

ALLEN GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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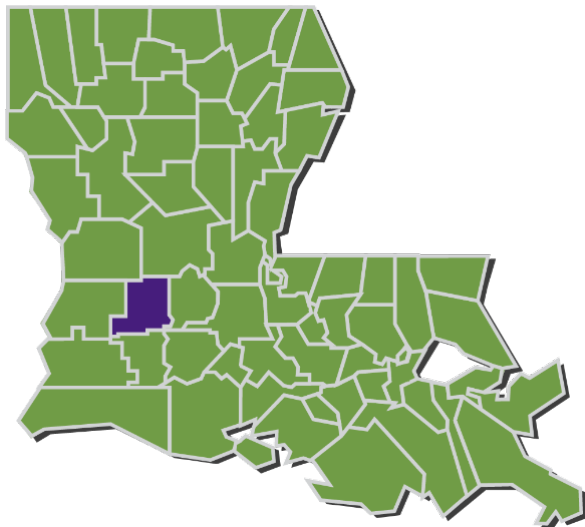
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THE ALLEN GENEALOGICAL and HISTORICAL SOCIETY was organized in May 1985 to collect, organize, process, and preserve genealogical material. The purposes of the Society are to promote interest in genealogy, to assist and encourage genealogical researchers 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 an/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.



When One Door Closes...Another Door Opens

Allen GHS and the Legacy of the Wall of Honor



Allen GHS President Laura Hall meets with KPLC-Channel 7 news reporter Brendan Brown about the Wall of Heroes placement project.

There is an old saying—When one door closes, another door opens.

This timeless proverb manifested itself to the Allen Genealogical and Historical Society when the Allen Parish Cultural Center/Welcome Center was forced to close its doors when its funding mechanism—the Allen Parish Tourist Commission—was abolished.

Legislation to abolish the Commission moved rapidly, first appearing on the legislative calendar on February 20, 2026, and becoming law as “Act 398” on May 27.

The speed of the process left little time for the Cultural Center to close out displays, artifacts, memorabilia, and collections it had accumulated over decades, and to identify and locate the appropriate people to receive these treasured items.

One of the cherished and revered sections of the Cultural Center was its Wall of Honor.

This wall consisted of approximately 200 hand-drawn, charcoal and graphite portraits of Allen Parish veterans created by local artist Gary Nupp. Each portrait was matted, and placed in sturdy, durable frames.

The veterans represented every generation of service and sacrifice. Among them included recipients of the Medal of Honor, Purple Heart, Silver Star, Bronze Star, as well as those who were Killed in Action, Missing in Action—and even a Confederate veteran.

Nupp, a Vietnam War veteran himself, faithfully added portraits to the Wall over a span of twenty-four years.

News of the Center’s sudden closure percolated through social media and word of mouth, and the disposition of the portraits on the Wall of Honor generated local interest.

Community groups such as the American Legion and VFW, veterans’ family members—and in some cases the veterans themselves—were able to take possession of portraits as appropriate, and see that they were aptly placed with a family member where they would be treasured for generations.

Another Door Opens

The Allen Genealogical and Historical Society committed that it would be responsible for placing any and all portraits that remained unplaced by the deadline date of March 31.

On that date, Allen GHS officer Mary Cole and her husband Ardis picked up just over sixty unclaimed portraits from the Cultural Center.

“The ladies at the cultural center had exhausted all their efforts,” said Allen GHS president Laura Hall.



The Wall of Honor was the signature feature of the Cultural Center, with highway signs on 165 promoting its location.

"Our role began where theirs ended."

"It was like handing the baton off in a relay race."

Allen GHS members began work in earnest, posting broadly on social media, and also conducting genealogical and historical research on individual veterans.

The Society's goal was to find an appropriate placement for each portrait by July 4, 2026—the 250th anniversary of the USA.

By mid-June, the Society had placed all but nineteen portraits.

KPLC TV, Lake Charles

On the morning of June 20, Laura Hall received a phone call from Brendan Brown, reporter for KPLC TV, Channel 7, in Lake Charles. Brown was following up on a post he had seen about the Society seeking assistance in placing the remaining portraits.

Within hours, Brown met with Allen GHS members at the Kinder library, and filmed a feature story on the Society's project.

The segment hit the television airwaves that afternoon, and additional footage was broadcast that evening.

What followed was what Hall subsequently described as "...the thunder after the lightning."

The Society was suddenly flooded with calls and messages from people who had seen the broadcast, and had either seen a loved one's portrait, or wanted to help locate families.

Many of the remaining portraits found homes within days.

"That broadcast expanded our audience by thousands," said Hall. "Phones started ringing!"

"My favorite was from a caller who said, 'I just saw my dad on TV!'"

By July 4, only two portraits remained unplaced.

The Unknown Soldier

The portraits displayed on the Wall of Honor bore the veterans' name—except for one.

Society members have exhausted all resources and possible leads to identify this veteran, but to no avail.

Plans now call for this portrait to be displayed on the wall at the Hometown Cafe in Kinder.

"Ideally we would have identified the veteran and placed the

portrait with family members, but we weren't able to," said Hall. "The restaurant will display the portrait in a respectful and honorable manner. Hopefully, some future customer may come in, and recognize the veteran."

"We feel it is far better that the portrait be visible, rather than stored away."

"The artist intended that these veterans be immortalized, that they never die."

The unknown veteran will continue standing watch each day, representing the men and women of Allen Parish who served in our military.



Laura Hall with portrait of the unknown soldier.

Tribute to The Wall of Honor

The closing of the Cultural Center, together with the closure of Oakdale's Leatherwood Museum in 2023, eliminates the two public entities that served as repositories and memorials to the culture, heritage, and people of Allen Parish.

"The closing of those museums hit us in the heart, especially the Cultural Center," Hall reflected. "We held our Christmas parties there; we had a personal attachment to it."

"But beyond that, it's a tremendous loss for the general public."

"The Cultural Center housed a brilliantly curated collection assembled over many years. It preserved a history that everyone could enjoy."

"The first thing visitors saw, when they walked through the doors of the Cultural Center, was the Wall of Honor. They couldn't help but see it."

"More than 200 veteran portraits. Drawn over twenty years, by a local artist. Displayed with pride, honor, and dignity."

"The enjoyment and fulfillment people got from seeing their fathers, mothers, grandparents, great-grandparents, cousins, uncles, aunts—it is a connection to our heritage."

"The living veterans felt honored. Those that never even knew their relative were able to have that personal moment."

"The Wall of Honor. It's something that only happened once, and sadly, I don't believe will ever happen again. It's irreplaceable."

"It's like a comet. It shines brilliantly for a brief moment, then disappears, perhaps never to be seen again in our lifetime."

More than two thousand years ago, Aristotle observed: "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts."

So it was with the Allen Parish Wall of Honor.

Each portrait was more than a likeness on paper.

Each pencil stroke manifested the heart, talent, and inner passion of the artist.

Each image captured a living, breathing soul, radiating a youthful joy and pride.

Displayed together on the Wall of Honor, they formed a powerful testament that evoked deep thoughts and emotions from the patrons that beheld it.

Allen GHS proudly salutes the Wall of Honor—its veterans, its artist, and the enduring legacy it leaves behind.



AI enhanced image of the unknown soldier.



WALL OF HONOR PORTRAITS



**ALLEN GENEALOGICAL AND
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Fontenots—An Allen Parish Lifetime



*Steven and Carolyn Fontenot
Memorial Day Service, May 25, 2026*

In each issue of Crossroads, Allen GHS will feature one of its members. This issue will shine the spotlight on Steven and Carolyn Fontenot.

Carolyn Fontenot remembers the first time she saw her future husband Steven.

"I was a junior at Oberlin High School, and he was a senior at Fenton," recalled Carolyn. "We were both at a teenage dance sponsored by the Knights of Columbus in Kinder."

"And I could see him, because he was the tallest one," Carolyn said. "And so, you know, you just get interested in the way somebody looks or something. So we got together."

The time was December, 1962. At the time she was a cheerleader for the Oberlin Tigers. "I had never met her before, but I had heard of her," recalled Steven, who stands 6' 3".

Carolyn and Steven went on to marry, raise a family, and become active members in Allen GHS and other community organizations.

This is their story.

Courtship

Steven and Carolyn began dating following their initial meeting at that teenage dance. However, there was a little tension in the relationship.

Steven said, "My father, Dempsey Fontenot, was a Pentecostal preacher. He and my mother Pearl (Pitre) pastored a church at Little Mill, where the Pine Acres settlement is."

Carolyn added, "My parents, Jervy and Irene (Richard) Vizena, were Catholic. Mama wasn't too much on me dating someone who wasn't in the same religion as them; so she was



*Carolyn Vizena
Senior, Oberlin HS, 1964*



*Steven Fontenot
US Army, 1964*

kind of opposed to it."

"My dad—he was an Ag teacher in Oberlin. He didn't say much. Mama's the one that kind of expressed her feelings."

In May of 1963, Steven graduated high school, but wasn't able to find any work. So on June 26th, he joined the Army.

Trained as a radar repairman, operator, and crewman, Steve's Army tour sent him to Germany.

It was there that Steven and Carolyn kept in touch with each other by sending each other both letters and audio tapes.

"I had bought a little tape recorder. We'd send tapes back and forth to each other. We'd send voice messages to each

other. I'd get a tape from her, and then I'd record over it and send it back to her."

"He even wanted me to go over to Germany and marry him over there!" added Carolyn. "I said, 'Oh my mama would never forgive me if I did that!'"

Steven said, "I told her this ain't the best place to be married."

Toward the end of Steven's tour, Steven and Carolyn broke up.

But, upon returning home to Allen Parish, the relationship was rekindled.

"I had to register at the Allen Parish draft board, because I was in the Reserves," said Steven.

"And my mother worked at the draft board," added Carolyn.

It was there that Steven got Carolyn's number. At that time, Carolyn was working in Lafayette.

"I moved home," said Carolyn. "My mother still wasn't too thrilled that we were getting married because of the difference in religions. The Catholic Church frowned on 'mixed marriage' as they called it. I think that's just the way it was."

"But after we married, oh Lord, Steven was the only son-in-law that there was. She fell in love with him. He was the best man on earth. That was great. She'd call on Steven before she'd call on any of her boys!"



*Mr. and Mrs. Steven and Carolyn Fontenot
February 11, 1967*

Allen GHS

"I got involved in the Society in 2007, a year after I retired," recalled Steven. "I had just retired from Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company after 38 years."

"Wridley Fontenot was researching the Fontenot family lines, and he sought me out to see how my family line related to his family line."

Wridley Fontenot was the Allen Parish librarian, and was one of the founding members of the Society. He was known for his meticulous research.

Steven continued, "Well, the Fontenots where I came from and the Fontenots from where he came from weren't close. We were from different lines."

"I came from the King's Farm Fontenots, south of Kinder. His family was from across the Bayou Nezpique—around the Mamou and Eunice area. The family lines were very distant."

The Fontenots

The Fontenot families of Southern Louisiana have an interesting history.

Every Fontenot family can trace their ancestry back to one ancestor—Jean Louis Fonteneau (1687- 1755).

Fonteneau was born in Portiers, France, and ventured to America as a member of the French military. While stationed in French territory Mobile, he met and married the widow Marie Louise Angelique Henrique (1699 - 1767).

Fonteneau was then assigned to Fort Toulouse, about 300 miles upriver from Mobile, where he and Marie dwelled for many years. They had twelve children—8 boys and 4 girls.

Fonteneau died at the fort in 1755, with the rank of sergeant. Marie stayed there to raise their children. However, in 1763 the fort was surrendered to the British, and instead of staying under English occupation, Marie moved her family westward and resettled in Spanish controlled Louisiana.

They initially settled in Pointe Coupee Parish in the 1760s, before establishing deep roots in St. Landry and Evangeline Parishes. Subsequent generations eventually spread into Southwestern Louisiana.

It was there that the spelling of the family name was changed to "Fontenot."

The name "Fontenot" is very rare in France, but is prolific in Louisiana. Unlike many Louisiana names, the Fontenot lineage came directly from France, not from Acadia.



