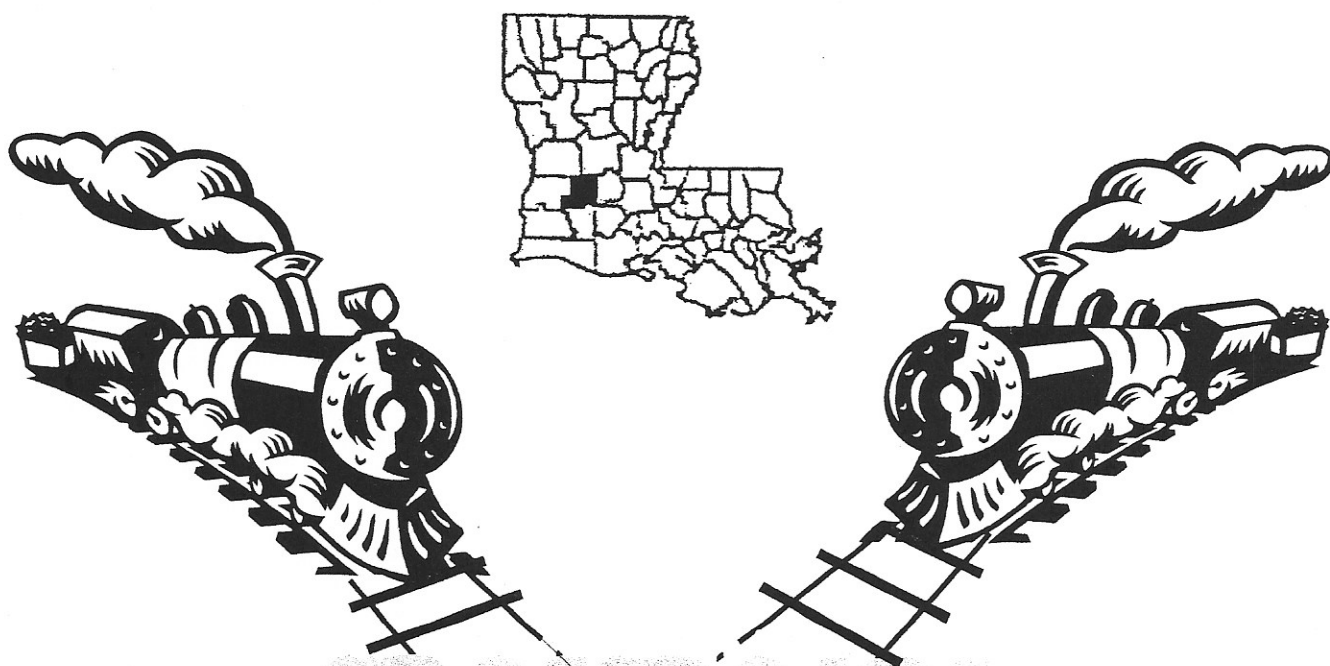


ALLEN GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUTUMN 2005

P. O. BOX 789, KINDER, LA. 70648

ISSUE NO. 215



CROSSROADS

Allen Genealogical and Historical Society

Post Office Box # 789 Kinder, Louisiana 70648

2005 Officers

President ----- Betty Sarver
 Vice President.--- Ethel F. Sacker
 Secretary/Treasurer-- Bill Fawcett
 Publishing Editor---- Ethel F. Sacker
 Assistant Publishing Editor—Loretta Headrick
 Historian/Reporter-----Fran Clemmons

CrossRoads is published
 quarterly; in January,
 April, July, and October

Meeting are held on the last Tuesday of each month at 10 AM in the Genealogy Room of the Kinder Library, a branch of Allen Parish Libraries.

Membership fees are \$12.00 per calendar year for a single person, which includes an annual subscription to CrossRoads, our new publication, which is published quarterly.

Single copies and back issues are available for \$3.00 each to anyone.

