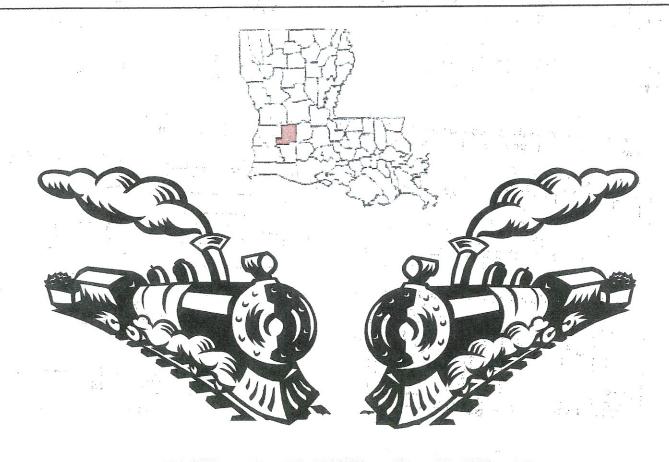
# ALLEN GENALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2008 - 3rd Quarter

P. O. Box 789, Kinder, La. 70648

Issue No. 227



COVERING

Oakdale, Oberlin, Kinder, Elizabeth, Reeves, LeBlanc, Mittie and surrounding communities.

#### ALLEN GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 789, Kinder, LA 70648

#### 2008 Officers:

President – Betty Sarver
Vice President – Loretta Headrick
Secretary-Treasurer – Bill Fawcett
Publishing Editor – Fran Clemmons
Assistant Publishing Editor – Ethel Sacker
Historian – Loretta Headrick
Reporter and Tourism Envoy – Ouida Savant

Monthly society meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 AM in the Genealogy Room of the Kinder branch of the Allen Parish Libraries located at 833 4<sup>th</sup> St., Kinder, LA. Members are always willing to help visitors with research and endeavor to answer their questions.

Membership fees are \$15 per calendar year per person. This also includes an annual subscription to CROSSROADS. Single copies and back issues of the publication are available for \$3 each to anyone.

CROSSROADS is published quarterly in January, April, July and October. Queries are free to members, \$3 each for non-members and will be published as space permits. When sending in a query, please include all pertinent information such as names, dates and places along with your name and address.

We encourage and welcome contributions of genealogical and historical material pertaining to Allen Parish locations or families for inclusion in CROSSROADS. The society does not assume responsibility for accuracy of information submitted and published, nor does it assume responsibility for any copyright infringement of submitted and published material. We reserve the right to edit and/or reject material we deem not suitable for publication.

The society accepts donations of books, periodicals and other material of genealogical and historical interest relating to Allen Parish. Other suggested items include 5 generation charts, family histories, newspaper clippings, old photos, etc. These will be placed on file in the Genealogy Room at the Kinder Library for research purposes. Memorials and honorariums are also welcomed by the society and marked as such.

# BOOKS PUBLISHED BY ALLEN GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The following books published by the AGHS are available for purchase for the prices listed plus \$2 each for shipping and handling fees.

Rev. Paul Leeds' Congregational Church records	
"Marriages and Funerals" — 1895 -1957 - Vol. 1	\$25
Nev. Faul Leeds' Kinder Congregational Church records -1893 -1974	
Volumes 1, 2 and 3	05
1304. Faul Leeus Delliany (Green Oak) Church records	\$15
Congregation Church records of Indian Village, Edna and	
Emad Communities (one vol.)	\$15
Compregation Church records of Elfon and China Communities (4 vol.	1 045
Congregation Church records of lowa 1 A	045
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(IIICludes of Luke's early church)	A 4 F
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Lyica demetery, Openin, LA	rh C
- yies definetery - barries Creek, Reeves I A (with family historica)	\$15
Liberty Cemetery, Ellon, LA (close ties to Allen Parish families	
and includes family information)	\$15
index of Suffidities in all recorded Allen Parish Camatarias	\$10
or Adgustine Cemetery, Basile, LA with short history	
(close ties to Allen Parish)	\$15
The Stor Charles - 5 generation charts - Allen Parish Tipe	MOF
indian High School Tear Book Conv (by enecial order only)	\$30
Acoste Commissin Cemetery, Kingstarm, Kinder, LA	
(Includes photos and family history)	\$15
tevils cerificially (With photos and headstone inscriptions)	\$12
trigrey cemetery, barnes creek, Allen Parish, LA with recent	
photos and history (Old abandoned cemetery)	\$12