*Marker Dedicated to Jean Louis Fontenot
Fort Toulouse Cemetery, Wetumpka, Alabama*

"At the time, the Society was meeting in Oberlin. And when he approached me, I got interested. I like history; I'm very curious about things."

Fontenot went on to describe how Kings Farm was settled at the turn of the 20th century. The King Corporation began harvesting timber in the area, and hired local settlers to clear the dense forest.

After the timber was harvested, the King Corporation established a large-scale agricultural operation, and many of the workers stayed on and raised families there.

"And I liked the way we were raised because we were raised as a community," said Fontenot. "Everybody helped everybody. Everybody's house that was at King's Farm was built by the neighbors."

"Everybody that was in that family all knew how to carpenter, how to do electricity, how to do plumbing. They built each other's houses."

Carolyn added that the Cajun French term for this kind of event is called "coup de main" (*coo-duh-mahn*), meaning "a helping hand."

"And people intermarried within that community," added Steven.

Carolyn then described how she became active in the Society.

"I was working at Cappel's Drug Store in Kinder," said Carolyn. "And when they built the new library here in Kinder, they moved all the genealogy material over here, and the Society started meeting over here."

"So Steven was going to the meetings, and he got me into going to the meetings."

"I told her she needed to find out about her family," added Steven.

The Fontenots became regular attendees to the meetings, and soon were put in charge of collecting and cataloging obituaries.

"Ethel Sacker originally handled the obituaries, but she had quit because of poor health," said Carolyn. "And each meeting people would bring in obituaries, and they would all be put in a folder. Nobody had been keeping up with them, so I volunteered. And it's been my job ever since."

Carolyn went on to describe how obituaries were originally cut out of the *Lake Charles American Press*, but when the *Press* quit delivering, she began downloading obituaries online and printing them out.

"We made booklets of them," said Carolyn. "Those spiral booklets. That's what we put them in."

Steven and Carolyn also reflected on their colleagues at Allen GHS.

"Betty Sarver was president when we both came in," said Steven. "She was a great person. She knew her business, that's for sure. She knew some people. She was very knowledgeable about that."

"Our present president Laura Beth Hall is the same way!" continued Steven. "You know, somebody can send something in, and she's got that figured out."

"I said, 'Where in the world did you get that information?' And she'd pull it up on her little laptop."

"Somebody else that was good was Durvin LaFleur," said Carolyn. "He was a good asset for information. I mean, anything that Betty had a question about—something here in Kinder—he knew the answer. He knew everybody. I've never seen somebody so knowledgeable with that."

Community Activities

Steven is active in both the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) and the Kinder American Legion Chapter 215, where he participates as part of the honor guard. Carolyn is an auxiliary member in both groups. She also serves as Secretary for the state's associate VVA group.

Steven is also a member of a local Tennessee Pipeline Company Retirees Group, where he serves as treasurer.

They belong to the St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, where Carolyn is a member of a rosary group.



Hobbies and Interests

Hobbies and Interests? Steven says his favorites were gardening, hunting, fishing, barbeque, drinking beer, and smoking cigarettes.

"I can't do them anymore," said Steven. "I'm 81 now. About what I do now is go to the doctor."

"The gardening, the deer helped me out of that. I've tried to grow cucumbers, cabbages, radishes—but seems like I'll wake up in the morning and the deer will have eaten them all out. Can't do it anymore."

Carolyn said she enjoys sewing, crochet, flowers, cooking, and baking. She also likes feeding and looking at birds.

"She bought a bird feeder that has a camera in it," said Steven. "We enjoy looking at birds."

Family

Steven and Carolyn have three children: Stephanie, Brian, and Stacy.

They also have nine grandchildren: Cameron, Carrie, Bret, Coryn, Bryce, Katlyn, Christian, Nicolas, and Hailey.

Steven and Carolyn fondly recall going to a national Fontenot reunion at Fort Toulouse, Alabama, several years ago.

"That's where we all came from," said Steven. "There's only one man. One Fontenot. Jean Louis Fontenot."

"Man there was some people there at that reunion!"

Thank you Steven and Carolyn for your contributions to Allen GHS, and congratulations for your lifetime of upholding the honor of the Fontenot family name.



*The Fontenot Family
(From Left) son Brian with wife Rachel, daughter Stephanie with husband Mark, Steven, Stacy, Carolyn.*

Hoyle Granger–Oberlin Football Hero

NFL Football Legend Led Oberlin to a State Title in 1961



Hoyle Granger was honored by Oberlin in 2012 with a sign listing his accolades.

The year was 1961.

All State running back Hoyle Granger (pronounced grahn-ZHAY) was returning for his senior year at Oberlin High School.

Granger, a starting running back for the Tigers since he was in ninth grade, combined his solid 215 pounds with sprinters' speed and quick feet. He physically punished opponents with his strong legs and upper body, and carried the football with bullish determination.

Oberlin was a Southwest Louisiana football juggernaut. They were riding a 3-year undefeated district winning streak, punctuated by two trips to the State Class B championship game. Unfortunately, Oberlin came up short of state title honors, falling to St. James both times.

A return trip to the championship game in 1961 was not a given.

"I thought we had a better team in 1960," said Hoyle Granger in a 2026 exclusive interview for *Crossroads*. "I didn't think we had the talent that we had the year before."

That 1960 outfit included All State center Deward LeFleur, and two-time All State quarterback Ray Reed, both of whom were seniors. That team's only loss came in the State Finals.

"We might not have had as much talent in '61 as we did in '60, but the boys were really gutsy.



Oberlin HS Annual

They were small but they really got after you."

Granger's sister Sarah seconded that observation. "Hoyle played with a bunch of scrappy players," she recalled. "Some of them weren't that big, but they played. He was not the only one on the field because they really played hard for him."

There was also a cohesiveness among Tiger players in those years.

"We were a bunch of boys that grew up together. We worked in the rice fields together," recalled Granger.

Coaching Staff

Head coach of Oberlin at that time was Mike Lyle. He certainly was having success. The Tigers had not lost a district contest in three years.

"Coach Lyle was a good coach," recalled Granger. "He wanted to get as many people out to play football as he could."

"If you played football, you got a letter jacket when you were a junior; you didn't have to wait until your senior year," he said. "That was a big thing, wearing that jacket. Everybody on the team got one. Everybody worked just as hard, everybody did their job, everybody played—everybody came out of football!"

"And, he had good ideas."

One of these ideas included the team's workout regimen.

"In August, we'd go down to the river every morning and work out on the sand bar," said Granger. "Then at night, we'd train on the football field. Working out on a sand bar will get you in shape!"

Assistant coaches in 1961 were D. C. Reed and Cleve Beard. D. C. Reed was Granger's brother-in-law; he had married Granger's sister Sarah. Reed went on later to become head coach at Oberlin, and also high school principal. He was



*Coaching Staff
Cleve Beard, Mike Lyle, D. C. Reed*

inducted into the Louisiana High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame as an administrator in 2004.

"He was a real firm guy—no foolishness," recalled Granger. "His brother Ray had been our quarterback in 1960."

Memories of 1961

The Tigers roared throughout their 1961 season, mauling every opponent enroute to a 15-0 record. They capped off the season with a 34-13 win over Clinton in the state championship game.

Granger reflected back on his memories of that 1961 campaign.

"During our playoff run in 1960, we played Plain Dealing in the Semifinals. We beat them 33-6."

"After the game, they were saying, 'Next year! Wait 'till y'all come back up here next year!'"

"Well, in 1961 we went back up there again in the Semifinals."

"They took the opening kickoff, and on their first play they came out in the 'Swinging Gate.'" That's a formation where all the linemen are lined up off to the side, and it's a formation we hadn't ever seen before."

"And they scored a touchdown on their first play!"

"Then they kicked off to us, and I ran the kickoff back for a touchdown. We went on to win the game 25-14. We beat 'em pretty good."

"And after the game, we were saying, 'We Came Back!,'" recalled Granger with a laugh.

Granger also remembered how that 1961 team traveled.

"We had an escort to all our out of town games," recalled Granger.

"There was a motorcycle policeman who would escort us, and he could do tricks on his motorcycle—like ride while standing on one foot, and zig-zagging back and forth with the handlebars almost touching the ground."

"We went to Clinton like that. We showed up at every game like that—even Kinder and Oakdale! I know it made some people mad!" recalled Granger with a chuckle.



Oberlin's 1961 state champion football team consisted of coaches Mike Lyles, Cleve Beard and D.C. Reed, and players Richard Guidry, Felix Duplechain, Clayton Chapman, Harrison Durlo, Hoyle Granger, James Guillet, Irving Reed, T.C. Stockwell, Bill Kidd, Terrell Vizena, Kenneth Macip, Randy Monceaux, Glenn Fontenot, Benny Davis, Terryl Lambright, Berkman Reed, Harry

Ardoin, Dwayne LaFleur, Michael Sonnier, Dennis Guidry, Richard Darbonne, Stanley McGee, George Richard, Jerry Carrier, Earl Taylor, Richard "Tootie" Karam, Roland Fontenot, Kermit Manuel, Clayton LaFleur, Roger Manuel, Leroy Meaux, Clifford LaFleur, Nathaniel Watts, Nick Hebert, Eldridge Reed, Douglas Strother, Harry Lambright and Dennis Prudhomme.

(Photo and caption published in the Kinder Courier, April 28, 1994)

Oberlin Captures Class B State Crown With 34-13 Clinton Victory

CLINTON, La. (AP) — Who says the third time is a charm? Most certainly had the Oberlin Tigers in mind.

The determined Tigers made good on their third attempt at the Louisiana Class B championship Friday night, crushing the Clinton Eagles 34-13.

The victory gave a happy ending to the Tigers' quest to make amends for losses to St. James in the first game in each of the past two years.

This year it was all Oberlin, as the Tigers marched past 10 straight opponents in the regular season and topped three playoff opponents before finally destroying Clinton's hopes. Clinton had beaten St. James to gain its berth in the final.

Quarterback George Richard scored three times and Granger once, and the fullback also threw for a score.

The game also marked a personal victory for Granger, who came off the field with a clear-cut decision over Clinton's George Haynes in the heated battle of the fullbacks.

Granger punted 122 yards in the game, while Haynes was able to pick up but 47.

Oberlin quickly jumped out in front in the first period. Granger returned a punt 28 yards to the Clinton 36, and five plays later Richard got the first of his scores with a 100-yard plunge over left tackle. Granger bulled over for the point after.

Clinton bounced right back, however. Quarterback Amile Haynes tossed a pass to Haynes in the end zone and the 180-pounder scattered 37 yards down the north sideline for the six-point score.

Oberlin then dug in to answer Haynes on the try for the point, and the team was never in doubt thereafter.

Richard capped a 10-yard drive by running 26 yards untouched around left end on an option on the first play of the second period for the second Oberlin touchdown.

The Tigers actually put the game on ice with their third touchdown, scored with only 30 seconds left in the half.

Granger faked a field goal attempt and threw 14 yards to end Kenneth Macip in the end zone. The drive was up to the score had covered 75 yards following Clayton Chapman's pass interception on the Oberlin 34.

After a scoreless third period, Richard heaped more salt on the Clinton 34. A 30-yard pass play from Richard to Macip had placed the ball on the Eagle 19 to set up the scoring run.

Richard got his drive underway himself with an interception on the Tiger 15. A 30-yard pass play from Richard to Macip had placed the ball on the Eagle 19 to set up the scoring run.

Clinton's defense, which held Clinton to only 31 yards on a ground, making seven individual tackles, Irving Reed, fullback, with six, and Granger had five.

Harrison Davis anchored a stubborn defense which held Clinton to only 31 yards on a ground, making seven individual tackles, Irving Reed, fullback, with six, and Granger had five.

Jensen to End Brilliant Career as Baseball Star

BOSTON (AP)—Jackie Jensen's brilliant but controversial athletic career—which includes football stardom and one of baseball's highest awards—appears to be at an end.

