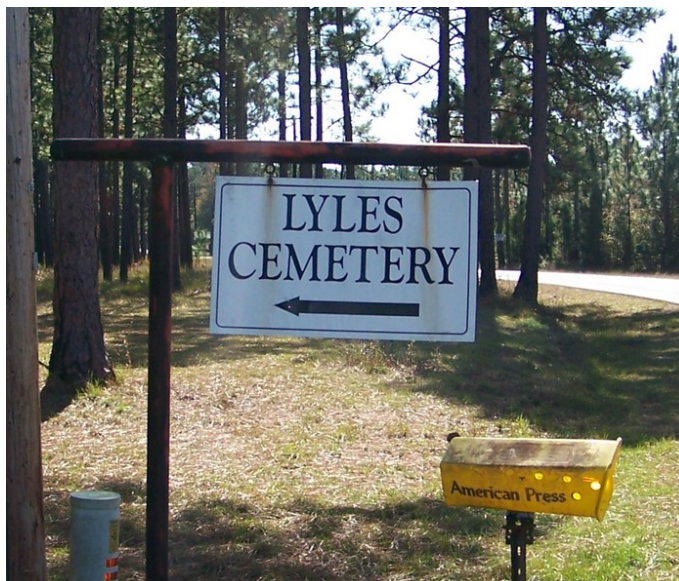
(Front Row)—Mary Cole. (Back Row)—Ethelinda Andrus, Betty Sarver, Grace Cornish, Ramona Bruce, Helen Newell, Dee Chandler, Mrs. Tate.



Mary at the Allen GHS booth at the annual Hometown Holidays event in Kinder, December 6, 2025.

If Tombstones Could Talk...

Lyles Cemetery, Reeves, Louisiana



*Lyles Cemetery, Reeves, Louisiana
(Photo by Charles T. Baggett)*

In each issue of Crossroads, Allen GHS will feature one of Allen Parish's cemeteries. This issue will pay its respects to Lyles Cemetery in Reeves, Louisiana.

Lyles Cemetery, outside of Reeves, Louisiana, has served as the final resting place for the Lyles family and their extended family members since the 1860s.

The grounds are located on the site of the David Lyles homestead. Lyles, a native of South Carolina, finally settled at this location after a westward journey across the South. Before his journey of life had ended, he had fathered fifteen children between two wives. He also served as step-father to three more children.

A survey of the cemetery was performed in 1999 by Lucas and Norma James. They noted in their survey that, "There are several unmarked graves, most of which are of children, and many of which are known to be quite old."

Their survey also mapped a cedar tree centrally located within the cemetery's bounds. That cedar tree is no longer there; it was destroyed by Hurricane Laura in 2020. The hurricane also damaged several of the original monuments, as well as the previous pastoral ambience of the surrounding area.

The oldest marked burial in the cemetery, David's son Smart Lyles, dates to 1867.

David Lyles himself is the second oldest marked burial, in 1881.

The cemetery's administration is governed by a board, and an annual cleanup is performed each October.

The following are some notable people buried at Lyles Cemetery:



(Photo by Charles T. Baggett)

Smart Lyles

Smart Lyles (1864 - 1867) is the oldest marked grave in the cemetery.

He was the son of David Lyles and Louisa Garner Johnson Lyles.



(Photo by Charles T Baggett)

David Lyles and Louisa Garner Johnson Lyles

David Lyles (1809 - 1881) was born in the Spartanburg District of South Carolina on March 6, 1809.

On April 9, 1833, he married Nancy Johnson (1814 - 1852) in Carroll County, Georgia. David and Nancy had seven children together, all of them born in Georgia.

Records from 1836 show that "David Liles" was a member of the Carroll County Rangers during the Creek War.

Family records show that Nancy died in Cass County (now Bartow County), Georgia, in 1852.

On November 13, 1853, David married Louisa Garner Johnson (1831 - 1890) in Carroll County, Georgia. Louisa was David's former sister-in-law. Louisa had been married to Nancy's brother Cornelius Johnson. At the time of David's marriage to Louisa, she was a widow with three children.

