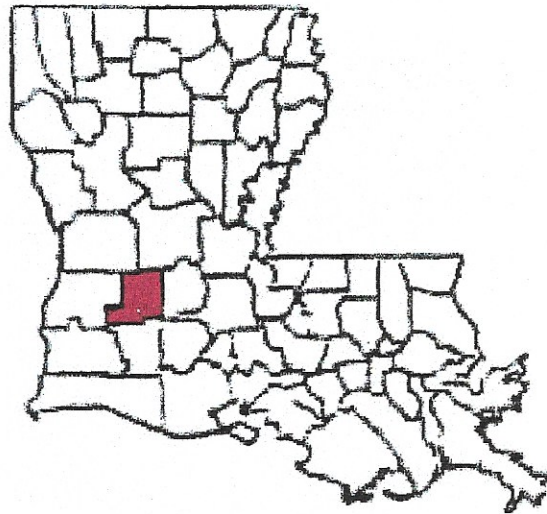


ALLEN GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

January, 2016

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

Issue No. 251



CROSSROADS

COVERING

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

ALLEN GENEALOGICAL and HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2016

President --- Betty Sarver

Vice President --- Durvin LaFleur

Secretary/Treasurer/Publishing Editor --- Fran Clemmons

Reporter/Tourism Envoy --- Steve Fontenot

ALLEN GENEALOGICAL and HISTORICAL SOCIETY was organized May, 1985 to collect, organize, process, and preserve genealogical material. The purpose 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 every other month on 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 St., Kinder, La. Workshop meetings are held the following month on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30 am in the genealogy room of the Library. Members are willing to help visitors with research and to answer questions they may have.

MEMBERSHIP fees are \$15 per calendar year per person and includes an annual subscription to *CROSSROADS*. Correspondence and dues should be sent to AGHS. P. O. Box 789, Kinder, La. 70648.

CROSSROADS is published semi - annually. Please let AGHS know of any change of address to assure delivery. 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.

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 assume responsibility for accuracy for any copyright infringement of submitted and published material. We reserve the right to edit and/or reject material we deem not suitable for publication.

DONATIONS of books, periodicals and other material of genealogical and historical interest relating to Allen Parish are accepted by the Society. We accept family histories, newspaper clippings, old photos, and filled out 5-generation charts. The Society will catalog these items donated and place them on file in the genealogy room at the Kinder Library to be used for research purposes. Memorials and honorariums are also welcomed by the society.

BOOKS PUBLISHED BY ALLEN GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Rev. Paul Leeds' Congregational Church records("Marriages & Funerals"—1895-1957—vol.1) \$25

Rev .Paul Leeds' Kinder Congregational Church records(1893—1957—volumes 1, 2, 3, & 4) each \$25

Rev. Paul Leeds' Bethany (Green Oak) Church records \$15

Congregational Church records of the Indian Village, Edna, and Emad Communities \$15

Congregational Church records of Elton and China Communities \$15

Congregational Church records of Iowa, La. \$15

St Peter's Bayou Blue Indian Congregational Church records(1901-1957(includes St Luke's early church)) \$15

China Cemetery, Elton, La. \$8

LeBlanc Cemetery, Allen Parish \$8

Indian Village Cemetery, Kinder, La. \$15

Sonnier Cemetery, Allen Parish, La. \$8

Resthaven Cemetery, Oakdale, La. \$8

Lyles Cemetery—Barnes Creek, Reeves, La. \$15

Index of Surnames in all recorded Allen Parish Cemeteries \$10

St Augustine Cemetery, Basile, La. \$15

Ancestor Charts—five generation charts—Allen Parish ties \$25

THESE BOOKS MAKE GREAT GIFTS FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!!!

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President's Greetings

The AGHS has had a busy summer. We attended the July 18th, Grand Reopening Ceremony of The Allen Parish Museum in Oakdale, La. The museum opened a wonderful new wild life exhibit with a very realistic habitat background. AGHS member, Steve Fontenot, was a participant in the ceremony. We have included photos and an article in this issue.

We have been working with the new Allen Parish Library Director, Agnes Guillory, and Kinder Branch Librarian, LaShonda Bracy, on upgrades to the genealogy room in the Kinder Branch Library and our genealogy material. Part of that work included a special map the AGHS donated to the library. (article and photo in this issue) We appreciate the great working relationship we have with the library staff. We, also, joined them in holding a Christmas Open House. You can read more about that in this issue, too.