The 36-year-old outfielder indicated to his Boston Red Sox teammates Friday night that he will retire from baseball to devote himself fulltime to business in Nevada and California.

The apparent decision follows by only a few days announcement by the Red Sox of a unique travel schedule to fit around Jensen's much-publicized fear of airplane travel.

Jensen, indicated to Red Sox vice president Dick O'Connell that he didn't think he would be playing next season, said Friday. "I've decided Friday night that though the club had sent him a 1962 contract, 'we don't expect him to sign it.'"

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SPORTS CALENDAR

Granger Tagged All-American

The Wigwam Wisemen of America Football Committee, meeting in annual executive council to consider current performances of all high school senior football players in the United States and the District of Columbia, designated Hoyle Granger of Oberlin, as a member of the National High School All-American Football Team of 1961.

This designation was approved by Al McCoy, president of the Wigwam Wisemen and by Morse Simms, football chairman.

The 215 pound fullback also made all state this season.



Hoyle Granger

14 THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 1961, Lake Charles American Press

Granger Tops State Gridders in Scoring

Hoyle Granger, Oberlin's All-State fullback, was the leading scorer during the regular 1961 football season in Louisiana. The budding 215-pounder ran for 28 touchdowns and added 21 conversions in the Tigers' ten-game undefeated march to the District B crown.

Granger's 139 points is 11 shy of the modern Southwest Louisiana record of 210 points and ranks as one of the best performances in state annals.

Altogether, an even dozen players topped the 100-point mark during the season. Southwest Louisiana backs won or shared the scoring title in three of the four classifications. Class B provided the most scoring leaders, claiming seven of the top 12 positions and the top division, AAA, failed to land a man in the century club.

Following Granger in the all-class figures were Ronnie Morgan of Class A Zachary, with 153

points; Ken Cormier of AA Jennings with 148 and George Haynes of Class B Clinton with 143.

Granger and Haynes will match talents head on Friday night for the state Class B championship.

The top performance in Class AAA was 88 points, shared by Mike Dulon of Sulphur. Davin Notiles of Jataouma and Rogers Reinkowski of Bossier City.

Cormier won Class AA laurels, Morgan won the Class A crown and Granger is the Class B champion.

The scoring leaders were compiled by members of the Louisiana Sports Writers Association. No figures were submitted for the New Orleans area.

Here is the listing of all players scoring 100 or more points in all classes, plus all scorers with 50 or more in Class AAA and the top ten scorers in the other three classes:

THE STATE LEADERS			
Player, School and Class	TD	PAT	TP
Hoyle Granger, Oberlin (B)	28	31	199
Ronnie Morgan, Zachary (A)	—	—	163
Ken Cormier, Jennings (AA)	23	10	148
George Haynes, Clinton (B)	—	—	143
George Franklin, Vidalia (B)	19	27	141
Alex Lacroix, St. Joseph (Bayne)	20	11	121
Trigler Allen, Plain Dealing (B)	10	0	114
Bucky Bovenzi, Jesuit (Shvp)	15	24	114
Jessie White, Oakdale (A)	17	4	106
Albert Krause, Sicily Island (B)	3	3	105
Billy Leach, St. Paul (Covington)	—	—	103
Claude Patrick, Holly Ridge (B)	15	11	101

CAGE SCORES

HIGH SCHOOL

Player, School and Class	TD	PAT	TP
Hoyle Granger, Oberlin (B)	28	31	199
Ronnie Morgan, Zachary (A)	—	—	163
Ken Cormier, Jennings (AA)	23	10	148
George Haynes, Clinton (B)	—	—	143
George Franklin, Vidalia (B)	19	27	141
Alex Lacroix, St. Joseph (Bayne)	20	11	121
Trigler Allen, Plain Dealing (B)	10	0	114
Bucky Bovenzi, Jesuit (Shvp)	15	24	114
Jessie White, Oakdale (A)	17	4	106
Albert Krause, Sicily Island (B)	3	3	105
Billy Leach, St. Paul (Covington)	—	—	103
Claude Patrick, Holly Ridge (B)	15	11	101

COLLEGE

Player, School and Class

Mississippi State

Following the 1961 football season, Granger accepted a scholarship to Mississippi State.

"They were awfully nice," said Granger. "They sent telegrams to my mother and dad. They would telephone them."

Granger's sister Sarah also remembered those recruiting days.

"Mississippi State rolled out the red carpet for him," recalled Sarah. "The coaches were at my brother's house every other week. We'd go because my mom, she had a sixth-grade education and she was French-speaking. So we'd go to be sure she got everything straight. It was funny."

Granger continued, "Ray Reed, our quarterback in 1960, was already there. I did good going to another state. I just liked it there."

"That was the best move I made," summed up Granger.

Granger received All SEC honors for three seasons while playing against some of the toughest competition in college football.

Pro Football and Beyond

After college, Granger was drafted by both the Houston Oilers of the AFL, and the Baltimore Colts of the NFL. He signed with the Oilers in 1966, where he made All Pro in 1967 and 1968.

He spent the 1971 season with the Saints, then returned to Houston for his final year in 1972, his career cut short by a leg injury.

He spent the next fifty years in Houston in oil field sales.

He also got into playing golf.

"Golf has helped me out, more than any sport—that and football," said Granger. "You can play golf with a group of people for four hours, and get to know almost everything about them. You can meet some influential people."

When asked if he had a favorite golfer, he said, "Lee Trevino! I met him a couple of times. He's a real character. He's just one of the guys. He worked real hard to get where he got."

When asked if he had a football team he still pulls for, Granger replied, "I played for the Oilers, and they moved to Nashville, so I pull for them. And the Saints. And of course Mississippi State too, but I don't watch football as much."

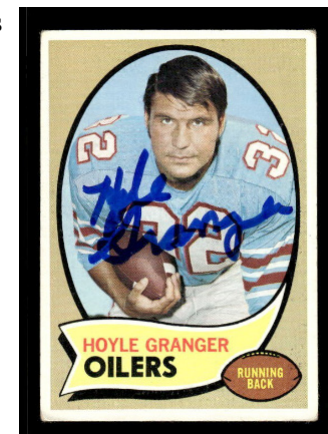
Final Thoughts

Granger concluded, "My sophomore year at Oberlin, each rice farmer, if we won a game, they had a barbecue for us at their house. We won a lot of games, so we had a lot of barbecues."

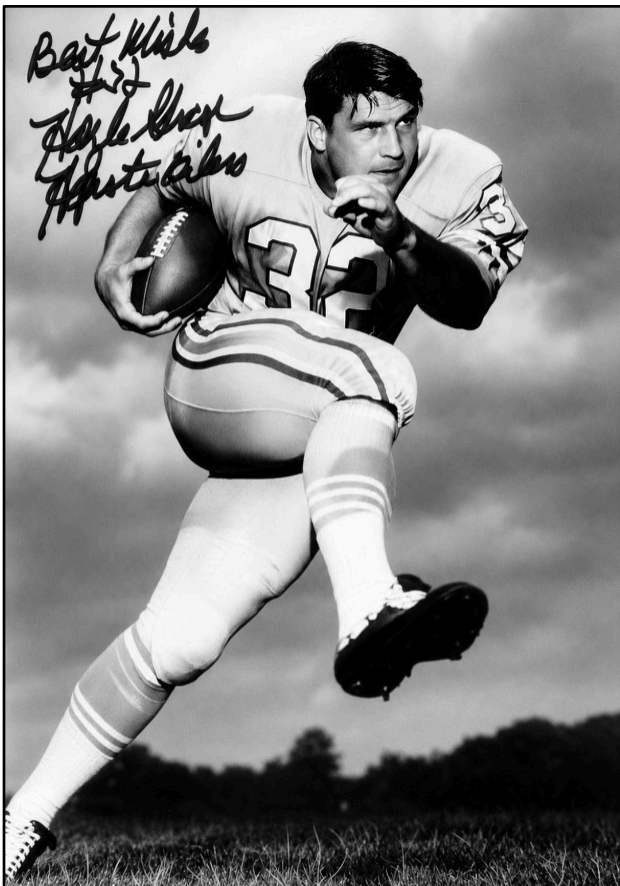
"Getting together like that makes you close."

"I love Oberlin."

"God's been good to me."



Hoyle Granger–Oberlin Football Hero



Hoyle Granger Honors

- Oberlin HS State Football Finalist 1959, 1960
- Oberlin HS State Football Champions 1961
- All State Running Back 1960, 1961
- All American Running Back 1961
- State Class B Most Valuable Player 1961
- State Class B Shot Put Champion 1962
- Mississippi State University 1962 - 1965
- All SEC Honors 1963, 1964, 1965
- Houston Oilers 1966 - 1970, 1972
- All Pro 1967, 1968
- AFL Yards from Scrimmage Leader 1968
- New Orleans Saints 1971
- Louisiana High School Sports Hall of Fame 1992
- Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame 2005
- Mississippi State University Hall of Fame 2008
- Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame 2008
- Named Greatest Athlete Ever from Allen Parish Louisiana by *The Advocate* of Baton Rouge 2017
- Houston Oilers/Tennessee Titans sixth all time leading rusher (through 2025)



Congratulations to Laura Hall on serving as President of the Allen Genealogical and Historical Society for the past five years. Your dedication, leadership, and commitment have made a lasting impact. Thank you for your hard work, vision, and faithful service. Wishing you continued success and many more accomplishments in the years ahead!

Congratulations on this well-deserved milestone!

LeBlanc Pentecostal Church



*LeBlanc Pentecostal Church
LeBlanc, Louisiana*

Allen Parish has dozens of churches, representing various denominations. They serve communities and congregations both large and small, both in-town and rural.

The role they play in the cultural, historical, ancestral, familial, and demographic heritage of Southwest Louisiana is monumental.

Each issue, Crossroads will feature a church—or churches—from Allen Parish, and tell their story.

This issue, Crossroads will feature the story of LeBlanc Pentecostal Church in LeBlanc, Louisiana.

A Brief History of LeBlanc Church

(by Rev. Marshal Baggett, the grandson of Rev. Thomas Benjamin (Benny) Baggett Sr., founder of the LeBlanc Pentecostal Church)

The history of LeBlanc Pentecostal Church began in 1914 with a tent revival. It was held on the corner of Highway 190 near Martin Tram Road in Leblanc, LA. During that revival, my grandfather, Rev. Benny Baggett Sr., preached the Apostolic Pentecostal message that many consider to be the beginning of that doctrine's spread throughout this area.

The LeBlanc Pentecostal Church became known as the "Wellhead of Pentecost" because from this place the message flowed outward into surrounding communities. Ministers, pastors, evangelists, and churches grew from the work that began here.

Bro. Baggett had previously been a Methodist minister, but converted to Pentecostal after attending a Pentecostal conference in Elton, Louisiana. He subsequently founded many churches.

Once he established a church, he would often move on to another location, raise up a congregation, and place a pastor there.

In addition to founding LeBlanc Church, my grandfather helped establish churches in Ragley, Oretta, Longville, Oakdale, DeQuincy, Noble, and several churches in Texas, including Beaumont where he met my grandmother. He was truly an evangelist in the biblical sense, carrying the Gospel to people who had never heard it before.

His ministry suffered a heartbreaking loss when his first wife, Norma E Havens, died with pneumonia while pregnant at the age of 18. The tragedy deeply affected him and temporarily slowed his work. Later, he married Etta Baggett, and together they had children, including Benny Baggett Jr. and a daughter named Norma Etta, whose name honored both his first wife and his second wife.

After years of evangelistic ministry,



*(Bottom) Etta and Benny Baggett Sr.
(Top) Benny Baggett Jr. and Norma Etta Baggett*

Rev. Baggett began pastoring a church. Rather than serving one of the churches he had already established, he founded another church in a small community known as Right Hand, located north of Reeves in northwest Allen Parish. Its community gets its name from Right Hand Creek, a natural waterway flowing through the rural pine forests of Southwest Louisiana.

The church was built on the side of the road in front of the creek. It served families throughout the area, many of whom were members of the Burnett family. One of the most influential men in that congregation was Curtis Burnett, who later pastored in Hackberry, Louisiana. His daughter, Jeanie Hill, would eventually pastor in Sulphur, Louisiana.