Family records show that David Lyles sold his place in Gordon, County, Georgia, in 1853, and moved to Talladega County, Alabama. On October 21, 1859, he sold his place in Talladega and left for "The Opelousas Territory."

He and Louisa and their children traveled with the Heards and the Millers, arriving at the "Campgrounds" near Dry Creek, Louisiana, in April, 1860.

He homesteaded 160 acres near Barnes Creek, Louisiana, that year.

David and Louisa Lyles had eight children together.



David Lyles
(Photo by Wanda Carole Wrinkle Ford)



Louisa Lyles
(Photo by Dr. Jon Buck Ford)

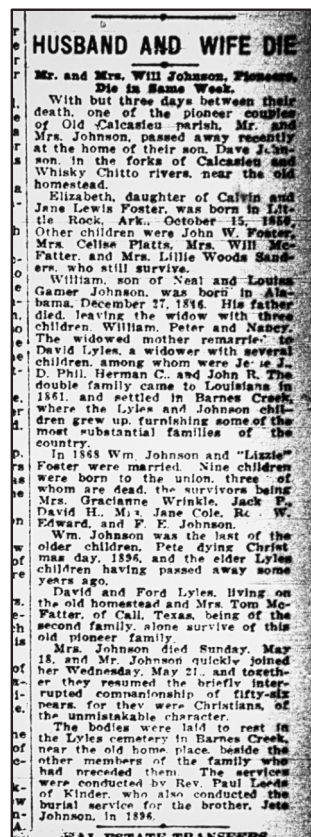
William Marion Johnson and Elizabeth Foster Johnson

William Marion Johnson (1846 - 1924) was the son of Louisa Garner Johnson Lyles from her first marriage to Cornelius Johnson. He was born in Carroll County, Georgia, and traveled to Louisiana with his mother and her second husband David Lyles.

He married Francis Elizabeth "Lizzie" Foster (1850 - 1924) about 1870. Lizzie was born in Arkansas, the daughter of Calvin Perry Foster and Jane Elizabeth Lewis.

They died three days apart from each other in 1924.

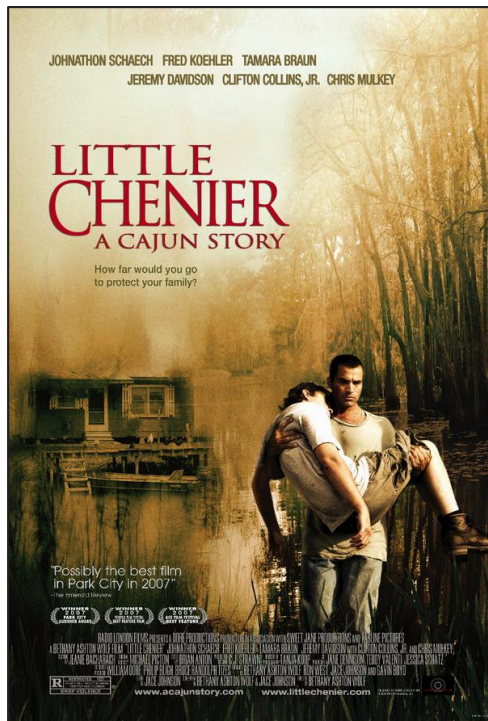
They left as an inheritance to their six children, "...120 acres more or less, nine head of cattle, and \$20.00 cash in the bank."



Newspaper article copied from the Lake Charles Weekly American Press, June 6, 1924



William and Elizabeth Foster Johnson
(Photos by Wanda Carole Wrinkle Ford)



Little Chenier: A Cajun Story

In 2005, Southwest Louisiana's cajun country served as the setting for the independent film *Little Chenier: A Cajun Story*.

The film was directed and produced by Lake Charles native Bethany Ashton Wolf. She and her brother Jace were co-writers.

Moreover, they were both direct descendants of David Lyles and his first wife Nancy Johnson.

Released in 2006, the film won critical acclaim, lauded by critics as "Shakespeare on the Bayou," and "a Steinbeck novel on film." It won 21 festival awards, including 10 as Best Picture, on its festival run.