Queries are free to members; \$3.00 for non-members—and will be published as space permits. Please include all necessary information, such as names, dates, places, or place references.

We encourage and welcome contributions of genealogical and historical interest for inclusion in CrossRoads; especially material pertinent to Allen Parish. 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 not suitable for publication.

We will accept donations of books, periodicals, and other material of Genealogical and Historical interest relating to this area. These will be placed in the Genealogy Room of the Kinder Library.

BOOK SECTION: Books for Sale by the Society: (Prices; plus \$2.00 Postage)	
Rev. Paul Leeds' Congregational Ch. Records: Volume 1	\$25.00
"Marriages and Funerals" 1895-1957	
Rev. Paul Leeds' Kinder Congregational Ch. Records-1893-1974 (Vol. 1, 2, 3)	\$25.00ea
Rev. Paul Leeds' Bethany (Green Oak) Ch. Records	\$25.00
Congregational Ch. Records of Indian Village, Edna, & Emad Communities (one book)	\$15.00
Congregational Ch. Records of Elton & China Communities (one book)	\$15.00
Congregational Ch. Records of Iowa, LA (Rev. Leeds) (Early Ch.)	\$15.00
St. Peter's Bayou Blue Indian Congregational Ch. Records (1901-1957)	\$25.00
Rev. Leed (includes St. Lukes' early Ch.)	
Jemison Family by Ethelinda Jemison Andrus (special permission)	\$25.00
China Cemetery, Elton, LA (Booklet--special permission)	\$ 8.00
LeBlanc Cemetery, Allen Parish, LA (Booklet)	\$ 8.00
Indian Village Cemetery, Kinder, LA (older Version + NEW with family history)	\$15.00
Sonnier Cemetery, Allen Parish, LA (Booklet)	\$ 8.00
Resthaven Cemetery, Oakdale, Allen Parish, LA (Booklet)	\$ 8.00
Green Oak Cemetery, Kinder, Allen Parish, LA (older & latest version)	\$15.00
(Special Revised & Updated Edition)	
Lyles Cemetery, Oberlin, Allen Parish, LA	\$ 6.00
Lyles Cemetery, Barnes Creek, Reeves, LA NEW (with family history)	\$15.00
Liberty Cemetery, Elton, LA (close ties to Kinder) includes newest up-dated version, with family information.	\$12.00
Index to Surnames in all recorded Allen Parish Cemeteries	\$10.00
St. Augustine Cemetery Basile, LA with short history (close ties to Kinder)	\$15.00
Allen Parish Land Grants, with family notes-2 vol. (by order only) Pending	\$30.00ea
1941 Kinder High School Year Book (copy)—by order only	\$30.00
Jessie Johnson Cemetery, Kingsfarm, Kinder, LA NEW with pictures & family history	\$12.00
Nevils Cemetery with pictures of Headstone inscriptions. NEW	\$12.00
Kingrey Cemetery (Old abandoned, Barnes Creek) Recent Pictures & history NEW	\$12.00

Allen Parish Genealogy Society is keeping family file folders, which contain family histories, pedigrees and family group sheets, newspaper clippings, and other items of interest. These offer an excellent source for research. Anyone interested can get further information from any Society member. The Library will stock the necessary forms, and any member will be glad to assist you.

All new members are asked to supply a five-generation Ancestor Chart, which will be kept in a file in the Genealogy Room of the Kinder Library, and plans are to compile these into a book.

A blank five-generation ancestor form is included in each issue of CrossRoads.

The Society will accept items of interest to publish in CrossRoads; copies of Land Records, Wills and Probates, Marriage Certificates, and copies of Obituaries are some suggestions.

 The research Department of the Library now has Rev. Heberts' CD of his Records of SW LA; CD of Confederate Civil War Veterans, and also has the Allen Parish 1930 Census Microfilm, plus Microfilms of older issues of Kinder newspapers.