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**GENEALOGY HUMOR:** Quotes

Just go into politics and your opponents will do it for you.

MARK TWAIN

In a Thurmont, Maryland cemetery: "Here lies an Atheist: All dressed up and no place to go."

\*Theory of relativity: If you go back far enough, we're all related."

# **President's Comments:**

When researching our families and communities we often hear stories centered around trees; some that are still standing today.

If these sentinels of history could speak, oh the stories they would tell! There would be sagas of families and how they grew, tales of wars and economic trials and the sorrow they caused, stories of boom times and the joy they brought. The next time we look at an old tree let us remember that it is actually a living monument to the history of the area.

In this quarter's issue, Fran has chosen to honor some of these living monuments in Allen Parish; some oaks that are are over 100 years old.

This autumn when nature's artistic hand brushes some of the trees with glorious colors, don't only enjoy their beauty, imagine the stories they could tell.

Adagria Haddock's Museum Page in this issue is a very informative article on the Confederate Governor for whom our parish is named.

Betty Sarver

Allen Genealogical and Historical Society President

# A POINT TO PONDER

People who never look backward to their ancestors, will never look forward to posterity.

The Right Honorable Edmund Burke 1729 - 1797

# from the editor......Fran Clemmons

Since our last publication we have observed Memorial Day honoring all the men and women in the armed services that paid the ultimate price for our freedom with their lives. We also observed Flag Day on June 14th. The U.S. flag code adopted by congress provides rules for honoring the flag. The code states:" The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing." The Star-Spangled Banner yet waves over the land of the free and the home of the Brave! Last week we observed the 4th of July as our gratitude deepened remembering the price others paid for our freedom. "GOD BLESS AMERICA" I would like to share with you the readers a story I got from "The Armed Force Retiree News". The title of this little story is "Old Geezers"......At sporting events, during the playing of the National Anthem, Old Geezers hold their caps over their hearts and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe in them. Old Geezers remember WWI, the Depression, WWII, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy, and Hitler. They remember Atomic Age, The Korean War, The Cold War, The Jet Age, and the Moon Landing, not to mention Vietnam. If you bump into an Old Geezer on the sidewalk, he will apologize. If you pass an Old Geezer on the street he will nod or tip his hat to a lady. Old Geezers trust strangers and are courtly to women. Old Geezers hold the door for the next person and always, when walking, make certain the lady is on the inside for protection. Old Geezers get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children and they don't like violence and filth on TV or in movies. Old Geezers have moral courage. They seldom brag unless its about their grandchildren. It's the Old Geezer who know our great country is protected not only by politicians or police but by the young men and women

in the military serving their country. This country needs Old Geezers with their decent values. We need them now more than ever. Thank God for Old Geezers!!

In this issue of Crossroads, as we remember and honor our patriotic holidays and what they stand for, we would like to honor some living monuments in Allen Parish. monuments are oak trees that may well be several hundreds of years old are older. "Tony Orlando and Dawn" made a song "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Around the Old Oak Tree" very popular some years ago and our nation has done this for many years as a patriotic gesture for our service men and women fighting for our country with prayers for their safe return .

Let us hear from you. We at the Society ask you to share information and family histories with us for future publication. The Society also wishes to extend an invitation to you to come for our meetings which are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM in the Genealogy Room of the Kinder Library.