On a more personal note, my husband, his sister, niece and I traveled to Pennsylvania in October tracing their family roots. It was a very successful and fulfilling adventure. There is just something special about touching items that were once touched by your ancestors and walking where they walked. It is an experience I wish everyone could and would enjoy.

Wishing you a blessed New Year,

Betty Sarver

Allen Genealogical and Historical Society President

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR. Fran Clemmons

As the old saying goes, "Time flies when you are having fun." Well I am not so sure about the fun but this past year has passed by like a whirlwind for me. It has been a busy time for everyone I talk with, but all we can do is sail along with the wind and *getter* done by the hardest.

The Society started the year off by selecting the officers for 2016. Most of the officers remain except for the position of Reporter/Tourist Envoy, but Mr. Steve Fontenot was selected for it.

I do hope you enjoy the articles I chose to publish in this issue of *Crossroads*. Please read each article and let me hear from you about them. I need help in getting material to publish in *Crossroads* and would really appreciate any advice, comments, and even criticism you may have to offer. I am asking you to contribute articles on your family or historical happenings, old newspaper clippings, old legal papers, family Bible pages, just about anything that concerns local history or genealogy. Take the time to help make the next issue of *Crossroads* more interesting. If you have something that is interesting to you, then it will be interesting the other members.

AGHS *regular* meetings are held every other month on the first Tuesday of the month and *workshop* meetings are to be held the following month on the first Tuesday of the month. The next regular meeting of the *Allen Genealogical and Historical Society* will be on **Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 10:00 A.M.** in the genealogy room of the Kinder branch of the Allen Parish Libraries located at 833 4th Street, Kinder, La.. The next workshop meeting will be on April 5, 2016. Please note the "Here's whats happening" page in this issue for the dates of all the upcoming meetings and mark your calendar with these dates. The workshop meetings will provide the Society time to work on the projects that can't be done at the regular meetings. The Society extends an invitation to you to come join us and bring someone with you. Guest are always welcome. Coffee and fellowship begin when you arrive.

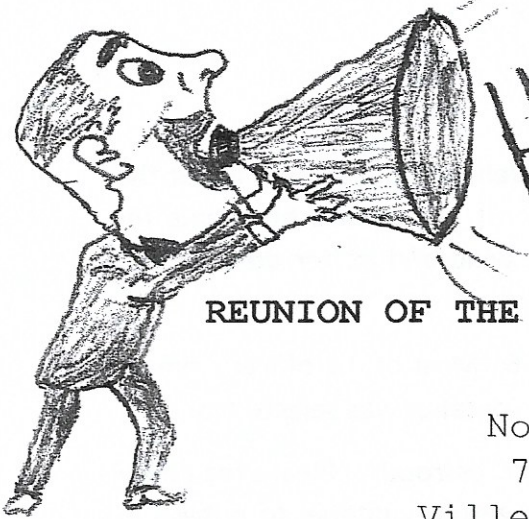
"All in the Family"

If you could see your ancestors, all standing
in a row

There might be some of them you wouldn't
Care to know.

But there's another question which requires
a different view.

If you could meet your ancestors, would
they be proud of you?



Here's What's Happening

REUNION OF THE SAVANT FAMILY OF LOUISIANA ORIGIN

To be held at the
North Side Civic Center
704 N. Soileau Street
Ville Platte, Louisiana 70586
on February 20, 2016

starting at 9:00am and ending at 5:00pm
e-mail address for information savantreunion@gmail.com

Mark your calendar for the following AGHS meetings

March 1, 2016 Regular meeting at 10:00 am
April 5, 2016 Workshop meeting at 9:30 am
May 3, 2016 Regular meeting at 10: am
June 7, 2016 Workshop meeting at 9:00 am
July 5, 2016 Regular meeting 10:00 am
August 2, 2016 Workshop meeting at 9:30 am
September 6, 2016 Regular meeting at 10:00 am
October 4, 2016 workshop meeting at 9:30 am
November 1, 2016 Regular meeting at 10:00 am
December 6, 2016 Workshop meeting at 9:30 am

Please note the workshop meetings that have been added to the **AGHS** meeting schedule. The Society has many projects planned but can't get them done in the regular meetings, so the workshop meetings are needed. Come work with us. All meetings are in the genealogy room of the Kinder Library, 833 4th Street in Kinder, La.