One of the scenes in the movie was set at Lyles Cemetery. It featured the entire cast, gathered for the funeral of one of the characters.

The scene records the funeral procession marching up Lyles Cemetery Road, and the funeral service itself performed near the canopy of a magnificent cedar tree.

The scene at Lyles Cemetery captures a pastoral atmosphere: an old country cemetery nestled among the oaks and pines of Southwest Louisiana, peacefully separated from the complicated and restless realm of the living.

In August of 2005, two weeks after filming concluded, Hurricane Rita passed through Southwest Louisiana and destroyed many of the locations that were featured in *Little Chenier*, including the country charm of the Lyles Cemetery environs.

Much of the surrounding pine forest was thinned out.

In 2020, Hurricane Laura wreaked havoc on Southwest Louisiana. Many of the headstones were damaged, and the cemetery's centerpiece cedar tree was destroyed. The storm also took its toll on the surrounding pine forest land.

Nevertheless, like the resilient folk of Southwest Louisiana, the proud and loving descendants of the inhabitants of Lyles Cemetery cleared up the ravaged area, and cleaned, repaired, and/or replaced the damaged monuments.

Little Chenier: A Cajun Story, serves as a testament to what Lyles Cemetery once was, and to the ever-present changes that Southwest Louisiana is susceptible to due to its proximity to the Gulf Coast.



Lyles Cemetery, Reeves, Louisiana



(Clockwise from top, L to R) Little Chenier director, producer, and co-writer Bethany Ashton Rush with her brother co-writer Jace Johnson;

Little Chenier awards graphic;

Lyles Cemetery, January 2026
(drone photo by Wanda Carole Wrinkle Ford);

Directions to Lyles Cemetery in Reeves,
Louisiana;

Cemetery centerpiece cedar tree destroyed by
Hurricane Laura in 2020
(photo by Laura Hall in 2018).



Johnny Buck–Kinder's Legendary Football Coach



Coach Johnny Buck carried off the field following Kinder's 16 - 7 win over Winnsboro in the 1967 Class A Finals and the Yellow Jackets' first state title.

John Carroll "Johnny" Buck, went from hometown Kinder schoolboy to the Louisiana High School Football Hall of Fame.

His story, much like the teams he fielded during his 32-years at Kinder High School, was not complicated. However, it was firmly grounded in discipline, hard work, teamwork, and a commitment to excellence.

Early Years

Johnny Buck grew up in Kinder.

At Kinder High School, Buck played basketball and pole vaulted. He didn't play football because Kinder didn't have a football team.

After graduating high school in 1948, he attended McNeese, where he made the team as a running back.

He later transferred to Northwestern State in Natchitoches, where he was a second team All Conference running

back, and also a conference champion pole vaulter.

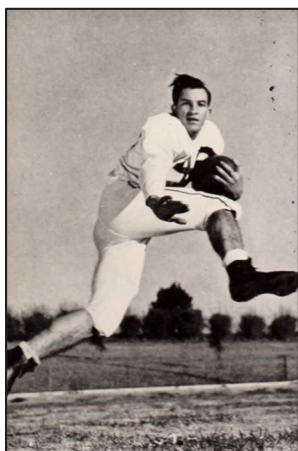
Buck landed his first coaching job in 1953 at DeQuincy HS, where he coached alongside head coach Jack Doland.

It was at DeQuincy when, in 1956, Buck coached his first state championship team, leading the Tigers to their first ever state title—the Class A State Track Championship.

In 1957, Buck was named head football coach at DeQuincy, and the Tigers finished with a 7-2-1 record.

In 1958, Johnny Buck returned to his home town of Kinder, where he was named head coach football coach. It would be the Yellowjackets' first full season of football competition.

He would remain the Jackets' head coach for the next 32 years.



*Johnny Buck
Northwestern State RB*



Kinder High School

"He worked harder than anybody else," remembered Kinder mayor Wayland Lafargue, who played for Buck and also coached with Buck at Kinder.