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#### **WELCOME NEW MEMBER:**

**Juanita Crawford** P.O.Box 606 Highway 165 South Oakdale, Louisiana 71463



# **COLE SETTLEMENT OAKS**

Located on Nursery Rd. Betwen Kinder and Oberlin, La.

Oziet Cole was born in 1854 to Solomon Cole and Marie Louise Bureau. Solomon was the son of Jacob Stampley Cole who discovered and named Pecan Island, Louisiana. Solomon and Marie had moved from that area to the Moss Bluff area and on to LeBlanc where he passed away. Marie then married Mr. Loni LeBlanc.

In 1873 Oziet Cole married Milton "Bud" Cole, son of Abner Cole. Abner had settled east of the Calcasieu River in the Hickory Flatt area and acquired approximately 2500 acres. Abner divided his land between his five sons and one daughter. Thus the Cole Settlement was established. The road that went throughthe settlement was the main road between the areas that are today Kinder and Oberlin. In this area of Imperial Calcasieu he served for a while as a Police Juror and also postmaster for Hickory Flatt. (this evolved into the Oaklin Springs Post Office and finally the Oberlin Post Office)

When Oziet married Bud and moved to their new home, she planted a live oak tree in each corner of the yard. These trees began as acorns from the trees in her mother's yard in LeBlanc. That was 135 years ago. These oaks grew as her family, strong and proud with their roots well established.

After the demise of Oziet and Bud, their property was sold and finally was purchased by the State of Louisiana Dept. of Agriculture for the Oberlin Pine Nursery on Nursry Rd. between Kinder and Oberlin. This operation is no longer in full operation. However, three of the oak trees still stand majestically around one of the buildings. One tree was lost in Hurricane Audrey to 100 mile an hour winds.

If these trees could talk they would tell of happy times and sad times, depression years, war years and much more.

Betty Sarver
Great-grand daughter of Oziet and Bud Cole



Oziet and Bud in their senior years standing in front of one of the four oak trees she planted in their yard. (in the 1920's)

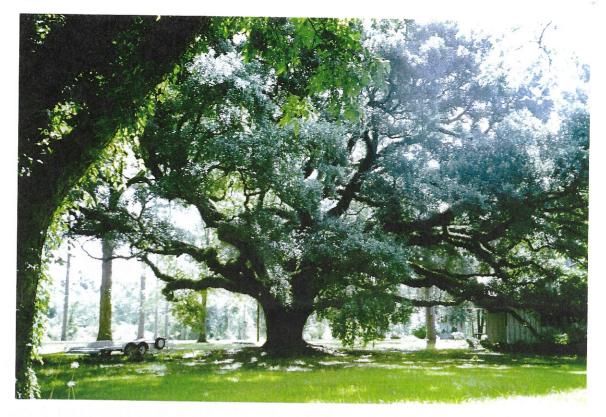


This water oak was discovered on the Henry Bailey property 2 miles south of Oakdale. They were pioneers who homesteaded in 1887 and were close friends and neighbors of my grandparents - Alice Jane Dunn and James Addison Odom. When Pete and I bought this land to build our home, it included this beautiful oak; so we decided to build our home in the shade of this tree! I have no clue how old it is, but our home is 53 years old and the tree was large at that time. It has weathered many storms, losing only a few limbs and leaves. (Audrey in 1957, Katrina and Rita being the worst and most recent)

If this old tree could talk I believe it would say:

"The Girl Scouts rested under my protection and I watched the Cub Scouts on their obstacle course. I was climbed by many children in Oakdale and enjoyed their company when a treehouse was built in my forked branches. My limbs made many slingshots and spears for Cowboy-Indian mock battles. Birds watched many campouts in the yard, when the boys were too young for the woods. I watched birds leave their nests, horse races, go-cart shenanigans and watermelon parties. Several of the Dunn-Odom-Lewis reunions where held in my shade; many people with much love and laughter! I have seen our men come back from wars. In fact, I have had two yellow ribbons tied on me. I have enjoyed living with a fun-loving family and as I age, I am enjoying peaceful days and my wonderful memories. Would you believe I recently met the new great-grandson? WOW! I look forward to protecting another generation!"