AGHS WILL SPONCER A PHOTO FAIR IN THE NEAR FUTURE photos that you may have that you cherish and want to preserve can be done by having them scanned on the Parish Library new high tech scanner. **AGHS** will send out an announcement of the time and date of the Fair.

We would like to give a warm welcome to the following new members:

Marvin Baggett – 551 Harrison Road, Reeves, La., P. O. Drawer AN, Kinder, La. 70648

Gail Hanchey Bearden – 601 Milbank Circle, Shreveport, La. 71115
E-mail: ghbearden@bellsouth.net

Bobbye Hanchey Dennis – 25 Ruera Court, Little Rock, Arkansas 72223

Dr. Lilyan L. Hanchey – 306 Rossitter Street, Shreveport, La. 71105
E-mail: llhanchey@bellsouth.net

Donna LAfleur – P. O. Box 683, Kinder, La. 70648

Charles Sarver – 526 Nursery Road, Kinder, La. 70648

A Congratulation message to the following members:

To Ouida Nevils Savant and Marvin Baggett: Congratulations on your recent Marriage! May the rest of your lives continue to be filled with love, happiness and laughter.

(Just a note to the newlyweds from all of us at AGHS: We miss seeing your smiling face and the coffee isn't the same without you. We hope to see both of you at the next meeting.

DUES TIME AGAIN !!!

It's that time again, so if you haven't already paid your \$15 dues, please mail it in to AGHS, P. O. Box 789, Kinder, Louisiana 70648. Thank you for your attention.

HISTORICAL MAP DONATED TO KINDER LIBRARY

The Allen Genealogical and Historical Society donated a framed map of lower Allen Parish dated 1949 to the Allen Parish Library to be part of the renovations recently made in the Kinder Branch. The map shows names of some property owners and other interesting information.

The map will be hung in the Genealogy room of the Kinder Branch where the AGHS group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 10 AM.

The AGHS also donated a map of upper Allen Parish to the Allen Parish Library to be placed in the Oakdale Branch upon completion of the renovations there.

In Photo:

Pictured left o to right: AGHS Secretary Fran Clemmons, AGHS VP Durvin LaFleur, AGHS Pres. Betty Sarver, Allen Parish Library Director Agnes Guillory, and Kinder Branch Librarian LaShonda Bracy.



Grand Reopening of the Allen Parish Museum

July 18th, the Allen Parish Museum in Oakdale, La. had a "Reopening" ceremony. Steve Fontenot, an active member of AGHS and member of the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 215 Honor Guard was flag bearer in the Posting of Colors.

Following the invocation by Rev. Wylie Shaw was the pledge of allegiance led by Glenn Bledsoe, the singing of the National Anthem, and a welcome from Oakdale Mayor Gene Paul. Then Dr. Mike Karam of Kinder, Chairman of the Allen Parish Tourist Commission, and also an AGHS member, came to the podium. He commented on the Tourist Commission's goals for Allen Parish and explained the new superb Wild Life display added to the museum, he made presentations to Doug Bourgeois and the Allen Parish Sheriff's Dept. for all their tireless efforts in making such a great display room. The new wild life exhibit has a very realistic habitat background; most of which was done by an Allen Parish Sheriff's deputy. We are sharing a few photos and hope you will visit the museum. It is with pride that we can point visitors to this historical building, built in 1888, displaying the history of our parish. Director Adagria Haddock does a terrific job of keeping the displays interesting and Mr. Armstrong always welcomes guests with a smile and a wealth of information.

The AGHS has always cooperated with the Allen Parish Tourist Commission. In a conversation with commission chairman, Dr. Mike Karam, we agreed that both of our organizations are working for the same goal; to preserve and share the history of our great parish with future generations and visitors to our great parish.

