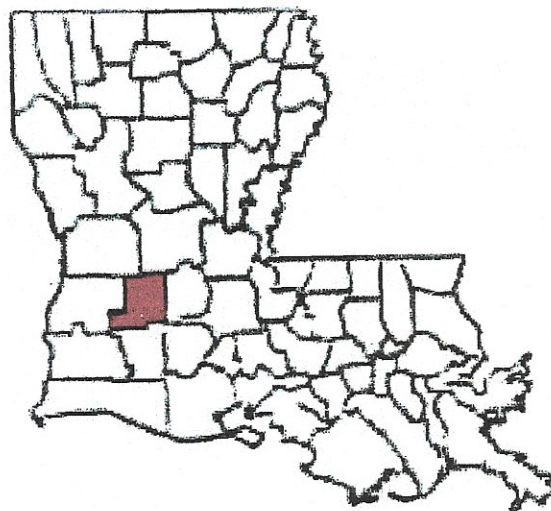


# ALLEN GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July, 2017

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

Issue No. 254



# CROSSROADS

## COVERING

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

# ALLEN GENEALOGICAL and HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2017

President --- Betty Sarver

Vice President --- Durvin LaFleur

Secretary / Treasurer / 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 4<sup>th</sup> St., Kinder, La. Workshop meetings are held the following month on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 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**. Any Correspondence and your dues should be sent to AGHS, P. O. Box 789, Kinder, La. 70648

CROSSROADS is published semi – annually. Please let AGHS know 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 assure 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 genealogical and historical materials such as books, periodicals, family histories, newspaper clippings, old photos, 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.

## **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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PLEASE mark your calendar with the following Allen Genealogical and Historical Society meetings held in the genealogy room of the Kinder Library located at 833 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Kinder, La.

- Tuesday August 1, 2017 Workshop meeting at 10:00 am
- Tuesday September 5, 2017 Regular meeting at 10:00 am
- Tuesday October 3, 2017 Workshop meeting at 10:00 am
- Tuesday November 7, 2017 Regular meeting at 10:00 am
- Tuesday December 5, 2017 workshop meeting at 10:00 am

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### NEW MEMBERS

Mary Cole, 387 Cole Road, Kinder, La. 70648

Sue Wood, 2016 Old Carraige Ln., Baton Rouge, La. 70806

# President's Greeting

We are happy to have Mary Cole back at our AGHS meetings. She was always a great worker in the society. She came bearing gifts for us. She did a project when in the university that of course had to do with Allen Parish; she researched every cemetery in Allen Parish took photos of them and did a book with her findings. She donated a copy to the society and we certainly appreciate all the work that went to it. It will be a great tool in helping people locate the cemetery where their ancestors are interred. As if that was not enough, she brought a printer/scanner that we can use along with Carolyn Fontenot's laptop (which we also appreciate very much). These ladies are upgrading our meetings tremendously. We all have computers at home that we use for research, etc. but having this at our meetings makes is an added convenience.

I also want to give a great big "Thank You" to Mr. Bob Reynolds for his donation of photos to the society. It is generous people like him that help us preserve the history of our area.

Scott Bell sent us a disc containing old photos from his collection. One is a rare find of the old 3 Pine School that was located on the parish line east of Kinder. Scott has shared photos with us before and we really appreciate his generosity.

Wishing you a great summer,

*Betty Sarver*

Allen Genealogical and Historical Society President

**LETTER FROM THE EDITOR.....fran clemmons**

This issue of **CROSSROADS** I dedicate as a memorial in the remembrance of Mr. Jimmie Jenkins, a prominent Allen Parish Business man, owner of Jenkins Hardware in Oberlin, La. Mr. Jenkins passed away on June 7, 2017. I found an article on line about Jenkins Hardware that was written by Lisa Yates and published in The Times of Southwest Louisiana on September 14, 2008, that is very interesting and I wanted to share with everyone.

I hope you enjoy the articles that I chose to publish in this issue of **CROSSROADS**. The information in the articles come from old newspaper clippings and from the internet. I do not take credit for the research on the articles, but I report what research I find that I think will be of interest to you.