Juanita Crawford



There is an old oak tree that has stood for a very long time at the end of Smoky Savant Road near Indian Village southwest of Kinder. The oak tree was a very large tree when a young couple came and built their home near it. Octave Noah Savant and Evia Nevils were married on March 15,1893. Octave was born on December 4,1868 to Pierre Savant and Odelia DeLaviolette. Evia was born on March 4,1879 to Pierre Nevils Sr. And Elenore(Ellen) Buller. The couple had ten children: Pierre Octave, Clarfy Cecil(Smoky), Attley M.(Brad), Dempsey Joseph, Frank James, Octave Noah(Bido), Alexander(Cash), Nellie Mae, Lorrie, and Odelia. children grew up playing under the huge canopy of the oak tree. Octave Sr. died on December 21,1927 at the age of 58 years old, leaving Evia to finish raising the children alone. She never remarried. She managed her home, raised her children,farmed, had livestock-cattle, horses, and sheep to tend to, and saw to it that her children got their education. She was a strong, religious, courageous, pioneer women. She died at the age of 84 years old on April27,1963.

One of Evia's son-in-laws, Russell Chatham, Lorrie's

husband looked into getting the majestic oak admitted to the Live Oak Society, an organization of century old live oak trees. For a live oak tree to be admitted to the society, the trunk circumference measured four feet from the ground must be a minimum of 17 feet. The oak of Octave and Evia Savant at this time was 17.04 feet in circumference at the trunk, and a limbspread diameter of 106 feet. The tree was admitted to the Louisiana Live Oak Society in 1986 and is still a standing member.

All of Octave and Evia's childrenhave died but they have many grandchildren plus great & great-great & great-great great grandchildren to honor them. The home site where the tree stands was sold to a non-family member but some of the property near the tree is still owned by a few of the grandchildren.

Fran Clemmons
Great Niece of Evia Savant

#### DID YOU KNOW??? TREE TRIVIA

"Trees are strong Medicine", says University Of Georgia forestry professor Kim Coder PhD.

Trees can——1. Bring you Peace! Just being around trees decrease stress hormones, muscle tension, and blood pressure. 2. Help your environment! One tree can clear away 43 pounds of air pollutants a year. 3. Help you lose weight! People are more inclined to get outdoors and exercise when their surroundings are greener. 4. Make you smarter! Children with views of trees in school have higher grades than those that don't.

<sup>1</sup> Women World July10.2007 issue

## **MUSEUM PAGE**

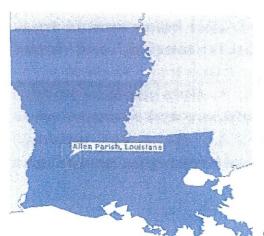
### ALLEN PARISH NAMED FOR HENRY WATKINS ALLEN

Confederate Governor of Louisiana - 1864-1865

The parishes of Louisiana have a lot of history, not only through the land and the people, but through the names of each parish. Some of them have been named after Native American Tribes, some from the French influence and some from famous men who contributed to the history of Louisiana.

The eight Louisiana parishes named for Indian Tribes are Avoyelles, Caddo, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Tensas, Tangipahoa, Calcasieu and Catahoula. The parishes named with the French influence are Acadia, East and West Baton Rouge, Plaquemines and Terrebone.

Parishes named for famous men who contributed to our history are Allen, Beauregard, Bienville, Claiborn, Concordia, Desoto, Feliciana, Franklinton, Grant, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, LaSalle, Lincoln, Madison, Washington and Webster.