"His game plans were simple, but he expected them to be run to perfection."

This perfection came about through four-hour practices, and repetition of drills that stressed the importance of each player's contribution to success.

"He was ahead of his time," said LaFargue. "At practice, we'd fire into a dummy. He didn't believe in contact at practice except in limited, controlled situations."

"At the same time, he believed in conditioning. He said we may not win every game, but he promised that we would be in every game because we were in better condition."

Buck also expected every player to be at practice, and to let him know ahead of time if they couldn't make it.



Johnny Buck Professional Honors

- DeQuincy State Track Champions, 1956
- Kinder State Football Champions 1967, 1978
- Kinder State Football Finalist 1964
- Kinder State Football Semifinalist 1975, 1979
- Louisiana High School Football Hall of Fame 1984
- Louisiana Sportswriters Coach of the Year 1967, 1978
- American Press SWLA Coach of the Year 1967, 1975, 1979
- Beaumont Enterprise Coach of the Year 1978
- District Coach of the Year 14x
- President, Louisiana HS Coaches Association 1972
- Kinder Declared "Johnny Buck Week" January 1990
- Kinder HS Stadium named for him 2003
- 15 District Titles, 17 Playoff Appearances
- 7 Undefeated Seasons
- 28-Straight Wins
- 37 Years Head Coach—1 Year DeQuincy HS; 32 Years Kinder HS, 4 Years Opelousas Catholic HS
- 14th All Time Winningest Louisiana HS Football Coach
- 271-152-7 Record, .670 winning percentage

"He'd be up all night preparing for practice, and he expected you to show up," remembered one of Buck's players from the 1967 state champs. "He spent hours and hours on preparation."

The player went on to describe an event that brought the 1967 team together. It also illustrates Buck's insight into team dynamics.

"We were about three weeks into the season," he recalled. "Allen Parish had a fair, and Coach Buck told us NOT to go to the fair. Well, two of our linemen went to the fair, and Coach Buck kicked them off the team."

"These linemen were critical to our team; they were good. We felt like we needed them."

The player remembered that two leaders on the team went to Buck, and asked him to reconsider his decision.

"Coach Buck got agitated," he recalled. "He said 'I don't bend my rules!' He said that the players had let the team down, and that the team couldn't count on them because they had broken the rule. He was adamant; it was all about the team."

"We pleaded with him."

"Eventually, he came around and said, 'Look, I'll tell you what. I'll let the team vote on it. Y'all go back in that locker room, and tell the team they can vote to let them back on. And if one person votes for them not to be let back on, then they don't come back on.'"

"But if the team does vote them back on, they are going to be put through a living hell every day after practice."

"Our practices normally were long and hard anyway. And sure enough, after practice, Coach Buck put those two guys through it. They pushed the two-man sled, they ran 10-20-100 yard sprints, they ran on the track, they ran the bleachers. They ran until they were puking."

I thought to myself, "I wouldn't do that."

"We would watch all that, and we thought, if they were committed enough to do all that for the team, then it solidified us. We got closer as a team. It brought us together. And we got on a run, and ended up winning the state championship."

"I also want to add that Coach Buck was always about the team. There was no individual. Please don't use my name when you write this article, because everything was about team."



Kinder Yellowjackets celebrate following their 1967 state championship win vs. Winnsboro.

Wayland Lafargue recalled some of Buck's football philosophy.

"He believed ball control was the best defense," recalled Lafargue. "We would run the ball, and keep it out of the other team's hands. Many times we would go a full quarter, never giving up the ball."

"He didn't believe in showing the football. We would work on concealing the football in our fakes, and we would get a lot of whistles called on us because the guy we faked to would get gang tackled, and the officials would think he had the ball. Coach Buck would warn officials about that before the game."

"He believed in the TEAM," stressed Lafargue. "Everybody had a role. It was important that every player gave 110% every play. We didn't have a lot of plays, but we would practice them over and over. It was always, 'One more time...one more time!'"

"In his early years, we ran our offense out of the Power I. Later we went to the Wing T—the same offense that Odessa Permian ran."