The Right Hand church was a simple white wooden building surrounded by woods. It had wooden floors, large windows, and fans to circulate air during the hot Louisiana summers. Grandpa built the pulpit, the pews, the altar bench, and a little desk for an office. Many treasured memories were made there through worship, singing, fellowship, and community gatherings.

During the 1960s, the congregation voted to relocate the church building to LeBlanc, Louisiana. The move itself became part of the church's history. The church and a nearby house were loaded onto two large trailers and transported to their new location at 177 Martin Tram Rd in LeBlanc. Volunteers worked tirelessly to prepare the property, improve drainage, and make the building usable for worship.

Life at the church centered around faith, family, and community. Sunday school children participated in the "Penny March," collecting offerings that helped provide Christmas treats for the children. Simple gifts such as an apple, an orange, and a candy bar brought great joy.

My grandfather, Rev. Benny Baggett Sr., passed away in 1966, the same year I turned ten years old. His son, Rev. Benny Baggett Jr., became pastor and continued the work. Under his leadership, the church began a building program. Fundraising efforts included making and selling peanut brittle, a project that became legendary among members.

The congregation also worked together to construct additional facilities. When a school building in Oberlin was scheduled for demolition, church members salvaged concrete blocks and materials that were used to build portions of the church facilities. The project required countless volunteer hours and demonstrated the dedication of the congregation.

Following the death of Rev. Benny Baggett Sr., my grandmother Etta Baggett later married James Eugene Wrinkle whose wife Nora Berthu Savage Wrinkle had died in 1970.



Rev. James Eugene Wrinkle and Etta Baggett

Bro. Jimmy Wrinkle became an important figure in both the family and the church.

After my father resigned the pastorate, Brother Wrinkle became pastor and faithfully served the congregation for twenty six years. He was ninety-six years old and still a full time minister when he passed away. Following his passing in October of 1995, my father returned to pastor the church once again.

For decades, LeBlanc Pentecostal Church has served as a bridge for the community—a place where people facing life's troubled waters could find hope, guidance, and salvation. Pastors have carried the responsibility of helping people navigate difficult seasons, offering spiritual direction and encouragement.

Eventually, after my father's death, I felt it was important for the church to continue moving forward under new leadership. Rather than keeping the pastorate within the Baggett family, I believed the church would benefit from a pastor chosen because of God's calling on his life. Through prayer and seeking God's direction, Brother Alfred Gibson and his wife Hazel were called to pastor the church and were elected unanimously by the congregation.

In March 2026, the Gibsons celebrated their twenty-year anniversary of pastoring the LeBlanc Pentecostal Church. Bro. Gibson and his family have won several awards and honors for their musical talents, which is furthermore an asset to his ministry. He is an outstanding song writer and musician.

Throughout its history, LeBlanc Pentecostal Church has remained committed to its original purpose: being a bridge from earth to glory. From a tent revival in 1914 to the present day, generations of faithful men and women have sacrificed, prayed, worked, and worshipped to keep that mission alive.

What my grandfather, Rev. Thomas Benjamin (Benny) Baggett Sr., started in 1914 continues today. The bridge is still standing, and the Gospel is still being preached.

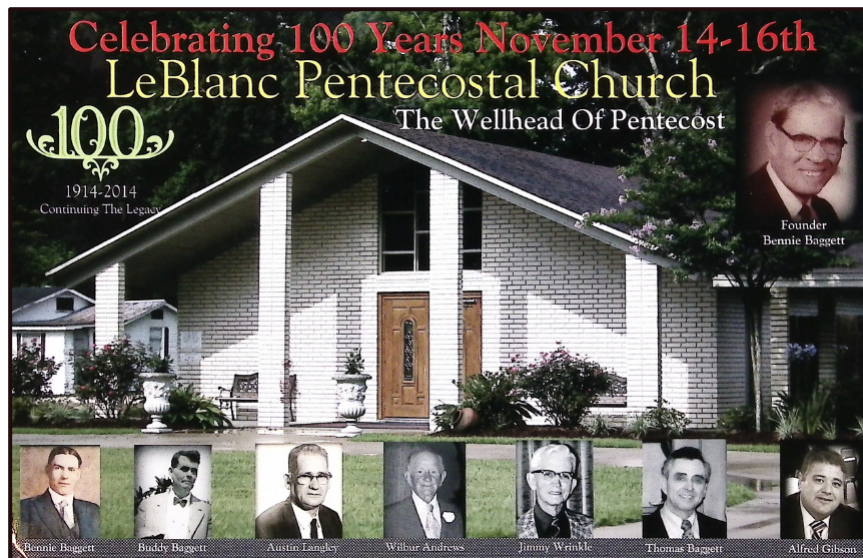
This history of LeBlanc Pentecostal Church was delivered by Rev. Marshal Baggett during a special service honoring Rev. Alfred and Hazel Gibson's 20-year pastoral anniversary held March 15, 2026.

Article written by Wanda Carole Wrinkle Ford.



Rev. Alfred Gibson and Sister Hazel

LeBlanc Pentecostal Church



(Top) LeBlanc Pentecostal Church flyer celebrating 100 years, 1914 - 2014.

(Right) LeBlanc Pentecostal Church founder Benny Baggett Sr and his wife Etta.

(Left) The original church building, after being moved from Right Hand to 177 Martin Tram Road in Leblanc.

(Bottom) LeBlanc Pentecostal Church flyer celebrating Rev. Alfred and Hazel Gibson, 20-year pastorship.



If Tombstones Could Talk...

Harmony Cemetery



*Harmony Cemetery, Allen Parish, 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 Harmony Cemetery.

Harmony Cemetery, located approximately eight miles northwest of Kinder, is situated in the small community of Harmony.

William "Grandpa Billy" Cole first settled in this area. Cole had been a successful cattle rancher in the Lake Charles vicinity. However, he chose to move to the Harmony area west of the Calcasieu River, impressed with its virgin timber, abundant game, fertile soil, river access, and plenty of grazing land.

Between 1859 - 1861, Cole bought approximately 495 acres of land in the Harmony area through various cash sale transactions. He built a large log house, where he farmed and raised his cattle.

After he died, a "Succession Sale" was posted in the *Lake Charles Echo*, which included 160 acres of land "with all buildings and improvements," 400 head of "wild stock cattle," 50 head of "gentle cattle," two "gentle" work horses, seven "stock" horses, 25 head of hogs, a sugar mill and two kettles, one Singer sewing machine, and many items "too numerous to mention."

Among three wives, "Grandpa Billy" left a family lineage as prodigious as his estate.

He first married Eleanor Nowlan of St. Landry Parish in 1826. They had two children. Eleanor died in 1830.

In 1840, Cole married his second wife Emily Moss of Lake Charles, the daughter of Henry Moss and Ann Ryan. They had nine children. Their ninth child, Laura, was born in 1859, and was the first of his children to be born at the Harmony homestead.

Emily died in 1866; Emily's is the earliest recorded grave at Harmony Cemetery.

In 1868, Grandpa Billy, at 60 years old, married his third wife, 27-year old Angeline Cox Wrinkle. "Angie" was a Civil War widow with a young son. Together, Billy and Angie had five more children.

When Billy Cole died in 1880, he had fathered sixteen children over the course of fifty years.

A newspaper entry announcing his death in the *Lake Charles Echo* noted that Cole was "...one of the oldest and most respected settlers in Calcasieu parish (sic)."

Mary Cole of Allen GHS wrote a paper on Harmony Cemetery. She reported that the cemetery was located along the side of a major cattle trail. In those early days, large cattle herds roamed freely throughout the cemetery knocking down headstones.

A hurricane fence was later erected. Headstones that could be saved were reset at their original sites; others were replaced by cement markers. Family members were allowed to subsequently replace these cement markers with headstones.

There are conflicting stories of how the Harmony community got its name.

An account in the book *Cole Foot Prints* by Camellia T. Denys says that Harmony took its name from the Baptist Church established there in 1895.

An account in the book *Looking Back at Kinder* by Ethelinda Andrus and Grace Cornish says that Harmony was named after the first school teacher in the community, "Mr. Harmony."

The annual meeting of the Harmony Cemetery Association is held on the second Saturday of October at 2:00 PM on the cemetery grounds.

The following are some notable people buried at Harmony Cemetery.

Emily Moss Cole

Emily Moss (1816 - 1866) was Billy Cole's second wife. She was the daughter of Henry K. Moss and Ann Ryan. Henry, a native of Georgia, traveled westward until reaching the Lake Charles area, where he became successful in the tanning business. He and Ann had ten children.

One of Emily's brothers, Johnson Moss, was also successful. He was the first sheriff of Calcasieu Parish, and he eventually purchased over 2,600 acres of land that now comprise the community of Moss Bluff.

Emily married William Cole on April 3, 1840, in St. Landry Parish. They had nine children. The first eight were born at Bayou Dubonne in Western Calcasieu Parish. The ninth child, Laura, was born at Harmony.

Emily Moss Cole's is the earliest recorded grave at Harmony Cemetery.



Emily Moss Cole
(Photo by Charles T. Baggett)



Angeline Cox Wrinkle Cole
(Photo by William Houston)

Angeline "Angie" Cox Wrinkle Cole

Angeline Cox was the daughter of Robert M Cox and Louisa Johnston. She was born in Covington County, Mississippi, in 1841. She had four brothers and one sister.

The Cox family moved westward through Louisiana, eventually settling in west Natchitoches Parish. She married John Wray Wrinkle there in 1861.

The Civil War played prominently in her life. Her husband, her father, and three of her brothers fought for the Confederacy.

Her husband John was a member of the 27th Louisiana

Infantry. He was paroled following the Confederate surrender at Vicksburg in July of 1863, and returned home very sick. A child, George Robert Wrinkle, was born to them in April 1864.

Angie and her family fled to Shelby County, Texas, "...to escape the Jayhawkers," where the sickly John died in 1865.

After the war, Angie, together with her father, her only surviving brother, and her sister, moved to Calcasieu Parish. There, the 27-year old widow became acquainted with the successful 60-year old cattle rancher and widower Billy Cole, and, according to Angie's grandson Leo Cole, "She proposed to him!"

They married in 1868.

Angie Cole had five children in this second marriage.

She lived the rest of her life in Harmony. She never remarried.

Angie applied for and received a Civil War widow's pension late in life. She died in 1934. She was 93 years old.



Angeline Cox Wrinkle Cole
(Photo by Charles T. Baggett)

Publication: American Press 1912 - 2002; Date: Oct 25, 1934; Section: None; Page: 8

MRS. ANGIE COLE DIES

Aged Resident of Whiskey Chitto Section Passed Away

By The Associated Press.

Oberlin, La., Oct. 25.—Mrs. Angie Cole, widow of the late William Cole, died at the residence of her youngest son William R. Cole, on Whiskey Chitto, about ten miles west of Oberlin, on Wednesday morning at 12:20 o'clock, and was laid to rest this morning in the family burying ground, near her home.

Angie Cox was born in Covington county, Miss., on August 19, 1841, moving to Natchitoches parish, La. with her parents when a small child, and was reared there. She moved to Allen parish—then Old Imperial Calcasieu—as a woman. Mrs. Cole was in her 94th year at the time of her death.

She is survived by three sons and three daughters, who are George R. Wrinkle, a son by a former marriage, and Mrs. J. H. Collins, Mrs. T. G. Nixon, Mrs. John C. Garlington James M. Cole and William R. Cole, all of Allen parish except Mrs. Collins, who for the past several years, has resided in Texas. There are a large number of grand children, and several great grandchildren surviving.

After the death of her husband William Cole, many years ago, Mrs.

Cole continued to reside at the old Cole homestead, on Whiskey Chitto, where her family was reared until a few years ago, she went to make her home with her youngest son, William R. Cole, nearby, where she resided until her death.

William “Grandpa Billy” Cole
The patriarch of the Cole clan at Harmony was William “Grandpa Billy” Cole.