Betty Sarver ---- President --- Allen Genealogical & Historical Society

The following are comments by Adagria Haddock (director of Allen Parish Tourist Commission) about the Allen Parish Welcome Center near Kinder, La.... Plan to add a room onto back of the center that will be divided into three separate rooms. The largest room will house the Allen Parish Music Museum representing the five parishes of Allen, Jeff Davis, Calcasieu, Beauregard, and Cameron. Next room will be a Coushatta memorial room that hopefully will display artifacts from the Coushatta Tribe. There will also be a Louisiana swamp scene featuring the native animals of Louisiana. A beaver dam will be constructed to go with the beaver collection. The swamp scene will have a seven foot gator, an otter, ducks, and many other swamp animals on display. There are also future plans for a wild flower meadow in the field to the north of the building, and a walking path built around the perimeter of the field for walking and bike riding. It will be handicapped assessable.

All of the above are still in planning stages and a lot of work involved.

Photos taken at the museum's "Grand Reopeing"



History of the Kinder Volunteer Fire Department

The following article about the Volunteer Fire department was written by Eleanor LaFargue in her column "Entre Nous" in the Kinder Courier Newspaper dated April 2, 1987. The clipping of the article was found in the Allen Genealogy & Historical Society "archives" for perseveration purposes. The clipping did not copy very clear when scanned on the printer, so it is being retyped as follows:

The setting is a small town in the early twenties. The scene opens with a lazy day and the wind blowing from the south. Suddenly, the characters hear a gun shot! They know to look for smoke and a blaze. The "Bucket Brigade" rallies with haste in the direction of the disturbance to attempt to salvage a neighbor's home or business. If there are enough of them, and if they can draw enough water from the small lines, they may be able to discharge their task as planned.

This same scenario could be taking place today, the neighbor could be you, and the results could be tragic, if it were not for the foresight and dedication of the men I honor today.

I was given access to a meticulous record kept by one of the forefathers of the present Kinder Volunteer Fire Department, Mr. Elmer "Smitty" Smith. In reading the history and the long and untiring efforts of the founders, I could appreciate why "Smitty" made such a detailed record. He wanted to make sure no one would forget, and make our homes and businesses so vulnerable again.

Until 1948, the "Bucket Brigade" had to battle fires, face losses, and I'm sure, became discouraged time and again. At that time, the paint and body shop of Allen Motor Company was destroyed by fire, and only the wind direction saved the other businesses in town. Mr. George Deaton, owner of the destroyed building, could see that they had to organize a fire fighting unit for Kinder. The Kinder Rotary Club

was the only civic organization at the time, so he appealed to them to assist in building up the town's fire protection.

Mr. Deaton agreed to donate a chassis on which to build a fire engine, but they needed money for this project. A committee was formed, and they brought the problem to Mayor E. E. Miguez and his city council. The town was small and the revenues limited, but \$1000 was dedicated to the project. Smitty points out that Mr. Deaton's dedication to the project is "today a major asset to the community and surrounding area."

Two Rotary Club members, Mr. Deaton and Preston Stagg, Sr. went to Dallas, Texas to get a 600 gallon tank for the chassis. A second hand 500 gallon per minute pump was mounted on the truck. The rest of the town's money was used to purchase other fire fighting equipment, but they still ran short of money for the program, so individuals donated to the cause. The equipment ready, the city council employed Valley Fontenot as the first fire chief. Mr. Fontenot and Mr. Deaton organized the first Volunteer Fire Department. With regular drills and their new equipment, the department felt their dream had become a reality.

There were tragedies that would follow this moment of triumph. The first major fire the new department was called to ended with the pump shaft breaking, a low water supply, and a loss of the life of Billie Wright. The men became discouraged, and the department dwindled to the hired fire chief and two other men.

In 1951, Smitty helped others try to save the home of Murray Griffiths, but the family lost their home and all their belongings. True to his character, he wouldn't give up. He immediately met with the Mayor and appealed for reorganization. At a city council meeting, it was agreed to let the fire department have full control of it's operation, electing their own fire chief.

Along with Smitty, Lee St. Romain, a city council member, called a meeting, inviting any interested to attend. With the support of the community, more

sophisticated equipment was purchased, but the fire department will always remember the first real fire engine, nick-named "Old Betsy". She never failed to meet a call until her replacement in 1961.