Allen Parish located in the southwest part of the state is a relatively small area of 2000 square miles. The parish population is approximately 25,447. Mostly rural, there are five metropolitan areas: Reeves, Kinder, Oberlin (parish seat), Oakdale and Elizabeth. At 69 feet above sea level, the parish enjoys moderate weather.

Watkins Allen, who did great things for Louisiana even though he only served as governor from 1864-1865. Governor Jared Y. Sanders named Allen Parish for Confederate Governor Henry Watkins Allen on June 12, 1912.

Today, few people have heard of Henry Watkins Allen and even less know that our parish was named for him. He was described by a Confederate veteran from Baton Rouge in these words, "Perhaps, no man has ever been so deeply enshrined in the hearts of Louisianans as Governor Allen, the tried and true soldier, the uncompromising patriot, the kind and affable Governor, the soldier's and widow's friend. His memory will be kept bright and green in thousands of warm and loving hearts long after the war and it incidents have been forgotten or only recalled as some strange dream of the past."

Henry Watkins Allen was born in Farmville, Virginia. His parents were Thomas Allen and Ann Watkins. His father was a well known physician and planter. His mother died in 1830 and his father moved the family to Ray County, Missouri. When old enough, Henry attended Marion College at Philadelphia, Missouri. Here he worked as a store clerk in Lexington before moving to Grand Gulf, Mississippi. That was in 1837.

In Grand Gulf, Henry tutored on a nearby plantation and soon opened his own school. He also studied law with some of the local attorneys and was able to practice law in May 1841. In the next year, Henry volunteered and became



captain of a volunteer group of men that offered their services to President Sam Houston in Texas. While in Texas, Captain Allen and his company were involved in small skirmishes with the Mexican troops near Patricio. After six months of serving President Houston, Henry returned to Mississippi and became involved in politics. He served one year as a representative.

July 2, 1844, Henry married Salome Ann Crane. They had no children and she died seven years later. In 1852, Henry moved to West Baton Rouge Parish,

Louisiana where he had acquired property. He operated a sugar plantation and be came an active political leader. He gave his allegiance to the Whig Party. At that time, he also opened a company that would build a railroad from the town of West Baton Rouge to Rosedale on Bayou Grosse Tete. He traveled the south in 1853 and wrote about his journey. The Baton Rouge Daily Comet

published his accounts of travel under the name "Guy Mannering". In 1854, he briefly attended Harvard University.

In 1855, Allen became a member of the American or the 'Know Nothing" Party. He won a seat in the Louisiana state senate and became a Democrat in 1859. During this time he traveled to Europe and wrote series of letters about his travels to the Baton Rouge Weekly Advocate. These letters were published in a book called The Travels of a Sugar Planter or Six month in Europe. Being interested in history and politics, he became the president of the Louisiana Historical Society in 1861.

Allen was a fervent believer in Southern rights and slavery. He was described by a New Orleans newspaper like this: "H. W. Allen, of West Baton Rouge is about five feet nine or ten inches high, spare made, ruddy complexion, quick piercing eyes, a classical forehead and wears most generally a good-nature smile on his countenance.....Captain Allen is a reliable man (who) carries out his word. Such a man all must admire, respect and honor."1

In December 1860, Allen joined a volunteer company called "The Delta Rifles" where he played a part in the seizure and occupation of the Baton Rouge Arsenal in 1861. He had a very important role during the Civil War. He was Lieutenant Colonel of the 4th Louisianan Infantry Regiment. When ordered



coast in Mississippi, he commanded four companies and reputation as a strict disciplinarian. Leaving Mississippi, he marched his company to Brashear City (Morgan City) and Berwick and took control of two forts guarding the line of attack by means of the Atchafalaya River. Later, while Allen was serving in Tennessee, he was promoted to Colonel.

As Allen and his regiment were marching to Shiloh, Tennessee in 1862, he was anxious to begin the battle. He stated"a man ought always to expect to be killed in battle, and should be willing and prepared for death always before he goes into it....."