Johnny Buck's last year as head football coach of the Yellowjackets was 1989. He then spent four years as head coach at Opelousas Catholic.

He returned to Kinder in 1995, the year his wife Bess died.

He coached three additional years in Kinder in various roles, including high school girls basketball coach, junior high school coach, and high school assistant.

Buck died on March 15, 2005. He was 74 years old. He is buried at McRill Cemetery in Kinder.

Wayland Lafargue summed up Johnny Buck's impact on Kinder football as follows, "He started it all. The tradition, the love of football. People in Kinder love their football on Friday nights. It all began with Johnny Buck."



The House that Buck Built



(Stadium drone pictures by Wanda Carole Wrinkle Ford)

Tales from the Leatherwood Museum



The Leatherwood Museum in Oakdale, Louisiana, served as the repository of Allen Parish's history from 2008 until it closed its doors in 2023. Over the course of those 15 years, the Leatherwood Museum received hundreds of artifacts, documents, and other memorabilia associated with Allen Parish. The Allen Genealogical and Historical Society took possession of many of these items, where they are presently stored in the Society's archives.

Crossroads will publish selected items from this collection each issue in a series titled "Tales from the Leatherwood Museum."

This issue will feature an article from the archives titled, "The Oakdale Stump Plant," which records the turpentine industry's last days in Southwest Louisiana, and the hard work that it entailed.

THE OAKDALE STUMP PLANT

Sometime in the 1940's a new industry came to Oakdale known locally to most people as the stump plant. It was located where the Arizona chemical plant is presently located. Before that the Little River Lumber Mill, one of several early saw mills in Oakdale was located. Many persons still recall the huge stockpiles of stumps on the north side of the plant.

The industry was based on harvesting the pine resin rich stumps left after the original virgin Georgia pine forest was harvested. The pine stumps were processed in such a way as to get the resin for turpentine and other navel stores. Because of this the other name commonly used for the factory was the "turpentine plant." This plant along with another plant in DeQuincy was two of the largest stump processing plants in the area.

The work involved in actually harvesting the pine stumps was very hard and physically demanding. As the close supplies of stumps were harvested, the workers had to travel further and further just to get to the harvest site. People can remember leaving for work at 3 or 4AM in the morning with the rest of the crew. Sometimes the workers known as stumpers would take clothing and supplies and camp at the work site, hopefully fairly close to a creek or river. They would enjoy a cool dip in the water after a hot sweaty day of work.

One of the ways in which the stumps were harvested involved blasting the stumps with dynamite, since most of the stump was still in the ground. The dynamite was set with blasting cap and a fuse about a foot long. The dynamite often just loosened the stumps. Then the stumpers would go in and harvest the stumps. Later bulldozers were used for this job. After the trucks were loaded the stumps were taken to the Oakdale plant where the stumps were weighed and the crew chief paid. After the expenses were taken out, the crew received their share, which often was not very much. And so this work cycle was repeated until all the stumps were harvested.

The plant finally closed around the 1970's. Thus, another chapter in the forest industry of Allen Parish came to a close.

Tales from the
Leatherwood Museum



PICTURES FROM
THE OAKDALE STUMP PLANT





Family Recipes

Family Recipes are a special component of our family heritage. They link us across generations, to ancestors we never knew, in ways that no other resource can:

- they enrich us with smells and tastes;
- they instill us with our family's cultures;
- they give us stories of family holidays, of "favorite foods;" and the passing down of family traditions;
- they tell us what crops our ancestors raised, what animals they domesticated and hunted, and their relationship to the environment in which they lived;
- and many more things...

Family Recipes--a special component of our family heritage.

In each issue of Crossroads, Allen GHS will feature recipes from the Allen Parish area.

Feel free to submit family heritage recipes to allenghs.contact@gmail.com for possible publication.

Recipe submissions should include not only ingredients and cooking instructions, but also include the family story or stories associated with the recipe.

Bon appetite!