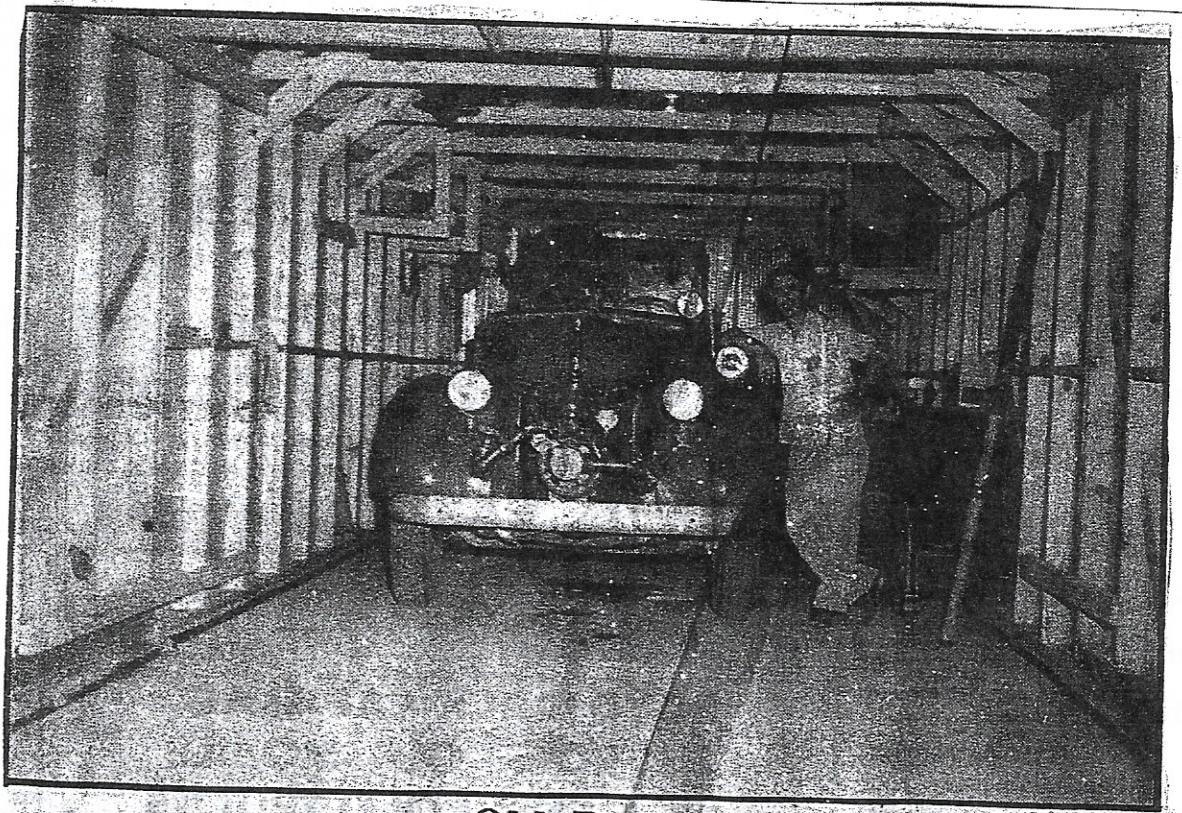
Today the "buckets" have been replaced by 2500 gallon pumpers, the shot gun by a telephone alarm system, but the volunteers are still in place. The faces and the names change with time but the spirit remains constant.

Past fire chiefs other than Mr. Fontenot have been: Slim Rougeau, Jiggs Callahan, Alton Baker, Jr., and present chief, Billy Reynolds, who has served his community since 1957, with assistants, Alton Baker, Jr., Mayor Fred Ashy, and Bruce Manuel.

Smitty has served as president since the organization in 1950. Others that have served as volunteers are: Joseph W. Hammonds, Orville Augustine, Ken Augustine, Elwin "Red" Fontenot, Eston "Pee Wee" Fontenot, Jeff Fontenot, James Guillory, Mark Kelly, Walter LaFargue, Rickey LaPoint, Gerald Savant, John O. Sneve, Kyle Sonnier, Rickey Sonnier, Tommy Sonnier, Roy Taylor, Johnnie Vidrine, Randy and Ralph Jemison, Barney Harper, Rev. Chris Blanchard.

This is strickly a volunteer department, serving without pay, refusing to accept pay from the city. Residents who have had to call upon the fire department's services have made contributions which are placed in a special fund. The department has on order now a mini truck, which will answer calls to grass fires and other small emergencies.