When a staff officer delivered the order into action against

the Union troops, Allen called his servant Hyppolite and stated, "We are going to charge; stand here in a safe place, but watch that flat (pointing to the regiment colors). I shall either be fore it or by it. If I fall search for me and take me to the rear if wounded; if dead, bury me decently; and now, God bless you. You have been a faithful servant."

Allen, not a quitter, inspired his men. On one occasion in the Battle of Shiloh, he was hit with a Union mini ball in the mouth. It passed through his cheek. Instead of retreating to the rear, he grabbed a handful of cotton line, stuck it on the wound, tied his handkerchief around his jaw and remained in the saddle all day.

In the battle to recapture Baton Rouge, Allen was wounded when he took the flag of the 9th Battalion and rode full speed in front of his troops. He held the flag in the same hand as he held the bridle. With the other hand he held his drawn sword. A union shell hit Allen's horse killing it instantly. The shot shattered Allen's right leg above the ankle and tore the flesh of his left leg. Before his lost consciousness, he told his men to go on. Some of his men made a temporary litter out of four muskets and carried him to safety. He was then taken to the "hospital" which was set up in a home. The doctors wanted to amputate Allen's right leg but he refused. These wounded left both of his legs severely crippled and he walked with crutches the rest of his life. Despite his condition, on February 28, 1863 Allen was appointed as a Major General in the state militia. In August of that year, he was commissioned as a Brigadier General in the Confederate Army. He was sent to western Louisiana where he reorganized the paroled prisoners and recruit regiments back to full strength. He did all of this while still recuperating from his wounds.

Allen's supporters entered his name as a candidate for governor of Louisiana and on November 2, 1863 he was elected governor by the Confederate Louisiana. He took office in January 1864. He is known for working hard to give aid not only the the civilian population of the state, but the Confederate war effort as well. He was able to get the legislature to set aside money to purchase cotton cards and medicines to be distributed either at cost or free of

charge. Allen eventually set up a state factory to make cotton cards and two places to manufacture cotton cloth. He controlled paper money and



introduced a uniform currency in the state. Allen also set up state-operated stores all over the western part of Louisiana where the people of Louisiana could purchase food,

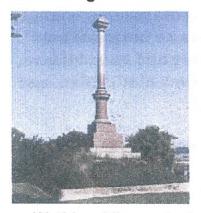
clothing, kitchen utensils, shoes and other household goods at low prices. Items were offered free if they were unable to pay. He also oversaw a very large program to collect cotton for trade and to prevent the Union blockade by transporting the product through Texas and Mexico. He also created a state laboratory at the Mount Lebanon University in Minden to make and distribute medicine. He set up a medical dispensary in Shreveport. He set up a state mining and manufacturing bureau after he had a geologic survey done to locate needed raw materials. Allen being a progressive man, supported arming slaves to fight for the Confederacy.

From the year of his inauguration, Henry Watkins Allen had many constructive accomplishments. Destitute citizens of Louisiana were helped and he succeeded in raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for the state treasury. Soldiers and civilians were supplied by his agents with food, clothing and medicines. He fervently supported public schools, keeping them open and sponsored the publication of books for the children. The financial reforms that Allen initiated made stated-issued money more valuable than Confederate notes by the end of the war.

Allen raised two battalions of state guards in early 1864. These units assisted Confederate military units in the apprehension of jayhawkers, draft dodges and deserters. This state guard also assisted in the Red River Campaign. Allen went along with General Edmund Kirby Smith on April 8th to the front lines. On the next day's battle, Allen remained within reserve behind Major Taylor's army. It was said by a Texas infantryman that "the tall figure of the patriotic Governor of Louisiana......could be seen on the crest of the hill waving his hat in triumph "1

Soon after General Robert E. Lee surrendered in April 1865, Governor Allen issued his farewell message as the Confederate Governor of Louisiana. He thought he would be a target by the federal authorities because of his prominence both as a military commander and a war governor so chose to exile himself in Mexico. He borrowed a few hundred dollars from a friend and reached his destination in July. Within two months, he was publishing the Mexican Times, an English-language newspaper. Even though he was in exile, his supporters thought so much of him thy placed his name on the Louisianan gubernatorial ballot in November. Allen actually carried five parishes and thousands of men voted for him.