CANNED PEARS

Submitted by Mary Cole

My Grandma Liza Fontenot Carpenter's Recipe



My grandparents Ralph and Liza Carpenter raised almost everything—potatoes, sweet corn, field peas, tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers, green onions, pears, figs, pomegranates, tangerines, strawberries, blackberries, muscadines, and more.

Grandpa also planted watermelons and sold them (those we didn't eat lol). They also made a lot of jelly.

I spent most of the time outside with my grandpa. I'd help him in his garden. I was a tomboy; my sister Renea Willis Manuel was a girly-girl. She would mostly be in the house helping grandma around the house and kitchen.

My sister's husband liked pears, and her husband wanted a recipe to put up pears. She got this recipe for canned pears from my grandma.

—Mary Cole

Canned Pears	
1	Peel, wash, and cut pears into halves or fourths in the amount you want to can. As you slice them put them in water with lemon juice to soak until you are ready to cook them. For each quart of water add 1 tablespoon lemon juice.
2	Prepare your syrup of 6 cups water, 3 cups sugar in a large pot. Bring syrup to a boil, add pears to the syrup mixture. Cook until
3	pears begin to soften. (Do not overcook or pears will be mushy) Pack pears into sterilized jars. Add syrup to cover pears, remove air bubbles from jar, wipe tops of jars with a damp cloth. Put seal on top and add rings. Set jar aside until you have all your pears in jars. When they are cool, check the seal to make sure it sealed. (You can also process them for 15 minutes in a boiling-water canner if you want to.)



Family Recipes...continued...

OLD-FASHIONED RAISIN PIE (Funeral Pie)

Submitted by Betty Sarver
From the 1990 Allen GHS Cookbook
Old Time Recipes



Betty Sarver was a charter member of the Allen Genealogical and Historical Society.

She was serving as president of the Society in 1990 when Allen GHS published an "Old-Time Recipes" cookbook in conjunction with Pioneer Days activities.

The recipe book featured traditional family recipes collected from members of

the Society, as well as from the local community.

Sarver herself submitted several recipes, including this recipe for "Old-Fashioned Raisin Pie." She also provided the interesting anecdote about the dish.

Betty Sarver was an energetic and enthusiastic presence in the Society until her death in 2021.

She served as its president for 17 years.

She and her husband Charles loved the Society, and strongly supported its mission.

The "Old-Time Recipes" cookbook is just one of her legacies that survives today.



OLD-FASHIONED RAISIN PIE (“Funeral Pie”)

½ cup sugar	1½ cup water
3 tablespoons flour	2 tablespoons lemon juice
¼ teaspoon salt	1½ teaspoon lemon rind
1½ cup raisins	1 tablespoon butter

Mix sugar, flour, and salt. Add water and cook over low heat (stirring constantly) until mixture is clear and thickens. Add raisins, lemon juice, lemon rind, and butter.

Pour into 8" unbaked pie crust and cover with the top crust. Slit the top several times to release steam during baking. Bake at 425° until brown, 30 to 35 minutes.

Mrs. Betty Sarver

In the early days, raisin pie was known as "Funeral Pie." The custom was to take food to a family that had lost a loved one. Although it was a sad occasion, it also was an opportunity for the out-of-town relatives to gather at the home after the funeral for a visit before returning home.

Raisins were scarce and very expensive at that time, so raisin pie was served as a special treat to the visitors.



Family Recipes...continued...

YELLOW DREAM CAKE

Submitted by Laura Hall

YELLOW DREAM CAKE

by MARY ANN COLE RION REEVES

Ingredients:

¾ cup margarine
 1 ¼ cup sugar
 3 eggs
 2 cups sifted flour
 1 tsp. salt
 2 tsp. baking powder
 ½ cup milk
 1 tsp. vanilla

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Cream sugar and margarine until light. Add egg yolks and beat well. Sift flour, salt, and baking powder, then mix alternatively with milk and vanilla to cake mixture. Fold in stiffly beaten egg whites.

Bake in two greased layer pans for about 20 minutes, remove from the pans and cool, then frost with chocolate frosting.



This recipe is from Mary Ann Cole Rion Reeves (1876 - 1967), my mother's paternal grandmother.