The next time you hear that familiar Wednesday night 7:00 alarm, think about their story, and the endless efforts of these men to make your community safer. I know I'll remember each week that, but for them, I could hear only a gun shot, and have only a glimmer of hope that lives and homes would be saved.



Old Betsy

Old Betsy, the fire engine referred to in "Entre Nous," by Eleanor LaFargue, is shown above with volunteer fireman Pee Wee Fontenot. The photo was taken in the old fire house in Kinder in 1954.

The following is answers to questions asked of **Walter Lafargue (retired fire chief of Kinder Volunteer Fire department)**.

The fire chief after Mr. Billy Reynolds was Mr. Alton Baker Jr.. Walter Lafargue was the next fire chief after Mr. Baker, and retired this position after serving as the chief for 45 years. There was a period that the department was without a chief, but that position is now filled. After completing the requirements, Mr. Blake Lafargue is the Kinder Volunteer Fire department Fire Chief. He is the only paid member of the department. Blake is the grandson of Walter Lafargue.

The volunteers meet on Thursday nights now instead to Wednesday nights for their meetings and drills.

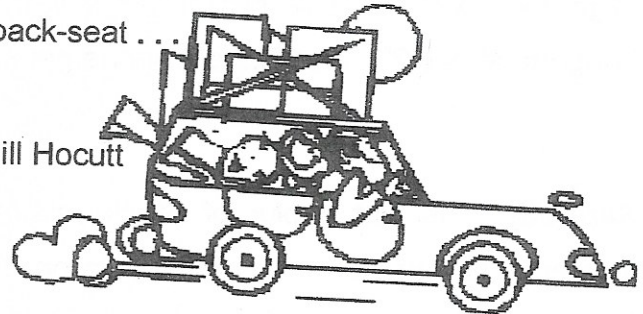
The Kinder Fire Department umbrellas a number of sub-stations in the areas around Kinder. Communities that have sub-stations (just to mention a few) are Indian Village, Green Oak, Hickory Flatt, Rester Road, Ladderdale, and also many others in the area.

Our fire department has come a long way since 1987, when Eleanor Lafargue wrote her article about the history of the Kinder Volunteer Fire Department.

Adventures in Genealogy: The Road Trip

"Rednecks, Cemeteries and 2 kids in the back-seat . . ."

By: Bill Hocutt



Friday: 6 P.M. I came flying in the driveway, gravel slinging everywhere. The station wagon's loaded, the neighbors are gonna watch the dogs. It's "Vacation" time and we're going to the cradle of my family roots to visit graveyards. Tuscaloosa County, Alabama or Bust. I yell out, "hit the bathrooms and load up, I wanna be in Shreveport, La. by 10."

7 P.M. We pull out of the driveway after reloading the car – this time including clothes. Put on a Waylon Jennings tape and settle in for a long drive.

7:12 P.M. I hear one of the 3 most dreaded phrases on my family trip. "Daddy, I'm hungry." Then I hear the sweet voice of the blonde I married "Honey, we're on vacation lets go somewhere nice for supper. They just opened that new IHOP in Greenville." OK baby, we got 9 days, we ain't in no hurry.

8:30 P.M. We pull out of IHOP, our stomachs full, and my blonde says, "Honey, lets stop at Walmarts and pick up snacks for the trip so we don't have to stop so often." An hour later loaded down with \$50 bucks worth of beef jerky, hot peanuts, and cokes, we hit the road again. We drive straight thru 3 Merle, 2 Willie, 1 Tanya Tucker, 1 Chipmunks and 1 Hanson tape. (I got kids after all) The kids finally go to sleep and the wife asks me, "Honey, why are we driving 700 miles to look at graveyards?" "Well Baby, we can learn a lot from the cemeteries. Specially little ones. We can verify death dates and places, plus by looking at the other stones we can find out who their neighbors were. If a lot of folks died at the same time, it usually means an epidemic, flood or other natural disasters. What's written on the stones, can also give us some great clues, like Dr. or Rev. or if a military or club symbol is on the stone, we get more clues to follow up on. If the graves are well cared for and have flowers on them then the

odds are we still have family in the area. If they are beside an active church, there might be membership records in the church we can check. "OK, Hon, but why did we bring the shovel?" "Well Babe, I gonna get answers one way or the other."