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Welcome New Members:

1. Bernadot 'Dot' Veillon – 2436 Lincoln Rd. Lake Charles, LA 70605
 Researching: Benoit, Bushnell, Veillon
2. Eva Mae Bushnell – 137 Evans Rd. Kinder, LA 70648-5036
 Researching: Bushnell, Doise

Queries:

1. Interested in any historical information on the LeBlanc community near Kinder, LA
 Aleda LeBlanc married Firmin Fuselier on July 10, 1865. Who were her parents and grandparents??
 Brenda Fuselier – 208 Louie Dr. Lafayette, LA 70503-3324 (e-mail) brenda6f@cox-internet.com
2. Allen Genealogical Society is in need of pictures and names of early graduates of Kinder High School for our Kinder High School Year Book project.
3. Any information on the Coe Families of Allen Parish will be appreciated. Contact Ethel Sacker at phone # 738-2064 (or email) paulsacker@centurytel.net

From the Editor:

We were saddened by the death of Alexis Joseph Lefort, husband of Ethel Sacker Lefort, our Editor. Alex died suddenly on April 22, 2005. He was a native of Golden Meadow, LA. He is buried in Green Oak Cemetery in Kinder, LA.

This issue of CrossRoads is specially dedicated to his passing. He was a devoted supporter of our Society, (and wife Ethel), and contributed many reams of copy paper, and 'ink cartridges', plus the use of his scanner and printer. He never tired of going to Walmarts to have film developed for our Cemetery books, and he accompanied Ethel on her many excursions to area cemeteries for research.

Our very interesting guest speaker for the May 31, 2005 meeting of Allen Gen. & Historical Society was Bernadot 'Dot' Veillon from Lake Charles, LA. Topic was the 'Color Coding' system for organizing genealogical family material. Dot demonstrated her own "Benoit Family" Book, which she had organized by this system.

The meeting was most informative, with an excellent turnout of members. Dot had as her guest, Jeanne Farque of the Pujos Street Genealogical Library in Lake Charles. We thank them both for a most interesting presentation.

We tentatively plan to feature an interesting article on "Coe Families of Allen Parish" for our next issue of CrossRoads.

We are still needing names and pictures of early graduates of Kinder High School for our yearbook project. Please help!

Trivia:

Remember 'Burma Shave'??

For those who never saw the 'Burma Shave' signs in the 1930s & '40s; before the Interstate, when everyone drove the old 2 lane roads, Burma Shave signs would be posted all over the countryside in farmers fields. They were small red signs with white letters. Five signs, about 100 feet apart, each containing 1 line of a 4 line couplet and the obligatory 5th sign advertising Burma Shave, a popular shaving cream.

She kissed the hairbrush	Don't lose your head	Brother Speeder
By mistake	To gain a minute	Let's rehearse
She thought it was	You need your head	All Together
Her husband Jake	Your brains are in it	"Good morning Nurse"
Use Burma Shave	Burma Shave	Burma Shave

You know you are living in year 2005 when.....

1. You accidently enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 numbers to reach your family of 3.
4. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home.
5. You get up in the morning and go on-line before getting your coffee.
6. Leaving your house without your cell phone is a cause for panic, and you turn around and go get it.
7. You're reading this and nodding and laughing.

Welsh resident has vivid memories of Hurricane Audrey

By Nola Mae Ross
Special to the Citizen

It's been 41 years since that day, June 27, 1957, when the deadly Hurricane Audrey hurled it's raging ocean of water over Southwest Louisiana, killing 425 people in Cameron Parish alone. This devastating hurricane forever changed the lives and hearts of everyone in Southwest Louisiana. Survivors still refer to special events they remember as happening "B.A." (Before Audrey) or "A.A." (After Audrey).

For one Welsh man, Alex LeFort, Jr., it is a terrible memory that will forever be etched in his heart. Alex lived in Cameron at the time of Hurricane Audrey, with his wife, Peggy (Nunez), his nine-year-old son, Alex J., and eight-year-old daughter, Margaret, plus his mother, Mrs. Armonica (Collins) LeFort, Sr. The following story is his memory of Thursday, June 27, 1957.