Ms Ethel Sacker has contributed a query she has received from a lady searching for information (to be used in a book) on any living relative for Lela Kanouse Walters, for this issue of **CROSSROADS**. Ms Ethel is the **AGHS** story teller and has submitted a story she wrote about her sister.

I need your attention and help in getting material to publish in **CROSSROADS**. Any advice, or comments, and even criticism you may have to offer, I would appreciate very much.

**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 meetings are held in the genealogy room of the Kinder branch of the Allen Parish Libraries located at 833 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Kinder, Louisiana at 10:00 A.M. The Society extends an invitation to you to come join us and bring someone with you. Coffee and fellowship begin when you arrive.

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A LITTLE HUMOR

A son graduated from high school and started his college classes. The father was proud of the son and after the first week of college, the father asked the son, "Well how was the first week in college". The son answered, "Good". The father then asked the son, "So how do you like your classes"? The son answered, "Good". The father asked several more questions and each answer was the same, "Good". The father finally asked the son if he had decided on his major and the son replied, "Communication"!

## Family Storytelling, Sharing Family History, & Tips to Share Family Stories

Storytelling traditions are common across all cultures and ethnicities. Through stories, we can share family history, talk about things that are difficult or scary to address, and share good or even sad memories.

Everyone has stories to tell, and we all need to tell them. Some people seem to be natural storytellers, some are even professional storytellers. But you don't have to be either one to be a good storyteller.

Keep it simple, make it fun, paint a picture with your words and actions, and let the stories tell themselves!

Here are some tips on how to share your family's stories:

- **Have fun and don't act your age.** Humor helps people connect, especially when you tell a story about yourself. Everyone needs to be able to laugh at himself/herself now and then, and you can model that for your family.
- **Share your story instead of lecturing to make a point.** You've got something great to share with, rather than instruct, your audience. People are more open when the lesson is subtler.
- **Listen.** Give everyone a chance to share their stories. They will be more receptive to yours. Storytelling is an exchange, not a one-way street. Enjoy the stories you hear and the ones you tell.
- **Document your family's stories.** There are great resources for digital storytelling. Don't waste time: Record your family's stories while you can, so their stories can live on.

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The origin of "A Wake" is from old England. Lead cups were used to drink ale or whiskey. The combination of drink and lead would sometimes knock a person out for a couple of days. When the person was found, they were taken for dead and prepared for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a "wake" and the origin of "making enough noise to wake the dead".

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2008

## ▶ **Jenkins Hardware: An old-time store and a piece of living history**

*By Lisa Yates*

*The Times of Southwest Louisiana*

*Photography: Karen Wink*

*Cover Graphics: Darrell Buck*



When Jenkins Hardware opened in downtown Oberlin, Warren G. Harding was president. The year was 1921, and the store operated as a blacksmith shop – an essential industry at the time.

For Jimmie Jenkins, it's a piece of his family history. His father, Ivor, founded the store and worked as its blacksmith.

"Dad got out of the Army in 1918, and opened the store in 1921," he said. "He did shop work in the Army during World War I – blacksmithing. Back then they traveled by wagons -- He repaired the wagon wheels and spokes."

After returning home from the war, his father married a young woman named Emma, and moved to Port Arthur, Texas. Ivor worked at Gulf Refinery until he decided to open his own blacksmithing business and moved to Louisiana.

### **Choosing a location**

Jenkins, 81, said the lure of free land brought many Northerners like his father to the area at that time.

"His dad – my grandfather -- was born in Wales, settled in Illinois, and



worked in the coal mines," Jenkins said. "Back then, a lot of people from the North were moving south. They were giving away 160 acres of woodlands to people who would come and settle here."

Because blacksmiths were in demand, Jenkins said his father "had his pick" of three towns in which to settle and open shop. He chose to open the store at 231 Sixth Avenue in West Oberlin, where it still operates today.

The shop prospered. Later, the family added general hardware, paint, glass, pipe fittings and miscellaneous items not generally found in hardware stores today.