Saturday Is just a blur of Stuckeys, Pecan rolls, roadside café's, and historical markers. Got photos of the girls sittin on cannons, giant anchors and stone Pelicans. (Don't ask, it made the wife happy) Late that night we pull into Tuscaloosa.

Sunday We attend the Baptist Church my great grandfather did. It may not help my research but it makes him feel a little 'realer.' We spend the rest of the day visitin relatives and talkin to folks.

Monday Bright and early we meet Cousin Sandy and hit the cemetery trail. Forty miles on two lane roads at breakneck speed brings us to the first cemetery. We all bail out and start reading headstones. Then I notice Sandy has a notebook and is carefully checking the stones. Being the tactful, respectful person I am, I yell, "Sandy, whatcha doing?" She shows me her notebook and explains that before she goes cemetery hopping she always puts together a list of ancestors from the area to watch for. Then she explains the graph paper is for marking a grid map of the cemetery so she not only knows who is in the place, but where they are. We find a couple of folks and make notes then we are off again. Once again, we go screaming down the back roads, after 15 minutes we turn off the PAVED road. Ten minutes and 400 potholes later, we turn into another church. Once again we jump out and start searching the stones. Jackpot this time!! I find my grandfather and my great grandfathers stones. After taking notes, I ask Sandy, "How did you know where this cemetery was?" She says, "I called the county courthouse and got directions to all the cemeteries." COOL, I didn't know you could do that. We spend the rest of the day roamin graveyards and taking notes. At the end of the day I have 27 pages of notes; given a couple of weeks I can whip into a

usable format. Sandy, on the other hand has 7 cemetery grids and 10 preprinted sheets with all her data annotated and easily referred to.

“Another Adventure in Genealogy” ends with another lesson learned

- 1) Know who you are looking for
- 2) Prepare a form ahead of time with blanks for names, births, deaths, organizations and notes
- 3) Take Graph paper with you to make simple easy Cemetery Grids
- 4) Call the county seat to get directions to the cemeteries.

This article taken from Southern Footprints * Jan/Mar 2001, Vol.1/No.1

Epitaphs

Epitaph stems from the Latin word epitaphium, which used to mean a speech said over the tomb. The word is now associated with the few lines inscribed on a tombstone. Sometimes you will find Latin phrases such as, “Memento mori” carved in tombstones, which means “remember death.” The word “cenotaph,” means an “empty tomb”; the person being memorialized by the tombstone is actually buried somewhere else. Tombstone epitaphs are a reflection of one’s existence highlighting their personalities or accomplishments in life. Some epitaph inscriptions could be a favorite psalm of the deceased or how the person died.

The following epitaph quote was found on an old tombstone :

“Pause stranger, when you pass me by. As you are now so once was I.

As I am now, so you will be. So prepare for death and follow me.”

Below the epitaph someone scratched the following: “To follow you I’m not content, until I know which way you went.”

"GOLD DUST WEDDING"

"Pine and Oak Alley, The Love of a Father"

On the banks of the Teche, on the outskirts of old Petit Paris (St. Martinville, La.), is an alley of Pine and Oak trees planted by Monsieur Charles Durand...beneath the trees, one of the grandest weddings ever to be held in Louisiana took place. Little did Monsieur Durand know that this wedding he gave his two daughters would be relived time and time again in history books, newspaper articles, and magazines for generations to come! Nor did he know, that this "alley" of his beloved trees would become an historical landmark today! A man after his two daughters hearts, left a story to be told, that would touch generations to come! He was a wealthy man, but he shared his love of "extravagance" with his entire Petit Paris community that remarkable night under the Pines and Oaks!

Charles Gerome Durand arrived in St. Martin Parish in the early 1800's. The story says he brought a fortune with him from France, but he did gain a fortune on the sugar plantation he established a few miles north of St. Martinville. He had a three mile row of oak and pine trees planted leading to his plantation home by slaves in 1829. The folk that knew him said that his imagination knew no bounds and he was always thinking up new ways to outdo his aristocratic neighbors. He usually succeeded, and created a life on his plantation that was as gay and carefree

as money could make it. He was a man of taste and generosity and spent his life indulging in exquisite and expensive whims.

He traveled in gold-ornamented carriages rivaling even those of Versailles. His home was decorated with fine furnishings brought from the continent.