"We had been told on Wednesday, that Hurricane Audrey would not hit Cameron until the next afternoon. We would have plenty of time to leave on Thursday morning. We were all packed. Then about 3 a.m. on Thursday, water started gushing up into the streets of Cameron and we knew it was then or never. Seven of us - my mother, my wife, our two children and two nephews, Billy Ellender and Johnny Vincent got into the car to drive to safety.

"We didn't get very far! We only made it to Earl and Lillian Mouton's home. It was on a high ridge and we couldn't believe it when we saw water come over the ridge. It began gushing into the Mouton house. There were 12 of us in the house. My family of seven and the Moutons, including Earl and Lillian, her mother, Yvonne Theriot, her 17-year-old brother, Gerald Wade Theriot, and 18-months-old sister, Mary Theresa Theriot.

"As the water surged higher and higher, the house was slammed by 144-mile-per-hour winds. We climbed up to the attic and felt the house shake and shudder from the raging water and wind.

"Then as we waited in fear and disbelief, the house exploded! The roof caved in on top of us! Everything was completely wild and unbelievable. A few minutes later those who could came up from under the house and were pitched into the raging water. I saw my mother caught under a rafter and tried to get to her. But the current pulled me down and away.

"My wife, daughter and I were together clinging to some boards, desperately trying to stay on top of the water. Just staying alive consumed all our minds and energy. Suddenly I looked up and saw my son, Alex, sail by on a piece of roofing. I yelled at him and tried to reach him! But the water yanked him out of reach. He went down and out of sight. That was the last time I saw him.

"Then another tragedy hit us. Our timber flipped over, throwing us all into the water. I became tangled in some barbed wire and it took me a while to get loose. By then my wife and daughter disappeared, too. Even though I desperately searched for them I never found them.

"One by one my family was taken from me. I was tossed around like a matchstick through the marsh, which had now become a raging ocean. By the time the wind died down I was completely exhausted. I just held onto my timber and drifted. Then I hit the banks of the Intracoastal Canal where most of the survivors had been blown. It was also the place where thousands of water moccasins and angry nutria had been blown. To get to the rescue boats in the Intracoastal Canal, we had to fight the snakes, nutria and an occasional mad cow. Eventually I was picked up and taken to the hospital.

"That day was such a terrible shock, a time of disbelief and tragedy, that it took months just to survive the physical trauma of it. It took much longer before I could even begin to cope with the mental and emotional shock of suddenly losing my whole family."

THE REST OF THE STORY

Alexis Joseph Lefort – Survivor of Hurricane Audrey on June 27, 1957

He was a happy family man, World War 11 Navy Veteran, and survivor of active duty overseas. He had grown up in Golden Meadow, Louisiana near Grand Isle. His family had a history of living near the Louisiana Gulf shore lines, so Alex was familiar with hurricanes, boats and fishermen. Some of his Ancestors were lost in a terrible hurricane at Cheniere Caminada, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana in 1893, with over 2000 lives lost.

Thus it was quite natural that he would go into the Navy during the war. He served from 1943 to 1945, and after his discharge, he moved to Cameron to be near his work as a fisherman, then as a Boat Captain, running crews offshore to oil rigs.

He met and married on December 20, 1946, Altha Mae Nunez from Cameron, daughter of John Voras Nunez and Julie Fawvor of Cameron. Their son, Alexis Joseph 'Pat' Lefort, Jr was born September 16, 1948, and a daughter, Margaret Elaine Lefort, was born September 10, 1949. His father, Alexis Lefort, died 1948 in Houma, and his mother, Armonica Collins Lefort, moved to Cameron to live near her son. It was a happy time for Alex. He was making a good living and raising his children. He had family living around him; life was good.