Allen's move to Mexico was difficult. He never really recovered from his battlefield wounds. On April 22, 1866, he died from a stomach disorder and was buried in the American Cemetery in Mexico City. In January 1867 his remains were moved and interred in New Orleans. Later, his remains were moved to the grounds of the Old State Capital in Baton Rouge.





Henry Watkins Allen as truly a great man, great soldier and great governor. He was described by historian Douglas S. Freeman as "the single great administrator produced by the Confederacy". The West Side Journal Supplement, April 22, 1976, records, "His death was greatly mourned by the people of Louisiana. They recognized him for what he was - a leader with potential for greatness, and honest man and most important of all, a good friend to the people of Louisiana.

<sup>1</sup> Excerpts from a transcript of a talk given for the Foundation for the History of Louisiana Conference in 1995 by Arthur W. Bergeron, Jr.

#### **BOOK REVIEWS**

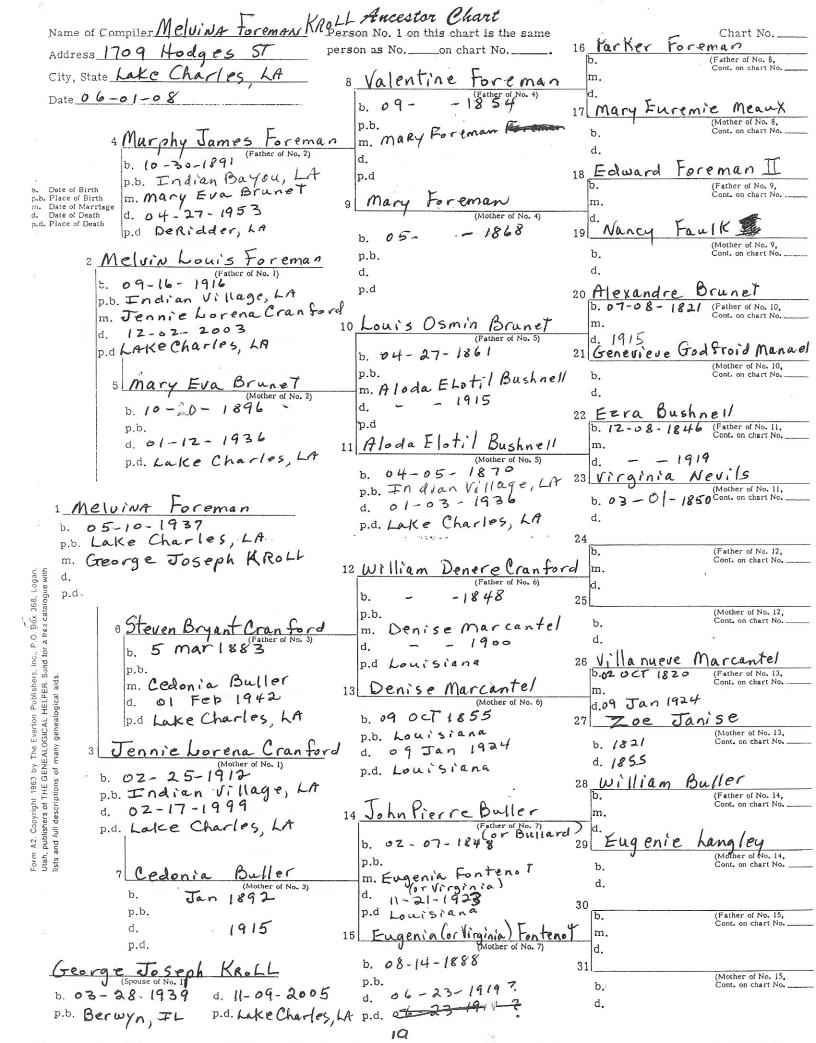
Have you read a book lately that you think would be of interest to other members? Would you like to send us a review for the next issue of Crossroads? It can be a historical novel, history that includes this area or a family history. In this issue of Crossroads, Loretta Headrick has submitted a review of "Whiskey Chitto Women" by author Margurite W. Hudson——This book is first of all almost all non-fiction. Some of the towns or villages mentioned in the book are: Alexandria(Alex), Six Mile, Sugartown, Cherry Winche, and Ouiska Chitto,(which means "Big Canebrake") named by the Indians.