The plantation family was awakened each morning by servants spraying perfumed mists, then bathed in perfumed baths of fragrant crystals and oils.

Durand fathered 24 children, 12 by each of his two wives. He is said to have justified his large progeny with the remark, "I could not be unfair to either Lady."

Just after the Civil War, two of the Durand daughters became engaged at the same time: Marie to James Mouton, and Corinne to Zachary Fournet. The proud father promised his daughters the most beautiful, elegant, and unusual wedding ever seen in Louisiana.

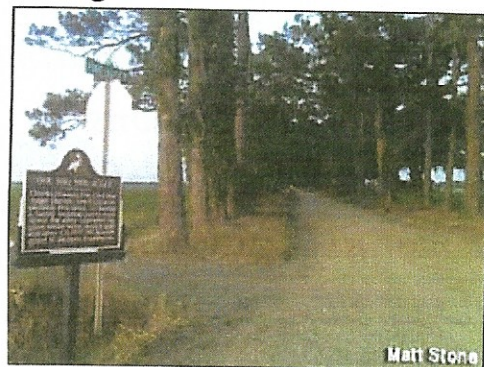
To fulfill his promise, as the romantic tale is told, he ordered a million spiders sent from China and sent courier to California to fetch hundreds of pounds of silver and gold dust.

Shortly before the wedding day, the spiders were set loose, and soon had spun millions of yards of delicate webs among the limbs and mosses of the oak and pine trees leading to the mansion. On the morning of the wedding, May 21, 1870, servants armed with bellows filled with silver and gold dust sprayed the dewy cobweb

canopy to set it glittering in the sunlight like something from a fairy tale. Along the roadway where the guest would pass he had carpets laid beneath the trees, leading to an open-air altar. Tables were set up about the grounds with rich foods and drinks. Musicians played from hidden spots up and down the avenue. Two thousand guests attended the marriage ceremony. The reception lasted throughout the night, and for several days and nights to come.

The wedding proved to be Durand's last grand gesture. The war had claimed many of his resources. His slaves were freed, his sugar mill sized, his home damaged, much of his wealth and its trappings lost. He died Nov. 26, 1870, just months after the wedding.

The only reminders of Durand's life and death is the mile-long stretch of oak and pine trees planted. There is little else there. But once in a while, in the early morning, when the dew is still bright on the trees and rays of golden sunshine strike them just right, there is a fleeting glimpse down that oak and pine avenue of just what it might have been like that festive day in May, when Charles Durand made his last and grandest gesture!



Address: Pine Alley Drive, St. Martinville, LA

Directions: The entrance to the Alley is 2.5 miles northeast of St. Martinville on Hwy 96/Catahoula Hwy.

QUERY FORM

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please type or print clearly all information. Use a separate form for each person you are seeking information on. Please capitalize the last name of each person you are seeking information on. Fill in all the applicable blanks. If not applicable, place a dash in that space. Place a question mark where the information is speculative. Use "ca" for any date that is approximate or a good guess.

Subject's name: _____

Date and place of birth: _____

Date and place of death: _____

Father's name: _____

Father's birth year: _____ Death year: _____

Mother's maiden name: _____

Mother's birth year: _____ Death year: _____

Spouse's name: (Maiden name): _____

Spouse's date and place of birth: _____

Spouse's date and place of death: _____

Date and place of Wedding: _____

Subject's children: _____

Subject's siblings: _____

Subject's places(s) of residence: _____

Subject's military service: _____

Any additional information on subject: _____

Queries are free to all members. Non-member fee is \$3.00 per Query.

Send Queries to: Allen Genealogical and Historical Society, P. O. Box 789, Kinder, Louisiana 70648

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TO: ALLEN GENEALOGICAL and HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 789

KINDER, LA. 70648

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NAME _____
First Middle/Maiden Last

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QUERY(S) You wish published in *CROSSROADS*. Please include names, dates, locations, and information desired for each query.

I am willing to contribute Articles for *CROSSROADS* _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:



My Family Lineage

B. _____
M. _____
D. _____

B. _____
M. _____
D. _____

B. _____
M. _____
D. _____

B. _____
M. _____

B. _____
M. _____
D. _____

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M. _____
D. _____

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D. _____

B. _____
M. _____
D. _____



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