"Mother did the bookwork for the store," Jenkins said. "By then, she already had a child, Norman. Then, she had three more boys – my older brothers, Raymond, R.C., and me."

As the boys grew, they also joined the family business.

"My older brothers worked in the shop – I didn't. I liked to sell, so I worked in the store," Jenkins said.

His father and brothers, all expert blacksmiths, sharpened plow points for the local cotton farmers, who plowed their fields by mules.

"They got 10-cents for sharpening turning points, back in the 1920s," Jenkins said. "They got 25-cents for sharpening middle busters."

Jenkins never learned the trade, but he has kept the blacksmith shop intact over the years.

### **The store today**

Stepping through the back room of the store is like stepping back into time – the entire shop is still there. Old tools hang from the ceiling and

the original anvil still sits on the floor, near an old wood heater and electric forge.

Jenkins pointed to the ceiling of the blacksmith shop, which he said is fashioned from lumber cut at the old sawmill on the property. He also proudly displayed a couple of antique John Deere tractors housed on the property.

"This one is from the 1950s, and the other one is older than that," Jenkins said as he started up the 2-cylinder engine. "It still runs!"

The store has outlived fleeting fads and is a part of the community fabric, providing loyal patrons not only with a sense of history, but also with a wide array of goods they need.

Customers keep coming back to Jenkins Hardware – not merely for the selection of shovels, paints or even coffee-grinders. It's the old-fashioned personal touches that Oberlin residents can't live without.

They know that when they come in looking for a "whatchamacalit" or "a thing that goes in the faucet to stop it from leaking," Jenkins will know just what they're looking for and will never direct them to "Aisle 6."

Instead, folks are greeted with a warm, friendly: "How are you doing today?" when they step through the door.

### **Minding the store**

On any given day, the store attracts a steady stream of customers, some new, but mostly regulars dropping by to pick up a few needed items. On a recent weekday morning, Jenkins Hardware seemed as lively as ever with several customers purchasing bug killer, one man buying oil for his Weedeater® --- and, a local beautician found a hanging scale for her father, who operated a nearby vegetable stand.

Jenkins Hardware is a one-of-a-kind, charmingly cluttered shop with its display of tools, old newspaper clippings and football schedules. There's a picture of his granddaughter as homecoming queen hanging on the front counter.

"She's a freshman at Iowa State," Jenkins said.

The counter also holds old photos showing pieces of the town's history, including: Oberlin High School's first football team from the 1930s, class pictures dating back from the class of 1936-37, a group of area wolf-hunters, and a photo of a fire, which was taken by his wife, Ann, a retired school teacher. The photograph made front page news.

"That was a hotel across the street that caught fire and burned down," Jenkins said. "We saw the flames from our house and ran over to see what was burning."

He said the street was once part of a bustling downtown with several hardware stores, the hotel across the street, restaurants and even a couple of bars.

Through the years, Jenkins has seen all of the changes. He has been minding the store since he was a young man.

"I was raised north of Elton and rode my bike over here," he said.

Like many of his generation, he put his career on hold to serve the country.

"When World War II came along, in 1941, I was in the service along with two of my brothers," Jenkins said. "The other brother wanted to go, but he had diabetes, so they wouldn't take him."

After the war, Jenkins came back to work at the store along with his oldest brother. One of his brothers went to college and became a professor at the University of Louisiana in Lafayette.

"He's still in Lafayette," Jenkins said. "Of my three brothers, he's the only one left."

### **A rarity**

Part of a second-generation to have a hand in the family store, Jenkins Hardware is a rarity. Only about 30 percent of family-owned businesses survive into the second generation, with only 12 percent remaining viable into the third generation. Only 3 percent of all family businesses operate into the fourth-generation or beyond, according to the Family Business Institute.

Jenkins said it is doubtful that his family business will survive into its third generation. His children – James Jr., Laura Reed and Terry Jenkins – are grown and living in different areas of the country.

"Everyone has college degrees and good jobs," he said, adding competition from "big box" stores makes it tough to stay in business.