The image below is page 175 of the book *Cole Foot Prints* by Camillia T. Denys. The descriptive sketch of Billy Cole was written by former Allen GHS president Betty Sonnier Sarver. She was a descendant of Billy Cole through Abner Cole, the son of Cole's first wife.



William Cole
(Photo by Charles T. Baggett)

- 144 information from Betty Sarver - Kinder, La.
William Cole - Oberlin, La.

HUSBAND — William Cole (Grandpa "Belly")				NAME & ADDRESS OF PERSON FILING OUT THIS SHEET	
Born	22 April 1808	Place	St. Landry Parish, La.		
Married	26 March 1868	Place	Calcasieu Parish, La.		
Occupation					
Died	14 May 1880	Place	Calcasieu Parish, La.		
Buried		Place	Harmony Cemetary - Kinder, La.		
Father	James Cole				
Mother (maiden name)	Jemima Curtis				
WIFE — Angylene Cox Wrinkle					
Born	19 August 1841	Place			
Occupation					
Died	24 October 1934	Place	Calcasieu Parish, La.		
Buried		Place	Harmony Cemetary - Kinder, La.		
Father	R. N. Cox				
Mother (maiden name)					
Sex as F	CHILDREN	BORN DATE & PLACE	MARRIED TO WHOM DATE	DIED DATE & PLACE	
F		31 Dec. 1868	Stafford Collins		
1	Cordelia Cole	Harmony, St. Ldry, La.			
F		8 Sept. 1870	George Nixon		
2	Sophonria (Frony) Cole	Harmony, St. Ldry, La.		28 Feb. 1956	
F		23 Mar. 1873	John Garlington		
3	Virginia Cole	Harmony, St. Ldry, La.			
M		2 Jan. 1875	Virginia Reeves		
4	James Cole	Harmony, St. Ldry, La.			
M		13 Mar 1877	Emma Belle Wrinkle		
5	William R. (Bill) Cole	Harmony, St. Ldry, La.	9 Sept. 1910	14 Sept. 1956	
6					
7					
8					
9					
10	SOURCES:				
11	Mrs. Dallas Cole				
	Leo Cole				
	Fr. Hebert's Records of Southwest La.				
12					

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This Family Group documentation is copied from pages 174 and 176 of the book Cole Foot Prints by Camillia T. Denys.

Robert M. Cox

Robert M. Cox was the father of Angeline Cox Wrinkle Cole and Eugenia Cox Rion.

He was born in Darlington District, South Carolina, in 1808. His father, William Cox, first appears on a Marion County, Mississippi, tax roll in 1824.

In 1830, Robert M. Cox first appeared on the Marion County, Mississippi, tax roll. In the same year, he married Louisa Johnston in Marion County. Four boys and two girls would be born of this union.

The Coxes move westward, settling in Jackson Parish, Louisiana, then moving to the Vowells Mill area of Natchitoches Parish.

It was at Vowells Mill that Louisa died in September of 1859. She was 50 years old.

Also in 1859 a son, William Cox, died of pneumonia. He was 22 years old.

Louisiana marriage records show that Robert Cox married Sarah Fountain Cox, the widow of Robert Cox's brother James Cox, in November of 1859.

When the Civil War broke out, Robert, his father William, and his three sons Davis Collie Cox, Benjamin Franklin Cox, and Philom Cox joined the Confederate Army.

Benjamin Franklin Cox was a member of the 2nd Louisiana Infantry. He was killed at the Battle of Second Manassas in August of 1862.

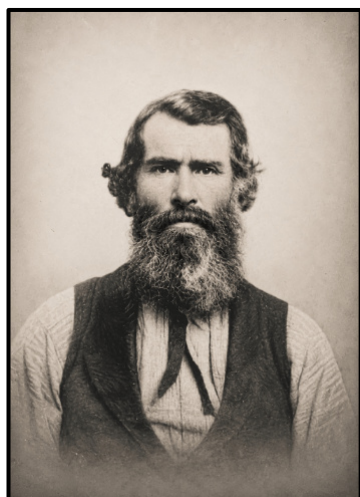
Davis Collie Cox was a member of the 27th Louisiana Infantry, as were his father and brother. Davis Collie Cox died at Vicksburg in March of 1863.

Robert and his son Philom were part of the surrender at Vicksburg in July of 1863, and were subsequently paroled.

By 1867, both Robert and his son Philom appear on the Calcasieu Parish tax rolls.

Texas marriage records show that Robert Cox married Eliza Jane Scarborough in Smith County on November 24, 1874.

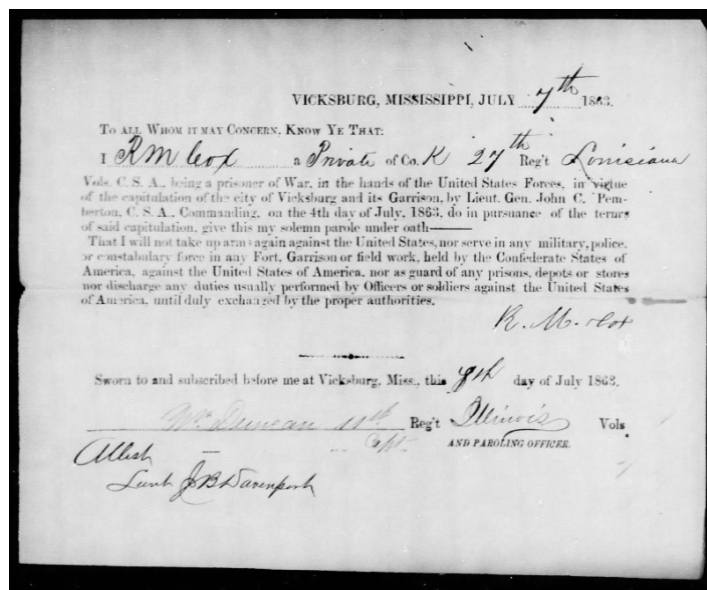
Robert M Cox died in 1881.



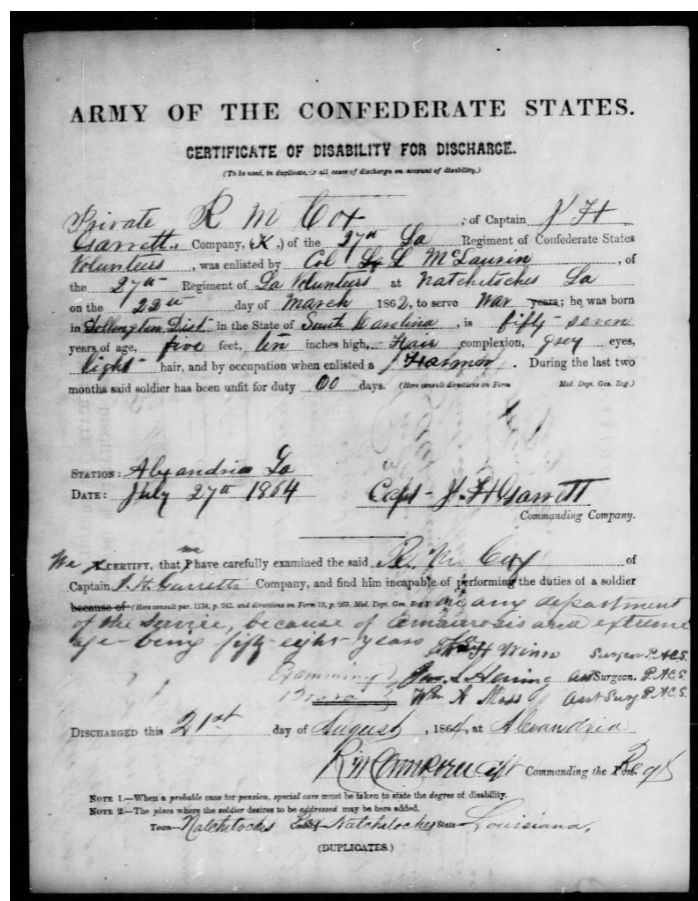
Robert M Cox
(Photo by William Houston;
enhanced by Wanda Carole
Wrinkle Ford)



Robert M Cox
(Photo by
Charles T Baggett)



Robert M Cox, signed parole release at Vicksburg, Mississippi
July 7, 1863



Robert M Cox
Certificate of Disability for Discharge

Eugenia Cox and William Milton Rion

Eugenia Cox was the youngest sister of Angeline Cox.

She was born in 1846 in Jackson Parish, Louisiana. Her parents were Robert M and Louisa Johnston Cox.

Some time after the Civil War, Eugenia settled in Calcasieu Parish along with her father Robert, her sister Angeline, and her brother Philom.

On March 26, 1868, Eugenia was married to William Milton Rion in Lake Charles, Louisiana. The 1870 census shows them living in the Harmony area near her sister Angeline, her brother Philom, and her father Robert. Together Eugenia and William had nine or ten children.

William M Rion was a Confederate veteran. He was a member of the Miles' Legion, Louisiana Volunteers. He died in a logging accident in 1898 or 1899.

Eugenia was a plaintiff in a civil case, *Rion vs Reeves (1909)*, that reached the Louisiana Supreme Court and is still cited in Louisiana case law.

The case involved the disposition of William Milton Rion's property following his death. He had died intestate.

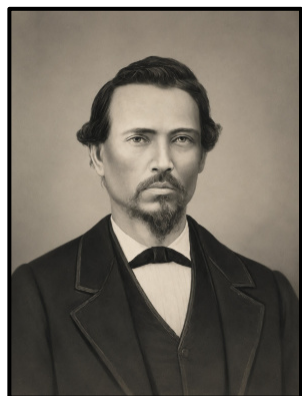
The case centered on who were the rightful heirs to William Milton Rion's property following his death—Rion's widow Eugenia, or the widow of Rion's son Daniel Johnson Rion, who had since remarried and was married to Will Reeves.

The case featured some twists and turns, but ultimately the court held in favor of the plaintiff Eugenia and her children.

Eugenia died on September 14, 1918. She was 71 years old.



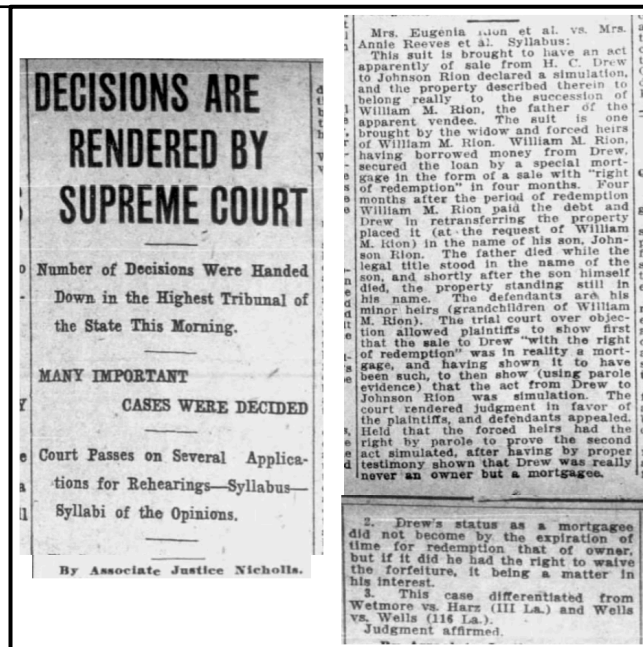
Eugenia Cox Rion
(Photo from the Leo Cole Collection; enhanced by Wanda Carole Wrinkle Ford)



William Milton Rion
(Photo from William Houston; enhanced by Wanda Carole Wrinkle Ford)



Eugenia Cox Rion and William Milton Rion Memorials
(Photos by Charles T. Baggett)



This synopsis of the civil case Rion vs Reeves was published in the Semi-Weekly States, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 6, 1909.