Then came the terrible storm of June 27, 1957; Hurricane Audrey. It hit Cameron head-on, devastated the area and killed hundreds of people, including Alex' wife, 2 children, mother, and his nephew. He survived, but lost his entire family overnight. His own story is included with this article. It was a tragedy which took him months to recover from, both physically and emotionally, although the emotional scars remained for the rest of his life. It was difficult for him to speak of his loss without breaking down, so he very seldom spoke of the tragic event.

Slowly Alex healed and continued his work on boats, which he loved. Then he met Mary Lou Arceneaux Stoker of Welsh and Lake Charles, who had been married previously and had a daughter. Alex and Mary Lou were married in 1958, and eventually settled in Cameron, Louisiana, where they built a home just across the highway from the gulf. The daughter married and had two sons, who became as grandsons to Alex. Once again life was good for Alex, and he was blessed with a good marriage for over 25 years.

Then his wife began to have health and mental problems, so they moved to Welsh, Louisiana where she had sisters and family living. At this time Alex suffered with heart problems and had heart bypass surgery, which was complicated by his Asthmatic condition. He retired from his work, but had a comfortable income from his savings. His wife's mental condition deteriorated, and after a diagnosis of Alzheimers Disease, Alex had to commit her to a local care center. Once again, his life was shattered; emotionally he had a difficult time coping, and was near the breaking point, but he was very devoted to her welfare. The staff at the care center gave him much needed support, as did his step-daughter.

Mary Lou Arceneaux Stoker Lefort died on January 18, 1997 in the Care Center and was buried in Oaklawn Cemetery in Welsh, Louisiana. Once again, Alex' life was filled with suffering and grieving. His asthmatic health problem had worsened, and he had to have continous medical care.

Time helped, and Alex developed a friendly relationship with one of the nurses who had helped care for his wife. The bond grew, and Alex and Ethel Fontenot Sacker were married in November 1997. Alex moved to Kinder, where Ethel lived, and they travelled for the first 3-4 years of their marriage. Their life together was good, and Alex accepted the sons of Ethel as his

own, and they loved and respected him in return. He and Ethel developed an avid interest in Genealogy, and Alex researched his whole Lefort family, and put together a family book.

His health continued to require constant medical supervision. He underwent several surgeries for his back, plus he suffered from other problems, especially Asthma. In 2004, his health began failing, he suffered bouts of depression, he dwelt more on his past sufferings, and cried easily. He kept pictures of his deceased children nearby, and spoke more frequently of them, with much sadness. Life had taken it's toll on him, and he had had his share of grief. He had maintained a darker side of himself that could not be reached. Perhaps it was an unconscious, protective mechanism. But Alex, in his simple and unassuming way, gave much of himself to those around him.

On April 22, 2005, he went into a business office to take care of some business and suffered a fatal heart attack. He died in the Jennings hospital Emergency Room. His life's sufferings, with it's periods of happiness, was over. He was given a beautiful going home service with full military honors, with burial in Green Oak Cemetery in Kinder. Many friends and family members paid honor to his passing. He was a quiet and humble man, who has left his 'mark' in this life. He was a good Christian, and loved his country and his fellow man.

Written by : Ethel Fontenot Sacker Lefort, as a tribute to Alexis Joseph Lefort
June 2005 (48th year anniversary of Hurricane Audrey in June 1957)