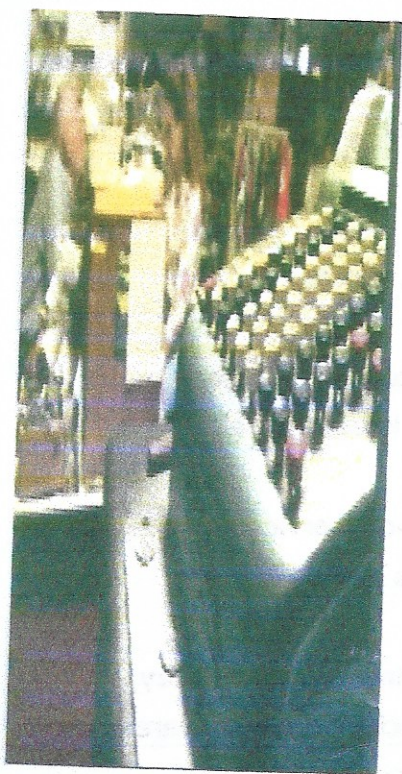
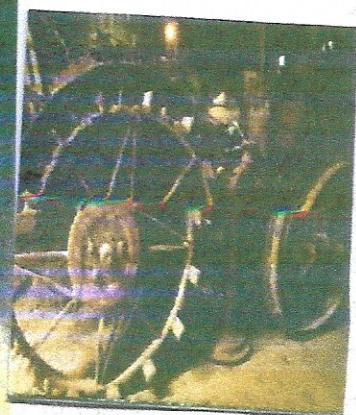
"In a few years, little businesses like these will be all gone. Only the national chains will be left. Everything is now made in China and I'm not sure that's such a good thing. If we had to pay rent, we couldn't stay in business."

What keeps Jenkins in business is his customers, he said.

"We're providing a service," he said. "We have stock people need and they don't have to go out of town to get it – gas is expensive."

In addition, the store is full of old-fashioned friendly service and there's no walking around for 20 minutes trying to find a store associate.

Better than a museum, Jenkins Hardware is a living piece of history, which honors a family's legacy and that of all blacksmiths who were once the lifeblood of each and every community in America.





Walking into Jenkins Hardware was like stepping back in time.



"Mr. Jimmy", as he is respectfully known to those who were frequently in his store.

# James Henry Jenkins

JULY 21, 1927 - JUNE 7, 2017

Oberlin-James "Jimmie" Jenkins, age 89, went home to be with Jesus around midnight, June 7, 2017. Mr. Jimmie was born July 21, 1927, the fourth son of the late Ivor and Emma Jenkins. Some of Mr. Jimmie's earliest memories of Oberlin were of gravel streets, traveling every Sunday after church to his Grandma Wild's home in Elton and listening to his Grandfather Wild pray in German. Mr. Jimmie's dad, Ivor Jenkins, and his Uncle Henry opened a blacksmith shop in Oberlin to serve the local cotton farmers. They fashioned a cotton gin and repaired farm machinery. Mr. Jimmie remembers that it cost ten cents to sharpen a plow's turning point. What would eventually become Jenkins Hardware, also operated a steam engine to run a sawmill that made and sold planks. Being the youngest, Mr. Jimmie got assigned to help out in the store, mostly doing the bookwork in those early days.

Mr. Jimmie served in the U.S. Navy after high school and was stationed at Naval Air Facility, Adak, Alaska, for part of that time. After completion of his naval service, he then went on to study business at Southwest LA Institute (SLI), now known as UL in Lafayette, and returned home to help run Jenkins Hardware with his brother Norman Jenkins, now deceased. It was at this time that he met Ann Nash of Winnfield, LA; they married March 29, 1956.

Mr. Jimmie was co-owner of Jenkins Hardware. He was an active member of Oberlin Methodist Church and regular attender of Sunday evening services at Oberlin Baptist Church. Mr. Jimmie was also honored to serve as Grand Marshall of the Allen Parish Fair Parade in 2014.