Annie lived her whole life in the Reeves area.

Her first husband, Daniel Johnson Rion (1868 - 1896), was tragically shot and killed on the Calcasieu River ferry near Phillips Bluff. She was about 21 when that occurred, and she was left a widow with three children.

A few years later she married William Henry Reeves (1883 - 1918), a well respected businessman and leader in the Reeves community. Together, they had six children. Tragically, he was killed after being thrown off a horse. Annie's youngest child at the time was 3 weeks old.

Annie never married again, but she raised her children on the land she inherited. She worked hard. She baked pies, she ironed clothes, she worked at the Majestic Hotel in Lake Charles—all until her children could make it on their own.

Annie's children all built houses on the same property that Annie lived on, and raised their own children there. That property is located on Annie Reeves Road.

This picture is of Annie with her second husband William Henry Reeves. She was a beautiful woman, but looks stoic in her picture. She was stoic in real life.

In spite of the hard times she experienced, she was a survivor that raised a beautiful family.

She is buried at Creel Cemetery in Bel.

I'm proud to tell this story of my great-grandmother, and I'm proud to share her Yellow Dream Cake recipe.

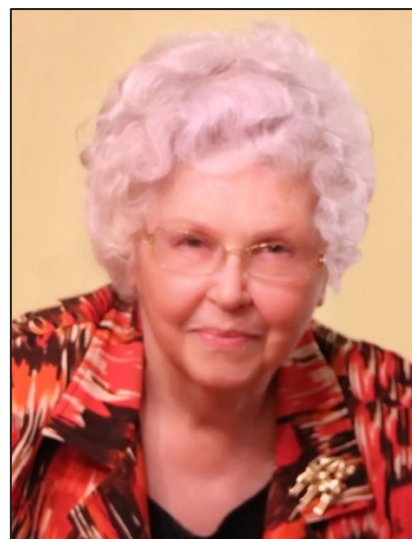
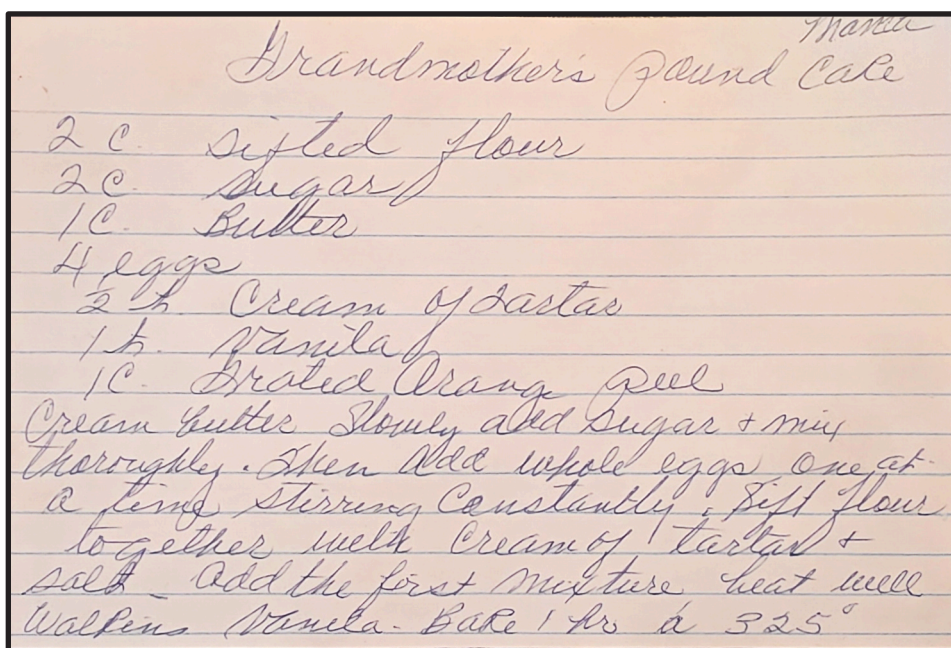
—Laura Hall



Family Recipes...continued...