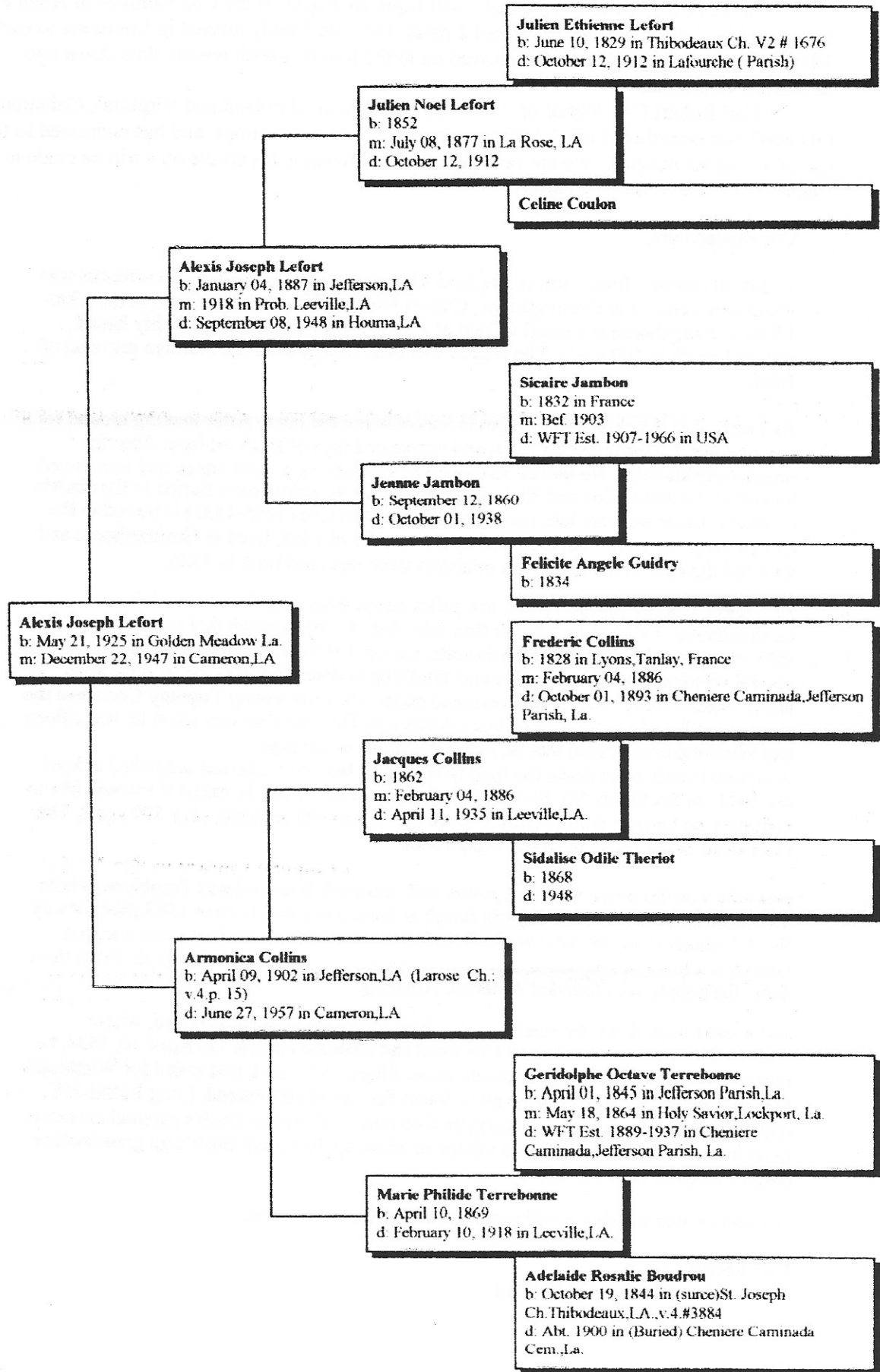
**Special note: Alex Lefort's story was published in Nola Mae Ross' book on Hurricane Audrey, and in numerous newspaper articles in the area.

His name is engraved on the plaque in front of the Cameron Court House along with many other veterans of the area. He had a lifetime membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was one of America's "quiet heroes".

His Genealogical research material, books, and Lefort Family history will be donated to the appropriate Libraries and to the Nichols State University Archives Department, located in his own hometown area.