Mr. James H. Jenkins, Sr. is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Ann; three children: James, Jr. (Karen) of Springfield, IL, Laura (Dr. Charles) Reed of Winnsboro, LA, and Terry (Patsy) of Lafayette, LA. Also known as Paw-Paw, Mr. Jimmie is survived by six adoring grandchildren: Natalie (Justin) Albertson, Amy Jenkins, Emily Reed, Dr. Kelly Reed (Brad) Lodgen, Charles "Chas" Reed (fiancée Whitney McGuire), and Jordan Jenkins. Mr. Jimmie is survived by two sisters-in-laws, their daughters, and their daughters' families: Margorie Jenkins of Orange Beach, AL, her daughter Barbie (Ken) Francez and family, and Helen Jenkins of Eunice, LA, her daughter Jeanne (Randy) Soileau and family.

Mr. Jimmie was preceded in death by his parents, Ivor and Emma Jenkins; also his three brothers Raymond, Norman, and William "Dub" Jenkins.

## My Dear Sister, Relia Fontenot Sliman

She was born on Saturday June 16, 1923 to Clodies Fontenot and Barbara Ellen Gordon Relia and her sister, Ethel, grew up close to each other. She was the big sister, and Ethel followed her around.

After their parents divorced, they would go to spend time with their father, and almost always went together, riding the school bus to Kingsfarm as far as the driver would take them, then walking the dusty road the rest of the way, about 2 miles where their father lived.

Sometimes they would visit Cousin Eva Fontenot Deshotel in Fenton overnight. Cousin Eva said she could see them both walking through the tall grass through the field, with only their heads showing above the grass. She would never know they were coming until she saw their heads bobbing up and down, making their way to her house.

When Relia started dating as a teenager, her sisters, Ethel and Margie, would read her "Love letters", and then tease her.

She would get so upset, and say "Mama, make them leave my letters alone."

One of her boyfriends would put a couple sticks of chewing gum in her letters, and her sisters would steal them before she could read her letters.

Relia married Mackie Sliman at age 16, and raised 4 children. She and Mackie were married by Rev. Paul M. Fuselier, pastor of the Catholic Church in Kinder.

Witnesses were: Stella "Sliman" Doyle, Everette "Buck" Doyle, and Charlie Richard. Mackie was the son of Mack Sliman, Sr and Leola Ledet. He was killed on his job in January 1967.

Relia loved her husband very much, and never quite got over his accidental death.

Although she later remarried, she was never really happy, and that marriage ended in divorce. She practiced the Pentecostal Faith all her life.

She worked as a clerk and cashier for a large supermarket in Kinder for many years, and was well known and like by Kinder people.

She also worked for the Allen Action Agency, after leaving the Supermarket.

Relia suffered occasional severe headaches for many years, which would trigger some tempermental outbursts on occasions, but she was kind and generous almost to a fault.

In early 1986, she was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor, had surgery, but never regained health enough to return home.

She died in a Care Center nine months later, having gone into a coma for her last few months. Her sister, Ethel, was working as a nurse in that same Nursing Home and helped care for Relia during those months.

Relia was bedridden and required total nursing care. In the first half of her illness, she was alert and knew everyone, and she and Ethel usually managed to have a few laughs together, and share some pleasant conversation.

Relia always asked to go home.

God honored her request and took her to a better home.

She was sadly missed by her whole family.

Written by her loving sister: Ethel Fontenot Sacker



Query:

I have been assigned the task of finding a living relative for Lela Kanouse Walters, born 1901, died 1999. She is the daughter of William Kanouse and Daisy Platts Kanouse.

Daisy was William's second wife. William was shot to death in 1916 (circumstances unclear), and Daisy may have remarried. Daisy died in 1955. In 2003, you had posted on genealogy.com that Daisy Platts Kanouse is buried in Harmony Cemetery, Allen Parish, LA.

I am trying to find a sibling, a half sibling, or perhaps another child. Any assistance you can provide would be very much appreciated.

Answer to query on William A. Kanouse

In searching the records of the First Congregational Church of Kinder, the following information was found..

1. Mrs. Daisy Kanouse joined the church by letter on 17 April 1910

2. Miss Della Kanouse joined the church by conf. on 3 August 1911 (assuming "Conf." stands for Confirmation).

The cemetery records were first recorded/maintained by Rev. Paul Leeds, Pastor, First Congregational Church in Kinder for some 65 years, in his handwriting. Brother Leeds wrote that Lot 37, Row 7, Section A, was purchased by W. A. Platts (paid for on 13 June 1916) for the sum of \$10.00 (the lot contained 4 burial spaces).