Generated on July 25, 2025 Wrinkle Roots Eugenia Cox	
Family Group Sheet	
	Name: Eugenia Cox Birth: 8 Nov 1846 in Jackson, Louisiana, United States. Spouse: William M Rion Death: 14 Sep 1918 in Allen, Louisiana, USA; age: 71. Burial: Kinder, Allen Parish, Louisiana, USA Harmony Cemetery. Father: Robert M Cox Mother: Louisa Johnston
	Spouse: William M Rion Birth: 8 July 1843 in Lake Charles, Calcasieu, Louisiana, United States. Marriage: 26 Mar 1868 in Barnes Creek, Allen Parish, Louisiana, USA. Death: 22 October 1899 or 1899 in Oberlin, Calcasieu, Louisiana, United States; age: 55. Burial: Kinder, Allen Parish, Louisiana, United States of America. Father: Joseph "Joe" Rion Mother: Winnifred Louise "Winnie" Mitchell
Children of Eugenia Cox and William M Rion: 10	
	Name: Joseph Robert Rion Birth: 25 Nov 1868 in Reeves, Allen Parish, United States of America. Spouse: Emma Jane Parker Death: 3 November 1943 in Reeves, Allen Parish, United States of America; age: 74. Burial: Reeves, Allen Parish, Louisiana, United States of America.
	Name: Daniel Johnson Rion Birth: 9 Dec 1870 in Calcasieu, Louisiana, United States. Spouse: Mary Ann "Annie" Cole Marriage: about 1892. Death: 22 October 1896 in Allen, Louisiana, United States; age: 25. Burial: Kinder, Allen Parish, Louisiana, United States of America.
	Name: James William Rion Birth: 22 Nov 1871 in Louisiana, United States. Death: bef 1880 in Louisiana, United States; age: 8.
	Name: Benjamin Franklin Rion Birth: 31 July 1873 in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, USA. Death: 25 April 1960 in Allen Parish, Louisiana, USA; age: 86. Burial: Allen Parish, Louisiana, United States of America.
	Name: John Anderson Rion Sr Birth: 24 October 1875 in Leblanc, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, USA. Death: 4 April 1962 in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, USA; age: 86. Burial: Allen Parish, Louisiana, United States of America.
	Name: Mary A. Rion Birth: 16 Sep 1878 in Calcasieu, Louisiana, United States. Death: Deceased.
	Name: Eva Belle Rion Birth: 10 Nov 1880 in Louisiana, USA. Spouse: William Egbert Spears Marriage: 14 Sep 1905 in California, United States. Death: 2 Jan 1946 in Calcasieu, Louisiana, USA; age: 65. Burial: Dry Creek, Beauregard Parish, Louisiana, United States of America.
	Name: Winnie Louise Rion Birth: 25 January 1883 in Calcasieu, Louisiana, United States. Spouse: William Stephen Carradine Marriage: 1900. Death: 30 June 1975; age: 92. Burial: Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, United States of America.
	Name: Charles Dufrock Rion Birth: 12 June 1887 in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, USA. Spouse: Celestine Rester Death: 31 July 1969 in Leblanc, Allen, Louisiana, USA; age: 102. Burial: Allen Parish, Louisiana, United States of America.
	Name: Simeon Osceola Rion Birth: 28 September 1889 in Leblanc, Calcasieu, Louisiana, USA. Death: 2 February 1967 in Kinder, Allen, Louisiana, USA; age: 97. Burial: Dry Creek, Beauregard Parish, Louisiana, United States of America.

Eugenia Cox Rion

Civil War Widows Pension Applications

Eugenia Rion filed Civil War Widows pension applications in 1915 and 1916.

There are some nuanced differences in the information submitted between the two applications, including William Milton Rion's death date.

1915

WIDOW'S APPLICATION FOR PENSION

STATE OF LOUISIANA,
PARISH OF Allen
On this 25 day of Aug, 1915, personally appeared before me, Eugenia Rion, Clerk of the District Court, within and for said Parish and State, Mrs. Eugenia Rion, aged 69 years, a resident of the State of Louisiana, Parish of Allen, and State of Louisiana, who being duly sworn according to law, declares she is the widow of William M. Rion, who served the service of the Confederate States during the civil war under the name of William M. Rion at Calcasieu, La. on the 1st day of Jan, 1863, in Private, Miles Legion, Co. D, 1st Louisiana Heavy Artillery, 1st Regt., 1st Div., 1st Corps, Confederate States Army, that he served honorably until discharged in 1865, and that he remained true to the Confederate States, until the surrender, at which time he was in Weatherby's Battalion, Private in Capt. W. V. Carlos' that she was married to the said soldier under the name of Mrs. Eugenia Cox on the 26 day of March, 1863, by Rev. J. Ford (Durnham) at Calcasieu, La. (Lafayette Co.), that she has not married again, and that she is now in indigent circumstances and unable to earn a livelihood by her own labor or skill; that she is not married or otherwise provided for by the State of Louisiana or by any other State or Government; that her said husband died on the 22 day of Oct, 1899, at Rocky Spring, La.; that she has resided in the State of Louisiana for 59 years next preceding the date of this application, and that she claims the aid and benefit of Article 303 of the Constitution of 1898 and subsequent Acts of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, as is further shown by her answers to the following questions, which she swears to be true and correct:

- Under what circumstances did your husband die?
Answer: He was killed by falling limb while sawing timber in lumbering woods
- Where is he buried?
Answer: At the Cole Graves Grave Yard at or near LeBlanc, La.
- What are your means of support?
Answer: None, Totally dependant upon children
- What is the value of your property, real and personal, if any?
Answer: None
- Have you conveyed property to any one in the past few years?
Answer: No
- If any, how much and to whom conveyed?
Answer: None
- Give your postoffice address and that of your two witnesses.
Answer: LeBlanc, La. J. M. Nichols, Cora, La. and J. H. Roussop, Milford, La.

Witness my hand on this 25 day of Aug, 1915, Eugenia Rion Applicant.

Witness:
James Moore
Also personally appeared James Moore residing at Orbigny, La. and John H. Rion residing at Orbigny, La. the claimant, sign her name to the foregoing declaration, and that they verily believe that the facts and declaration of said claimant are true and correct, that their acquaintance with her for 15 years and 20 years, respectively, justify them in making this statement, and that she is the identical person who represents herself to be, and that they have no interest in the prosecution of this claim.

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this, the 28 day of August, 1915, and I hereby certify that the contents of the above declaration were fully made known and explained to applicant and witnesses, and that I have no interest, direct or indirect, in the prosecution of this claim.

J. C. Moore Clerk of Court

1916

WIDOW'S APPLICATION FOR PENSION

PARISH OF Allen
On this 7 day of Feb, 1916, personally appeared before me, C. H. Love, Notary Public, Notary Public, within and for said Parish and State, Mrs. Eugenia Rion, wife of William M. Rion, aged 69 years, a resident of the Village of LeBlanc, Parish of Allen, and State of Louisiana, who being duly sworn according to law, declares that she is the widow of William M. Rion, who entered the service of the Confederate States during the civil war under the name of William M. Rion, at LeBlanc, La. on the 1st day of Jan, 1863, in Captain Varn's Co., and was transferred after the surrender of New Orleans to Miles Legion, Co. D, 1st Louisiana Heavy Artillery, 1st Regt., 1st Div., 1st Corps, Confederate States Army, that he served honorably until discharged in 1865, and that he remained true to the Confederate States, until the surrender, at which time he was in Weatherby's Battalion, Private in Capt. W. V. Carlos' that she was married to the said soldier under the name of Eugenia Cox on the 26 day of March, 1863, by Rev. J. Ford at Fairfax, La. (Calcasieu Parish), that she has not married again, and that she is now in indigent circumstances and unable to earn a livelihood by her own labor or skill; that she is not married or otherwise provided for by the State of Louisiana or by any other State or Government; that her said husband died on the 22 day of Oct, 1899, at New Orleans, La.; that she has resided in the State of Louisiana for 59 years next preceding the date of this application, and that she claims the aid and benefit of Article 303 of the Constitution of 1898 and subsequent Acts of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, as is further shown by her answers to the following questions, which she swears to be true and correct:

- Under what circumstances did your husband die?
Answer: Was killed by falling limb while sawing timber in lumbering woods
- Where is he buried?
Answer: At the Cole Graves Grave Yard at or near LeBlanc, La.
- What are your means of support?
Answer: None, Totally dependant upon children
- What is the value of your property, real and personal, if any?
Answer: None
- Have you conveyed property to any one in the past few years?
Answer: No
- If any, how much and to whom conveyed?
Answer: None
- Give your postoffice address and that of your two witnesses.
Answer: My P.O. Address is LeBlanc, La. J. M. Nichols, Cora, La. and J. H. Roussop, Milford, La.

Witness my hand on this 7 day of Feb, 1916, Eugenia Rion Applicant.

Witness:
W. E. Rathbun
Also personally appeared J. M. Nichols residing at Orbigny, La. and John H. Rion residing at Orbigny, La. the claimant, sign her name to the foregoing declaration, and that they verily believe that the facts and declaration of said claimant are true and correct, that their acquaintance with her for 15 years and 20 years, respectively, justify them in making this statement, and that she is the identical person who represents herself to be, and that they have no interest in the prosecution of this claim.

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this, the 7 day of Feb, 1916, and I hereby certify that the contents of the above declaration were fully made known and explained to applicant and witnesses, and that I have no interest, direct or indirect, in the prosecution of this claim.

W. E. Rathbun Clerk of Court

Leo Cole

Leo Cole was the son of William R Cole Jr and Emma Belle Wrinkle. He was born in a log cabin at Harmony on March 27, 1913.

For decades, Leo Cole was the source for stories about the Harmony community and the Harmony cemetery.

He was used as a source by Betty Sarver in writing her section of the book *Cole Foot Prints* by Camillia T Denys. Ethelinda Andrus and Grace Cornish also used him as a source in their book *Looking Back at Kinder*. Furthermore, Mary Cole used him as a source for her paper *Harmony Cemetery*.

Leo Cole would also be the "go to" person for reporters from the local newspapers who looked to pen articles about the Harmony community or one of its citizens.

Cole kept a treasure trove of pictures from the community, and would contribute photos as appropriate for the *Kinder Courier's* Then and Now section.

Leo Cole was a lifelong bachelor, and he led an interesting life. He joined the Merchant Marines in 1941, the year Pearl Harbor was bombed. He was proud of his wartime service.

He worked several years for the Atlantic Refining Company, and traveled the US and Canada working as a surveyor. He returned to Harmony and Kinder in the 1960s, and retired there as a farmer.

His grandfather was "Grandpa Billy" Cole. Leo's father, William Cole Jr, was Grandpa Billy's 16th and final child. Leo's grandmother was Angeline Cox Wrinkle Cole. She lived at Harmony with Leo and Leo's parents the last years of her life.

Leo had a brother and a sister.

His younger brother Alton died at sixteen years old in a drowning accident.

His sister, Arrie, never married, and lived her final days at Kinder Nursing Home where she died in 1998 at 86 years old.

For years, Leo served as secretary, treasurer, and caretaker for Harmony Cemetery.

Leo Cole died in 2000. He was 86 years old.



Leo Cole
(From Leo Cole collection)



Leo Cole (far right) at Harmony with his family.
(L to R) Alton, Arrie, Grandma Angie, Emma, William Jr.
(Photo from Leo Cole collection)



Leo Cole (far left in hat) at Harmony School, 1918
(1st Row, L to R) Howard Collins, Sim Collins, Allen Brown, Ralph Carpenter, Clyde Brown. (2nd Row, L to R) Leo Cole, Vicie Garlington, Arrie Cole. (3rd Row, L to R) Rebecca Nixon, Vercie Garlington, Myrtle Collins, Ethel Garlington, Lou Garlington.
(Photo from Leo Cole collection)

Leo Cole named Kinder Nursing Home Resident of the Month



Leo Cole

He was born 85 years ago in a log cabin in a settlement called Harmony, Louisiana. His family was the first family to settle there. The Baptist Church was where the Country School was situated, with one room and only eleven students. If this doesn't peak your interest in our Resident of the Month, read on. Leo Cole has more stories to tell than Will Rogers.

His family was into cattle and farming. Cattle had free range then and his family purchased property in Harmony for that reason. His dad was a hard working person and very strict. His mother worked at home and raised her children, as all women did then! He had one sister Arrie, who passed away at KNH this year, and a brother who drowned in 1935 right after graduating.