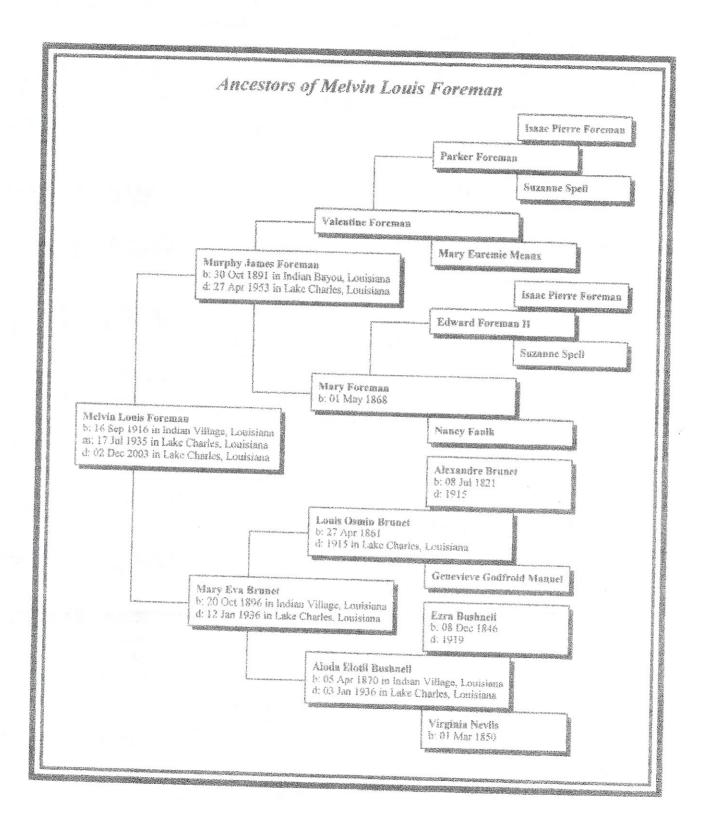
The bravery of Ellen Johnson was so interesting I could hardly put the book down. I finished the book in one day! Trying to get her husband home from war in extremely dangerous territory showed the courage and strength the pioneer women had to go through. The territory was known as "no mans land". At the time of the book Aaron and Ellen only had two children, but they eventually had 13 children. (Two died) Ellen and Aaron are buried at Gravel Hill Cemetery.

#### QUERIES

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until you	ask!								_	
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#### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Complete and mail this form with payment to:
ALLEN GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 789
Kinder, LA 70648

Please make checks or money orders payable to Allen Genealogical and Historical Society

Although not required, we ask that you please send a five generation chart of your lineage for our records. A blank chart is attached.

>>>>>>>>

Please enroll me as a member of the Allen Genealogical and Historical Society for the current year, 2008.

I understand that with my \$15 membership fee I will also receive 4 quarterly issues of CROSSROADS published in January, April, July and October. I can also have my queries accepted for publication in CROSSROADS for no cost.

Record this membership under the following name and address:

Please attach any queries you would like published.

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