The records show the burial of Will A. Kanouse on 28 May 1916.

Rev. Leeds wrote that Will was born in 1865 and for the cause of death wrote "shot". FYI, the other 3 burial spaces in Lot 37 show Alma Doiron (reserved for later), Carl E. Doiron (1966) and James Doiron (1962).

There were no other records to indicate when the tombstone was placed on the grave, or by whom, or when/where purchased.

The headstone reads William A. Kanouse 1873= 1916.

We hope this helps in your research.

Kinder Cemetery Association

William Kanouse

Born: 1861, Easton Township; Ionia County, MI

Died: May 26, 1916 in Kinder, Allen Parish, Louisiana

Article submitted by: Julianne Kanouse Burns of Michigan

William Kanouse was my paternal great uncle. My paternal grandfather, Burton Kanouse and William were brothers. There was 12 years difference between the two, and from information gathered from our family, my grandfather cared deeply for his elder brother. Some how, for some reason, William ended up in Louisiana sometime after 1896 (the year his first wife died), and married Daisy Platts of the Kinder area. There was a 19 year difference in William and Daisy's age.

William and Daisy had two daughters, Della Lee born 1900; and Lela Joy born 1909. William Kanouse was 55 years of age when he died. Four months after his death, his oldest daughter, Della went North to live with my grandparents, where she stayed until her marriage. And then in 1923 or 1924, Lela (the youngest) went North to be raised by my grandparents, also. Neither girl returned to Kinder; they both changed their middle names to Kanouse; some of their early legal records in Ionia list my grandfather as their father; they both were married twice, and neither had children of their own that I have been able to determine. Until my paternal aunt died at the age of 95, who was the same age as Lela, and who lived in her parent's home, my generation were not aware of the connection between William, Della, and Lela. We always thought that Della and Lela were distant relatives, who were friends with my aunt. To some degree that was true....we did know that my grandparents had raised Della and Lela. But we knew nothing of the circumstances, until the attic in the family home divulged documents and newspaper articles reporting William's death.

William Kanouse was shot and killed by Dr. Henry Buck on May 26, 1916, under somewhat strange circumstances, as reported by newspapers of the area. The newspaper stated that the body was to be shipped back to Michigan, but my grandfather, Burton Kanouse, made a trip to Kinder the day after the death, and William Kanouse was buried in the Kinder Cemetery, in a plot purchased by W.A. Platts (paid for on 13 June 1916) for the sum of \$10.00. The lot contained 4 burial spaces. I found out these details through later research. Brother Leeds' Congregational Church records show that Will Kanouse was born in 1865, and cause of death "shot". Congregational church records also showed that Mrs. Daisy Kanouse joined the church by letter on 17 April 1910, and Miss Della Kanouse joined the church by conf. (confession) on 3 August, 1911.

I do have all the court records pertaining to the death. Henry Buck was exonerated of the killing of William Kanouse, finding that he acted in self defense. I became taken with the family story, and 2 years ago made a trip to Kinder to research this family's history. I was a novice in genealogy, and didn't know where to look or what to ask. I visited my uncles' grave in the McRill Cemetery, and did some limited research in the Oberlin Courthouse. After that visit to Kinder, I continued my research, and planned another visit for later. William was a charter member of the Kinder's Freemason Lodge 291 in 1905. He worked for and bought property from the Calcasieu River Irrigation Co. and was

described as a "stationary engineer". He travelled some, apparently with his job, and lived and worked in Clarendon, Arkansas, and Stuttgart, Ark., at Crockett's Bluff at the irrigation plant.

A few months ago, I began inquiries via internet, and contacted several people in the Kinder area, who have been absolutely wonderful about helping with information on this family. I was just trying to learn all I could about this family and how they lived during that time period. I knew a little about Louisiana and Arkansas... the Louisiana Purchase and New Orleans from school. So in my research, I have been learning history about the settlement of these states during this time period, and find it fascinating, especially combined with genealogy, and this family's own particular story.