In school he excelled in Math and loved Bookkeeping. I could tell you about his antics as a young person, but suffice it to say, he was no angel. One of those antics caused him to lose all credits in his last year of school. His teacher, who he claims to have been almost in love with, caught him and a friend striking matches. She was so disappointed in him that she cried. Leo was so ashamed he walked out of school. The principal offered to allow him to go to summer school, but Leo states he was too stubborn.

Leo said he didn't have too many girlfriends. He was quiet and poor then, and only dated "country" girls since they didn't ask for much and he wasn't serious about anything in those days.

For the next few years he worked with his dad at the

farm. "Things were tight then and he had to work hard." He eventually joined the Merchant Marines and served during World War II. After we 'whipped Germany', he returned to Kinder and went to work for an oil refinery as a 'checker' for \$1 an hour, which he shared with his family. He eventually went to work for the National Geographical Company as a surveyor. He traveled throughout the states and Canada. He loves to reminisce about those times and places and can tell you hair raising stories, such as the one about Cade Wyoming, and a bar called 'Trey's' where he was extinguished (his word), or how Doodiefork was named.

"I would have had a lot of money in my time if I'd saved it and finished school. I made some bad errors in my time. All I could think about was having a good time, and I'm not proud of it. I did change though, I became a born again Christian and began to take life seriously. No more wine, women, and song. I never married. There was one girl I became engaged to, but it didn't pan out."

Leo came to KNH over a year ago after an automobile accident. He spends a lot of time in my office telling stories. I would write pages on this tale, but I have limited space. I treasure those times. He never boasts and is a very honest man. I'm glad he came to KNH. Will Rogers would have liked this man too.



Leo Cole
(Photo by Charles T Baggett)

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 a picture of the Oakdale High School Class of 1932; the article "The Forgotten Side of Rice Farming," including a picture of rice farming in Oakdale, LA; and pictures and memorabilia from Oakdale's Allen Theatre.

Oakdale Graduating Class of 1932



George Henry Greene's
Graduating Class Oakdale
High School © 1932 -
G.H. is second from left in
bottom row

Tales from the Leatherwood Museum



The Forgotten Side of Rice Farming

THE FORGOTTEN SIDE OF RICE FARMING

In the early days of rice farming, around 1950's – 60's, there were no combines with 20 foot plus cutting reels. The lucky farmer may have had a 12 foot reel. Most farmers used a combine with a 10 foot reel. Air conditioned cabs were a dream. The umbrella was the only protection from the sun. Carts and the tractors pulling them were much smaller again with the umbrella for sun protection. There were very few farm bins during this time. The cut rice was hauled to local large grain bins located in nearby towns where the truck driver would have to wait in line for his turn to unload. Many times the elevator would close at a certain time leaving a line of trucks to be unloaded the next morning. Someone would have to pick up the truck driver at night and then return the driver to his truck early the next morning. Eighteen wheelers were unheard of for farmers.

Crop land would be prepared as soon as the ground was dry enough for the equipment to get to the fields, usually in March. Airplanes were just beginning to be used. Most of the crop was drilled which took longer. If a plane is used, you would have to have several people that would be in the field or on the edge waving a white flag on a stick for the plane to line up on. The old time GPS!! The person had to count his steps after the plane flew over him or her to be ready for the next pass of the plane. This process would be done for fertilizing.

Land leveling would be done by eyesight – no laser leveling. The farmer would hope he was able to level out the high spots and the low spots as best as he could.

After flooding thought canals, not underground pipes, the levees would have to be walked several times a day during flooding. Also, the canals would have to be checked for any breaks or holes caused by the farmers favorite friend, the muskrat.

It took more people to plant and harvest the crop than today. You needed truck drivers, cart drivers, and combine operators. The truck drivers were usually the older members of the crew. These people did not mind sitting in a long line and visiting with friends. Since most of the farms were family owned and operated, it was expected that the sons and even at times the daughters would be in the fields. School would not start until after Labor Day, when most of the rice was cut. Many rural schools would excuse the sons of farmers at noon to go and help on the farms.

Yesterday's rice did not mature as fast as today's rice. Today, the rice harvest can be completed in August depending on the weather. Today's rice does not take all summer to ripen. Of course, 50 years ago or today, the weather has a large part to do with the planting and harvesting of rice. Farm bins have also made it easier for the farmer.

THE STEPS OF RICE FARMING

1. Preparing the Ground
 - *Ground was plowed as soon as it was possible
 - *Plows were not close to the size of the big plows today
 - *Tractors were much small
 - *Land leveling was done with a land leveler, not a laser level
2. Planting
 - *This was done after the last chance of frost
 - *Very few fields were flooded then planted
 - *Most fields were planted with a drill
 - *After planting the levees were made
 - *When the rice began to come up, the rice was flooded
 - *Before this flooded happened, cuts had to made in the levees either by hand, or if the farmer was lucky, he had a small backhoe to do this
 - *Fertilizer was also put out with a drill along with other chemicals
 - *When planting and fertilizing by plane became popular, it was not close to today's method of planting by using the GPS system
 - *Anyone that was old enough to hold a stick with a white flag and could run the ten steps was selected to be the "flagger". This was done at anytime of the day.
 - *Fertilizer by plane was also done the same way
3. Flooding
 - *When the crop was at a certain stage, the wells were started, canals were cleaned and checked for holes
 - *There were no underground pipes as today.
 - *Levees were walked on foot, not by riding 4-wheelers
 - *Canals and levees were checked often for holes made by the muskrat
 - *When it was time to cut off water, a crew would go out with shovels and begin opening the cuts.
4. Harvesting the Rice
 - *Any free time after planting, was used to check out the combines and tractors doing repairs as needed.
 - *Farm bins was a luxury
 - *As the rice was harvested with the combines that had huge cutting reels of 10feet, and some farmers had 12 foot reels, it was loaded into the carts and then into trucks to be taken to the mills in a local town.
 - *Harvesting did not start as early as it does today
5. Equipment
 - *Today there is air conditioned cabs on tractors and combines
 - *Tractors and combines are much larger today than in the past
 - *Combines and carts hold more rice
 - *Many farmers use eighteen wheelers to haul their rice to their bins or town
 - *GPS has made planting and fertilizing much easier

Tales from the Leatherwood Museum



*Curtis Odie Linder
Projectionist, Allen Theatre*



The Allen Theatre, Oakdale



*(Above) Original Photo Allen Theatre
(Left) Enhanced Photo Allen Theatre by
Wanda Carole Wrinkle Ford*



The Allen Theatre, located at 144 S. 10th Street in Oakdale, opened as the Scout Theatre in 1918. It was renamed the Idlehour Theatre on July 15, 1932. On December 10, 1932, it was renamed the Allen Theatre. The theatre could accommodate 490 patrons. It was operated by Southern Amusements. The Allen Theatre was closed in 1954. The building was subsequently converted to retail.

Indian Village



Image generated by Wanda Carole Wrinkle Ford.

The following article is a guest submission by Nathaniel Carson Davis.

In south Louisiana, where crawfish fields of the Cajun Prairie and the tall pines of the Piney Woods meet, one will find the community of Indian Village, Louisiana.

This small spot in the road has had a large impact on countless Southwest Louisiana families.

The land that became Indian Village was sold to James Nevils by the Coushatta (Koasati) Indian Tribe. Land records from the 1880s show that the founder, James Nevils, purchased land on both sides of the line that currently divides Allen Parish and Jefferson Davis Parish. It appears the village was located north and south of the gravel pits that straddle that line.

The community is located south of Highway 190, reaching west to Highway 383, and east to Kings Farm near Highway 165. There are Indian Village homes located within Jefferson Davis Parish, but have Allen Parish Kinder addresses.

The community has proven difficult to research because it was never listed on the census records of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Indian Village was historically located within the old Imperial Calcasieu Parish, a broad region that stretched much further than the current Calcasieu Parish borders.

Although the Indian Village name is not listed on the censuses of the time, there was a portion of Old Calcasieu Parish known as Hickory Flat that corresponds to Indian Village, Kinder, and Elton. Researchers will find citizens of Indian Village recorded as members of Hickory Flat in the census of 1880.

In 1900 the same households were found in Hickory Flat, Ward 1 (now Allen Parish) and Township 8, Ward 9 (now Jefferson Davis Parish). It can be difficult to know which side of the line one's family lived on because Allen Parish was not founded until 1912, and Jefferson Davis Parish wasn't created until 1913.

The village is closely related to the towns of Kinder, Oberlin, Fenton, and Elton, as well as the communities of Kings Farm, Hickory Flat, Phillips Bluff, Buller, and Edna.

Many of the village's early residents found work in sawmills such as Powell Lumber and Grey's Bluff Sawmill. The village was tied together through a shared sense of community, Cajun cooking, French language, and often blood or marital ties.

It appears that a majority of the pioneer families came from Opelousas and the surrounding towns of St. Landry Parish.

The sense of community was further strengthened by the teachings of Rev. Paul Leeds; much of the population converted to Protestantism under his guidance.

During the 20th century many of the village's residents moved to Kinder and Lake Charles for work, but they were all shaped by the community of Indian Village. If you speak with older family members with roots in the village, they all seem to have fond memories of this special place.

Pioneer families of Indian Village include those with surnames of Nevils, Buller, Langley, Bushnell, Leblanc, Marcantel, Fontenot, Lormand, Miller, McNabb, Hebert, Savant, Bruney, Fruge, Johnice, Guillory, Moore, and others.

I hope that this will help my many cousins doing research to know more about the location and character of the place called Indian Village.

Most of the information I have found regarding early Indian Village was found by researching the US Census records, 1940 & 1950 enumeration districts, Indian Village residents land purchases, the Indian Village Cemetery Book, Crossroads Magazine, Rev. Paul Leeds Indian Village Congregational Church Records, and the Allen Genealogical and Historical Society. All are great resources to learn more about the village and its people.—Nathaniel Carson Davis

Indian Village...page 2

From the author...

I am very proud of my family roots. My 4th great grandfather, James Nevils founded Indian Village, and I go back to visit every year. We last visited in March and cleaned a few of my family members' graves. I don't claim to be an author, but I got my bachelor's in history, and I've written dozens of historical papers in the past. This is just a passion project of mine.

My Granny, Joyce Ferguson Burnett, is now 95. I would greatly appreciate it if you could make mention of her in Crossroads. She was born June 18, 1931, near Indian Village. Kinder is listed on her birth certificate, but she thinks she was born in the village. She still talks fondly of it.

Grandmother Joyce grew up in a home with her maternal grandparents Ivy and Mary Cranford Bushnell. Also in the home were her mother Julia Bushnell (Ferguson), and her two youngest uncles, Lloyd & Jesse Bushnell. The language spoken in their home by the adults was French, but they didn't pass it onto my Granny.

There are many Indian Village descendants that don't know much about the community. Some may not even realize that is where their family hails from due to the censuses of the late 19th century-early 20th listing Indian Village under various other names. I care deeply about the village, Kinder, and the region's history.

I have spent countless hours looking at maps, old enumeration districts, church, and census records. I hope I might shed some light on the village for other researchers.

Your historical society has been a great aid in my research. Also, your former vice president and my distant cousin, Ethel Sacker, was a great help. I appreciate all that you do.

*Thank you and God Bless,
Nathaniel Carson Davis*



James Nevils
Founder of Indian Village



Julia Bushnell Ferguson
Author's Great-Grandmother



Joyce Ferguson Burnett with
author's youngest, Gentry Davis



Joseph and Joyce Burnett
Author's Grandparents



Ivy and Mary Cranford Bushnell
Author's Great-Great-Grandparents



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.

2026

America turns 250

A celebration of history, freedom,
culture, reinvention, AND RECIPES!!
"Still making history."