Some of his material will be donated to the Allen Genealogical Library in Kinder, Louisiana as a memorial to his residency here in Kinder.

Ancestors of Alexis Joseph Lefort



Coe Family Introduction

In the next issue of CrossRoads, will begin an article on the Coe Families of Allen Parish, which will be done in a series of at least 2 parts. The Coe Family arrived in Louisiana as early as 1812, in the St. Landry Parish area, moved on to the Rapids Parish region, then down into Southwest Louisiana.

Carl Robert Coe, author of 'The Coe Families of Maryland and Virginia', Columbus, OH 2002, has contributed much information on our Coe connections, and has consented to the use of any of his material. We are very grateful. Following is his article on a trip he made to England to research the Coe Family.

Coe Researchers,

I returned recently from a trip to England. One of the most interesting occurrences was going to the church at Gestingthorpe, County Essex, where the Coes lived in the 1300-1500s. Gestingthorpe is a small village of maybe 50 people, which probably hasn't changed much in 500 years. The church was built shortly after the Norman invasion of 1066.

As I arrived at the church, a gentleman was mowing the lawn. After looking around for a few minutes, I interrupted his work and introduced myself as a Coe from America researching his roots. He looked as though he was having a heart attack and introduced himself as Grahame Coe and showed me where his ancestors were buried in the church cemetery. Later we went into the church where John Coe (1495-1533) is buried in the church keep. Sir John Coe, knighted by Edward III in 1365, lived in Gestingthorpe and attended the church there. Church ministers were recorded back to 1325.

At Groton, County Suffolk, just a few miles away, where the Coes moved from Gestingthorpe, I visited the church they attended. A small church that seats maybe 120, John Winthrop, founder of Massachusetts, attended at the same time as the Coes. I found several references to Timothy Coe and Winthrop godson Thomas Coe in Winthrop's father Adam's diary. Winthrop mentioned occasions when young Timothy Coe spent the night at the Winthrop home. The last reference to Timothy Coe was when he was fifteen and Winthrop complained that he had stabbed one of his pigs.

A hundred yards or so down the road lived a local historian who has published at least one book on Winthrop. We had a delightful conversation and he asked if I would like to visit the Coe home. I could hardly believe that it was still standing after 500 years. The Coes lived in the house from the 1400-1600s.

Not only was the house standing, it was still occupied. It indeed was Tomblins, where Thomas Coe who was with Captain Smith at Jamestown was born in 1583. Not far way lived Anthony Gosnold, who was also at Jamestown. The astounding issue was that Groton is a town of one house, a restaurant, a small pig barn and the church. From there came the people who founded America. Amazing!

Just a short walk down the road was the slightly larger village of Boxford, where President Bush's ancestor Robert Coe lived and attended church. On April 10, 1634, he boarded the ship "Francis" at Ipswich, about fifteen miles east, and sailed for Winthrop's Massachusetts. Robert Coe went on to found the city of Hempstead, Long Island, NY, and is the ancestor of the large Northern Coe family. President Bush's paternal ancestors lived just a few miles away at the village of Messing. President Bush's gg grandmother Sarah Coe lived here in Marysville.

My hope is that the above will somehow be useful to someone.

Carl Robert Coe
Marysville, OH USA 43040-9012

Allen Genealogical & Historical Society

PO Box 789
Kinder, LA 70648

Application for Membership

Please enroll me as a member of the Allen Genealogical and Historical Society for the year 2002, for which membership, I will receive 4 issues of CrossRoads, which is published in the Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter.