So, in the last week of April, I made my second trip to Kinder, Louisiana, and have learned more than I ever dreamed of. I met people who had known Daisy Platts, knew the story of her life, her children, where she had lived, some of her habits, like dressing well, and her love of pretty hats and gloves. After the death of Will Kanouse (years later) she married an old childhood boyfriend, Jim Cole. They moved to Vidor, Texas, and lived there, where Daisy died in a Beaumont, Texas hospital. She was brought back to Kinder, and buried in Harmony Cemetery near her parents. I visited my uncle's grave in the McRill Cemetery, and visited Daisy Platts Kanouse Cole's grave in Harmony.

I may never find out why my uncle ended up in Louisiana, and all of the mystery of his death, but it has been a very rewarding quest. I met some wonderful people, who have been so helpful and gracious, and hospitable—and my plans are to return in a couple years—just to visit them and further partake of Louisiana hospitality.

My address is included with this article, and would appreciate any help with my continuing research.

Julianne Kanouse Burns

#### Genealogical notes:

William Kanouse was the s/o Frank P. Kanouse and Adelia M.----- Kanouse of Michigan

He was born: 1861 in Ionia, MI and died May 26, 1916 in Kinder, Louisiana

He is buried: McRill Cemetery Section A: Row 7

Married: (1)----- in: MI

(2) Daisy Platts (d/o Seymour H. Platts and Mary C. Foster) in Kinder, LA

born: Feb. 13, 1880 in: Kinder, LA Died: Sept. 9, 1955 in Beaumont, Texas buried:  
Harmony Cemetery, Allen Parish, LA

They were the parents of 2 children: Della Kanouse b. 1900 and Lela Kanouse b. 1909

## Kanouse Family Story – from Julie

I have been seeking information on Will and Daisy since finding the Louisiana newspapers in my Aunt attic after she passed away in year 2000 – seventeen years. Seeking Will and Daisy's background led me to research Della and Lela, her 2 daughters.

Neither girl had biological children. Della had 2 stepsons, and Lela adopted Monty, and Maurice Jr was a stepson. I found that both girls became estranged from their children. All the children were boys and very successful in their own right.

Both Della and Lela were very successful career women, Della was a successful executive, who had been divorced, and Lela owned her own business and was a divorced, single parent, and their second marriages seemed to be the "love of their lives". As an added bonus, their husbands through their employment had gained a great deal of wealth.

*Both women had beautiful homes, and were often in the public eye. But, as I have learned, neither girl had family close with them at the time of their deaths. My Aunt and my Mother were the last two from that generation. They did not talk about Della and Lela, or their background, nor were any of us encouraged to form a relationship with either girl.*

I look at Della and Lela, moving from Kinder and breaking connection with their mother; being divorced and moving from Ionia; then moving many times during their single and married lives; having to keep their early life a secret .... They did not have a history of cultivating and sustaining relationships.

Lela's one fear was of "being forgotten".

That will not happen now, with her life and that of her sibling and her parents being researched and recorded.

### **Della Kanouse Swander**

A memorial service for Della Kanouse Swander, 87, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 10, 1988, at 1 p.m. at Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church. Mrs. Swander died Aug. 13, at her Grosse Pointe Farms home.

She was born in Louisiana.

She was predeceased by her husband, Homer.

There were no survivors.

The body was cremated, with burial at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Arrangements were handled by the Chas. Verheyden Funeral Home.

### **Della Kanouse Swander**

A memorial service for Della Kanouse Swander, 87, was held on Saturday, Sept. 10, 1988, at Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church. Mrs. Swander died Aug. 13 at her Grosse Pointe Farms home.