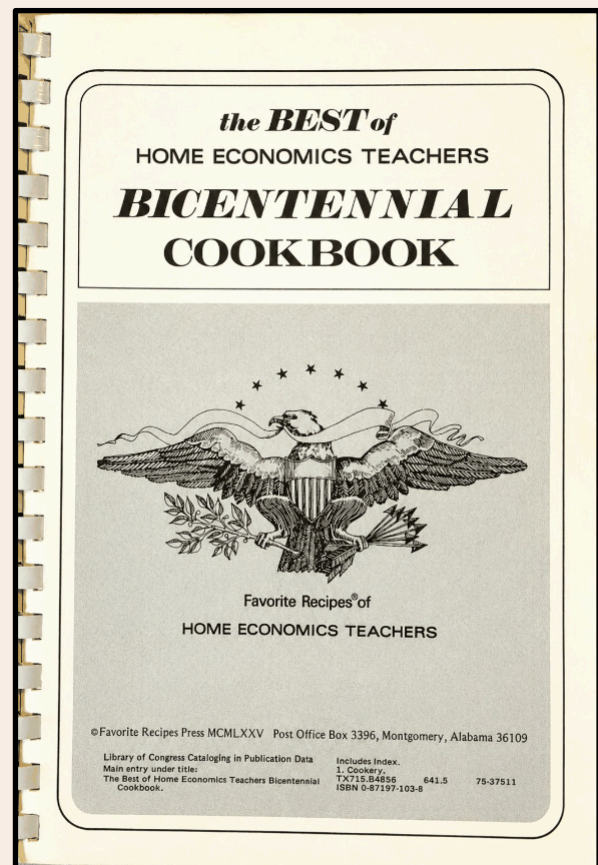
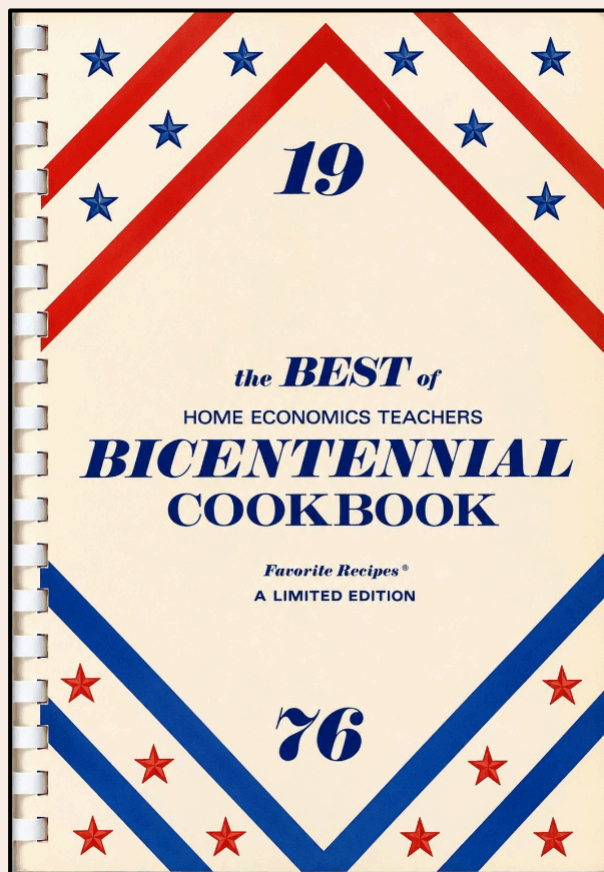


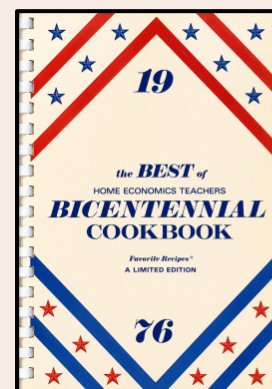
Allen GHS officer Mary Cole was a Future Homemakers of America student at Oberlin High School when America celebrated its Bicentennial in 1976.

One of the fund raising projects for the Oberlin HS FHA was selling a Bicentennial Cookbook. These cookbooks are now a collectors item, and are very hard to come by.

As part of Allen GHS's celebration of America's 250th anniversary, we will publish selected recipes from the FHA Bicentennial Cookbook!

Bon appétit!



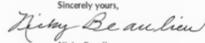


Dear Homemaker

Home Economics Teachers throughout the Nation say, "Happy Birthday America" with this beautiful Bicentennial Cookbook! Home Economics Teachers have always been great contributors to the health and happiness of American homes. They teach us the best way to manage the homemaker's job... thus, homemakers have come a long, long way since the beginning of our Nation in 1776.

The Best of Home Economics Teachers Bicentennial Cookbook brings together all the splendid, traditional recipes which have been collected for many years in the Home Economics Teachers Cookbook series. Our Editors selected from this series recipes that are BASIC, easy-to-use, traditionally good for all occasions. We regret that we did not have space for the many more excellent recipes. Whatever the occasion, whether it is a traditional family holiday dinner or entertaining for special guests, you will find just the right recipe in this Bicentennial collection.

Much appreciation is due the Home Economics Teachers for all the many worthwhile projects they sponsor but a very special "thank you" is given for their fabulous cookbook series. Many vital school and community projects will be benefited by THE BEST OF HOME ECONOMICS TEACHERS BICENTENNIAL COOKBOOK.

Sincerely yours,

 Nicky Beaulieu

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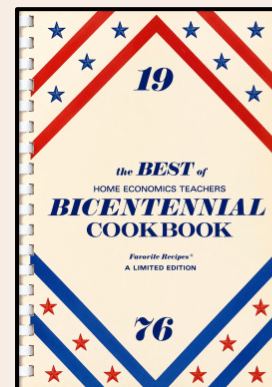
MOLASSES-POPCORN BALLS

- 1 c. light corn syrup
- 1 c. molasses
- 1 tsp. vinegar
- 1 tsp. soda
- 1 tbsp. hot water
- 4 qt. popped popcorn

Mix corn syrup, molasses and vinegar in saucepan; cook until mixture forms brittle ball when dropped into cold water. Dissolve soda in hot water; stir into molasses mixture. Pour over popcorn; mix well. Form into balls of desired size.

Mrs. Eunice Cole Salomonson
 Loveland, Colorado





Creole

CREAMY PRALINES

- 1 box light brown sugar
- 1 sm. can evaporated milk
- 2 tbsp. Karo syrup
- 2 tbsp. water
- 1/4 c. butter
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 1/2 c. pecan halves

Combine brown sugar, milk, syrup and water in saucepan; bring to a boil. Boil until soft ball is formed when tested in cold water. Remove from heat. Add butter; let cool. Add vanilla; beat until creamy. Stir in pecans; drop by spoonfuls onto wax paper or greased marble.

*Ruth Stovall, State Dept. of Ed.
Montgomery, Alabama*



Creole Pecan Praline

CHILI MAC

- 1/2 lb. ground beef
- 1 sm. onion, chopped
- 1/2 med. green pepper, chopped
- Cooking oil
- 1 c. macaroni
- 1 8-oz. can kidney beans
- 1 8-oz. can tomato sauce
- 1/2 c. water
- 1/2 tsp. chili powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 c. shredded Cheddar cheese

Brown ground beef, onion and green pepper in small amount of oil in large heavy skillet. Drain off fat; add macaroni, kidney beans, tomato sauce, water, chili powder and salt to skillet. Cover; simmer for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Top with cheese; heat until cheese is melted. Yield: 2-3 servings.

*Mrs. Nancy S. Clalbourne
Batavia, Ohio*





Family Recipes...continued...

COCONUT CAKE WITH SEVEN MINUTE FROSTING

Submitted by Carolyn Fontenot



My parents were Jervy and Irene (Richard) Vizena. The recipe that stands out from my mom is her coconut cake with seven minute frosting.

It was always a chore for her to bake it. It had to be from scratch because she would go through all kinds of trouble to get that cake done.

That's the only time she made it was at the holidays. And it would be a hit within the family. They would be looking forward to her cake.

A day or two before the holiday, she would prepare the icing. It's somebody else's recipe; it's not mama's, but she would prepare it the same way.

The icing would harden, and it would get so hard that it would crack when we cut the cake!—Carolyn Fontenot

Seven-Minute Frosting

- 1½ cups sugar
- ¼ teaspoon cream of tartar
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ⅓ cup water
- 2 teaspoons light corn syrup
- 2 egg whites
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

In top of double boiler, combine all ingredients except vanilla. Place over rapidly boiling water (water should not touch bottom of pan); beat at highest speed until mixture stands in peaks, about 7 minutes. (Do not overcook.) Remove from heat; add vanilla. Continue beating until frosting holds deep swirls, about 2 minutes. **Frosts 2-layer or 13x9-inch cake.**

Coconut Cake

- ½ lb butter or 1st
- 2 C sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 ⅔ C flour
- 4 tes baking powder
- 1 C milk
- sweet
- 1 tes vanilla
- 325°

Cream Butter + sugar - add yolks - Put flour, baking powder, alternately with milk, vanilla beat egg white until stiff - fold in

*filling - coconut
yolk, 1 C milk
1 C sugar, 1 tble Cornstarch
1 tes vanilla - 1 grated coconut*

*Coconut Cake recipe in the hand
of Irene Richard Vizena.*



Family Recipes...continued...

MEXICAN CORNBREAD

Leo Cole Recipe
Submitted to the *Kinder Courier*
by Susan Dumite



Leo Cole (1913 - 2000) was born, raised, and buried in the small community of Harmony northwest of Kinder in Allen Parish.

A lifelong bachelor, Cole was the resident "go-to" person for anyone wanting to record Harmony's history, together with its stories and tales.

Cole was a frequent source of vintage pictures, opinion pieces, and source information for the Kinder Courier newspaper, including this recipe that was published in the Courier's November 4, 1982 edition.

(Picture taken from Leo Cole's photo collection)

Recipe

Susan Doumite writes:

I was visiting with Mr. Leo Cole at Cappel's last week and talked turned to food (a delicious topic) Mr. Cole told me he has a good recipe for Mexican Corn Bread and I am going to pass it on to you:

Mexican Cornbread

1 cup corn meal
1 cup milk
1 cup cream style corn
½ teaspoon soda
1 teaspoon salt
2 eggs

Pour ½ mix in a skillet and layer with 1 lb. browned ground meat, 4 peppers (may be hot, Mr. Cole uses 2 bell peppers for really rich flavor and taste).

Top with cheese.

Pour last of corn meal mixture over this layer and bake at 375 degrees for 45 minutes. Doesn't it sound delicious! Thank you for the recipe Mr. Cole.





Family Recipes...continued...

LOUISIANA CAJUN CAKE

Submitted by Hazel Gibson
Pastor's Wife, LeBlanc Pentecostal Church



This dish has been a favorite at LeBlanc Pentecostal Church over the 20-year course of Rev. Alfred and Hazel Gibson's

pastorship.

It is a popular dessert at church meals and functions, as well as birthdays and holidays. Visiting preachers and evangelists love it too.

The recipe came to the church by way of Gloria Buxton Gibson, Alfred Gibson's mother.

Although the originator of the recipe cannot be identified, it's been a staple of Southwest Louisiana culture for over 100 years, and handed down throughout generations.



INGREDIENTS

CAKE:

- 2 cups flour - sifted
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 large eggs - beaten
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 20 oz. can crushed pineapple with juice.

ICING:

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 small can (5 1/2 oz.) evaporated milk
- 1 stick butter or margarine
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup coconut
- 1/2 cup pecans - chopped

COOKING INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 F. Lightly grease and flour a 13x9x2 inch baking pan.

For Cake:

In a large bowl, combine ingredients for cake and mix by hand until frothy and well mixed.

Pour into prepared baking pan and bake in preheated oven for 25 to 30 minutes or until golden brown on top. While cake is baking, prepare icing.

For icing:

In a medium saucepan, combine sugar, evaporated milk, and butter. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture comes to a boil. Continue to stir and boil for exactly 4 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla, coconut, and pecans.

Spread warm icing over cake as soon as it comes out of the oven. Store in covered pan.

NOTES : This cake is very moist and stays moist.

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 book may order them online from the Bookstore tab at the Wise Publications website at <https://www.wisepublications.biz/>.