GRANDMOTHER'S POUND CAKE

Submitted by Wanda Carole Wrinkle Ford
From Marteen Carolyn Fuller Wrinkle's Recipe Card Box



Marteen Carolyn Fuller Wrinkle

My mother, Marteen Carolyn Fuller Wrinkle (1933 - 2021), was a 1950 graduate of Kinder HS.

She loved recipes. She would cut out recipes from magazines, she would collect recipes from friends, she would collect cookbooks, and she would record family recipes.

She wrote out recipes on index cards, and kept them in a recipe box.

This Pound Cake recipe is one my mother recorded from her maternal grandmother Nancy Jane Maddox (1870-1945). She married Dennis Edward Dykes in 1890 in Vernon Parish. They had ten children, including my grandmother Lelia Ilona Dykes Fuller (1900 - 1990).

Nancy Maddox Dykes is buried at Blue Branch Cemetery in Pitkin, Louisiana.

My grandmother added a tablespoon of TexJoy Baker's Special Almond Extract to the recipe. She was a minister's wife. She would make about three or four of these pound cakes, and keep them in her freezer for when company came.

Note: I have made this pound cake several times, and I prefer not to use the grated orange peel.

It is delicious!!

—Wanda Carole Wrinkle Ford



Nancy Maddox Dykes



Lelia Ilona Dykes Fuller

Hometown Holidays

KINDER, 2025



Perfect weather, Wonderful
parade,
Over 70 booths, Great turnout



Local History Books for Sale



Allen GHS has sponsored the second printings of three books of local history.

Patteran: The Life and Works of Paul Leeds, was written by Kathryn S. Johnson, and includes original material from Rev. Paul Leeds. It was first published in 1964, and is 237 pages.

This second printing includes the addition of John A. Cernek's case study, "Growing a Fellowship of Believers in a Native-American Community."

Leeds' ministry as a pastor and missionary preacher ranged from the 1890s into the 1950s. His outreach extended into the local communities, as well as to the Coushatta Tribe.

Johnson assembled writings from Leeds' diaries, along with personal notes, memoirs, interviews, and old newspaper clippings.

"Bro. Leeds' determination to bring Jesus Christ to everyone he could reach was accomplished by a lot of walking, even swimming the river if he had to," said Allen GHS President Laura Hall. "For years, he went on horseback to deliver his message, many times making several stops a day."

"He finally did get a vehicle, but I personally like to picture him in his horseback days, doing all he could to help settle the rough backwoods."

Patteran delivers a hero in Bro. Paul Leeds and also contains good genealogical information.

Looking Back at Kinder, written by Ethelinda J. Andrus and Grace H. Cornish, was first published in 1985. Its first edition was limited to 300 copies, and they have long since been sold out.

The book thoroughly records the early settlers, founding churches, original businesses and schools, and community

organizations. Included are many oral histories from numerous founding families, relating their exciting and colorful tales.

The book's 353 pages include many interesting old photos, in addition to a 75 family name index.

Stanley Leger, in a column published in the *Kinder Courier* in March of 1986, wrote, "*Looking Back at Kinder* is the kind of book that you will find hard to put down once you start browsing through its pages."

"It's a sentimental journey through the town's history. And this is a genuinely heart-warming experience. It's like attending a large family reunion."

"The authors' narrative is both interesting and witty and reflects the affection they have for their home town."

Oberlin: The First 100 Years, 1893-1993, edited by Pat Carroll Marcantel, was first published by the Oberlin Chamber of Commerce in 1994.

The book beautifully captures the spirit of its subject, and puts into words the legends and love that would have inevitably been lost forever. Past persons and places are now archival material in this enormously rich and evocative book.

Topics include the local Coushatta tribe, Cajun culture, nearby small communities, early school, local politics and businesses, and founding families. Detailed maps of 33 original cemeteries are also included for genealogical research.

The book is 200 pages and is full of old, historical photos.

The second printings of all three books were published by Wise Publications, based in Sulphur, Louisiana.

Persons interested in purchasing the books may order them online from the Bookstore tab at the Wise Publications website at <https://www.wisepublications.biz/>.