I have enclosed \$12.00 for this membership. Make check or money order payable to Allen Genealogical & Historical Society, and mail to the above address.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
E-Mail (optional) _____

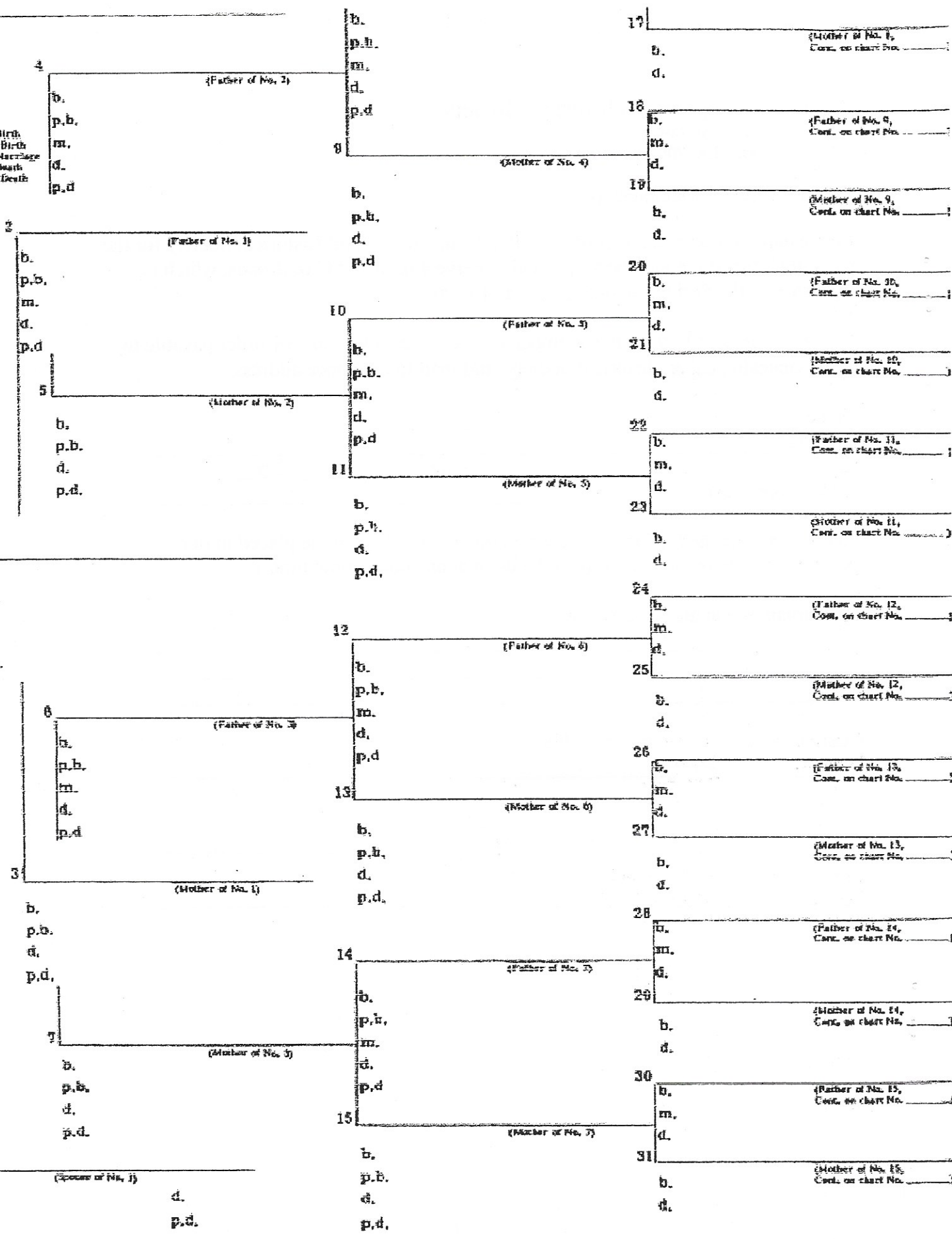
Please complete the 5-generation chart in this issue. This will be placed in our genealogical file in the library. (Can be done at any convenient time.)

List surnames you are researching: _____

Queries are free of charge to members.

Query _____

b. Date of Birth
p.b. Place of Birth
m. Date of Marriage
d. Date of Death
p.d. Place of Death



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