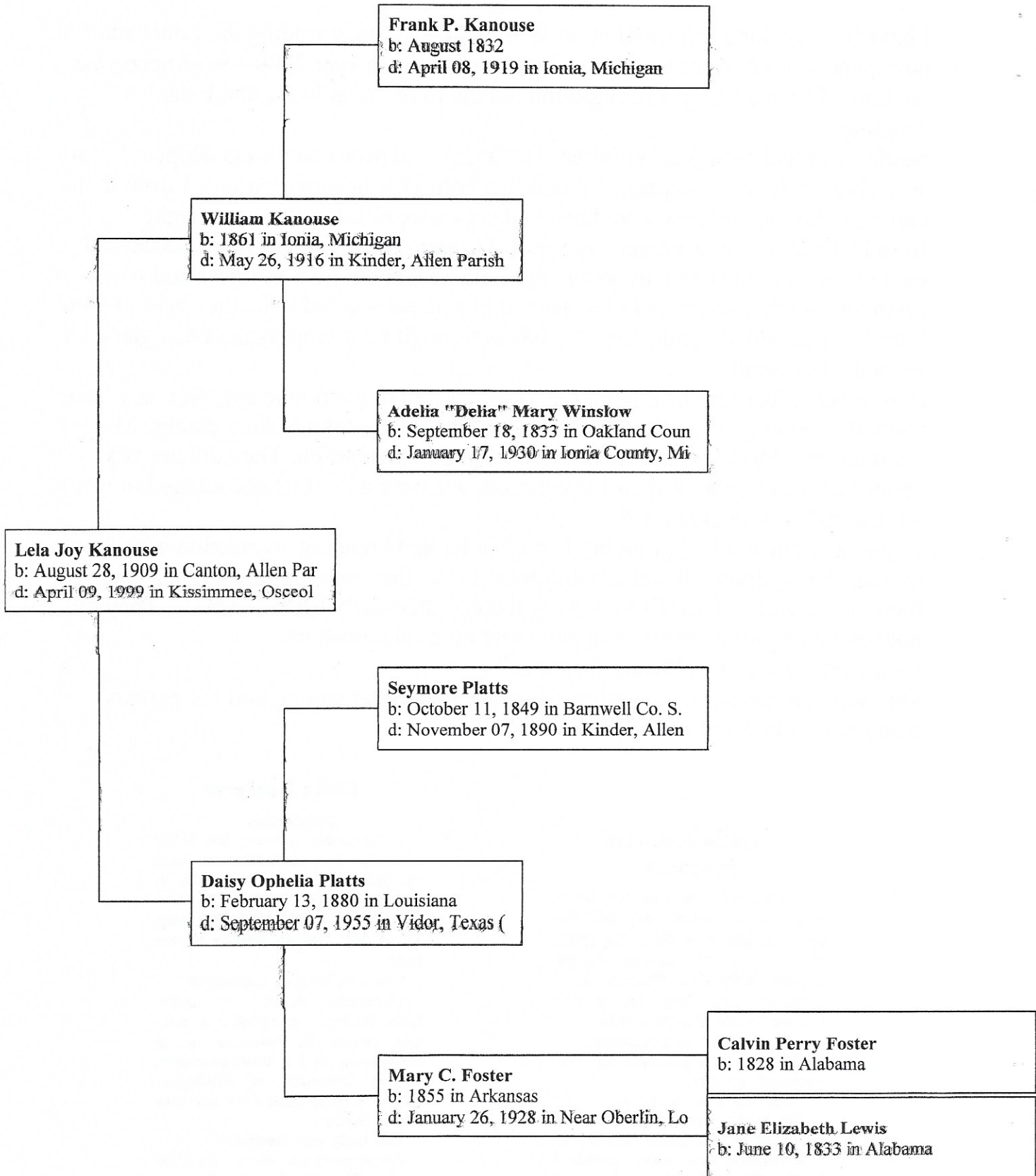
She was born in Louisiana.

Survivors include a sister, Lela Walters, of Florida; a stepson, Homer D. Swander Jr., of California; and a brother-in-law, Robert Swander, of Michigan. She was predeceased by her husband, Homer.

The body was cremated.

Arrangements were handled by the Chas. Verheyden Funeral Home.

*Ancestors of Lela Joy Kanouse*



QUERY FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
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

**2017 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

**TO: ALLEN GENEALOGICAL and HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:**

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# My Family Lineage

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