ALLEN GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July, 2019

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

Issue No. 258



CROSSIONS

COVERING

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

ALLEN GENEALOGICAL and HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2019

President—Betty Sarver Vice president—Durvin LaFleur Secretary/Treasurer/Editor—Fran Clemmons Reporter/Tourism Envoy—Steve Fontenot Obituary Archivist—Carolyn Fontenot Webmaster—Dr. Jon Buck Ford Photojournalist—Wanda Carole Wrinkle Ford

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 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. / e-mail address allenghs.contact@gmail.com

CROSSROADS is published semi — annually. The AGHS website, allenghs.com- has a page dedicated to posting the current issue as well as an archive of previous issues. A hard copy may be mailed by request. Queries may be submitted by mail and also posted on the "Queries" webpage. 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 lowa, 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, the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m., to be held in the genealogy room of the Kinder Library located at 833 4th Street in Kinder, La.

August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, December 4, 2019

Welcome New Members

Dr. Jon Buck Ford, P. O. Box 148, LeBlanc, La. 70651 Carole Wrinkle Ford, P. O. Box 148, LeBlanc, La. 70651

President's Greeting

I am happy to report that since our last publication we have added some new members and new staff members. We have also taken on some new projects that we believe will make our society even better and of benefit to a larger segment of the population.

Dr. Buck Ford and his lovely wife, Carole, have recently retired and moved to Allen Parish. Carole's family roots are in this area and they have done extensive research on both of their families.

Buck has accepted the position of Web-master for the society's new web-site. Carole, a photojournalist, has accepted the job of Photo Archivist since the former member in this position moved away. Carole will be posting photos with comments on the new web-site that will help bring the history of Allen Parish to life.

Everyone has been working diligently in their particular positions and making major accomplishments on their projects. We have a wonderful staff that is committed to the main goal of our society, "Collecting and preserving the history of Allen Parish". I applaud them all!

Betty Sarver

Allen Genealogical and Historical Society President

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

The Allen Genealogical and Historical Society now have a web-site, "allenghs.com" and an e-mail address<allenghs.contact@gmail.com>

The Society welcomes new members, <u>Dr. Jon Buck Ford</u> and his wife <u>Wanda Carole Wrinkle</u> <u>Ford</u> to our group. The couple has recently moved into the LeBlanc, La. community from Texas to be near Carole's parents, Mr.& Mrs. Wallace Wrinkle. Buck and Carole have joined our group "running" so to speak. Buck has web-site experience and agreed to take on the endeavor of getting *AGHS* on line with a web-site as well as an e-mail address. Carole is a photographer and has agreed to be the *AGHS* photojournalist for the web-site.

Please check out the website and click on the links for ON LINE ARTICLES, CEMETERIES (in Allen Parish), CROSSROADS NEWSLETTER & ARCHIVES, QUERIES, WEBSITES OF ALLEN PARISH, AND "THEN & NOW" (photo gallery).

A hard copy of *CROSSROADS* will be printed and mailed to members that request the printed issue. Enclosed with this issue is a preprinted request letter for a hard copy for you to fill out and mail back to *AGHS*.

CROSSROADS is your publication. I encourage each of you to share something of interest about your family history and your family stories with us. Your help with any contribution for publication will greatly be appreciated.

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 4th Street, Kinder, Louisiana at 10:00 A.M. The Society extends an invitation to you to come join us on August 6th, 2019, and bring someone with you. Coffee and fellowship begin when you arrive.

You know you're a genealogist if you evaluate the surnames of acquaintances (along with complete strangers) to see how they might be related!!!

In Honor Of Reverend Seth Baggett Piney Woods Preacher 1901—1985

Information for articles on Rev. Seth Baggett taken from newspaper clippings found in the AGHS archives

"Never was there a preacher like our Brother Baggett" is echoed time and time again in our churches, our homes, and our hearts. Brother Baggett has touched the hearts and lives of almost everyone in this area in a way that will be long remembered.

There are so many wonderful things to say about this man but to quote from his own writings: "May we pray that God will enable us to see Him alone, and may every step upward be recognized as His: for the servant is what he is only by the Grace of God." Brother Baggett lived and breathed these teachings. In every endeavor he ever undertook was always with a prayer to The Lord for guidance. His faith was unshakeable. His life proved his beliefs, always trusting God to provide all his needs, personal as well as physical and spiritual and always giving God the praise and credit.

Seth Baggett is credited with the founding of the Reeves Congregational Church, the First Congregational Church of Dry Creek, and the Pearl Congregational Church of Barnes Creek. In May of 1937, Brother Baggett was invited to preach a service in one of the homes in LeBlanc which led to the organization of the LeBlanc Congregational Church. LeBlanc was noted at this time for its ongoing feuds, but with the creation of the church, people started attending services and many came to know the Lord. Needless to say, the feuds ended.

Between the years of 1936 and 1938 the Piney Woods Preacher was busy trying to put a clinic together in Reeves. With much prayer and supplication, Brother Baggett was able to build a seven room structure with nurse's room furnished, five hospital beds, a kitchen furnished with butane gas stove and heating system, bath room furnished hot and cold water, lab equipment, suction pressure pump, and other supplies. He was able

to have a resident nurse and doctor, but then came the war and both the nurse and doctor were drafted. Brother Baggett made a valiant effort to keep up the center. He imported a Christian physician for spare time work. Brother Baggett learned to administer ether and to assist with other duties, and helped with seven tonsillectomies (total cost for each operation, including one day of hospitalization, \$9.00).

After the clinic project, Brother Baggett immediately went on to construct his own telephone line from Reeves to Kinder – the only major communications link between the two towns. One of the stipulations in the government contract with the telephone company was that a call to Kinder from Reeves or Reeves to Kinder never be considered a long distance call.

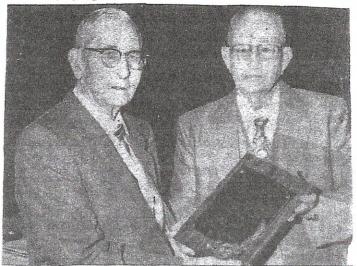
Brother Baggett by assisting in securing right-of-way easements and other necessary papers, and getting subscribers for electricity, driving about 500 miles to get all accomplished, it was then possible for an REA power line to be built across the parish. He said "This has all come through our Lord".

In 1947, to provide headquarters for the ever increasing Christian population of southwestern Louisiana, Brother Baggett felt God's leading to establish a Bible Conference at Barnes Creek. Through one of the "miracles" that he has come to expect in his missionary work a perfect camp site was provided. The camp to this day is ever growing and providing a wonderful ministry for young and old alike.

Brother Baggett's tireless efforts brought about a monumental change in this section of Louisiana. Countless numbers of souls were led to the Lord by this paragon of a man. Reverend Seth Baggett, Piney Woods Preacher, was a man to be respected, admired, and loved.

Rev. Baggett Honored For Lifetime of Service

Beauregard Electric Co-op and the Association of Louisiana Electric Co-op took part in a joint award ceremony in Baton Rouge during a recent regular meeting of the Association's board to present an award to Rev. Seth Baggett, a recently retired member and former president of the Beauregard Electric Co-op Board of directors. The award presented by the board and membership of Beauregard Electric Co-op, was in recognition of his long dedication to helping others. He was elected to serve on the Co-op board in January, 1962, and has been its president from April 6, 1976, until his retirement on November 1, 1983.



Beauregard Co-op Founder

Rev. Baggett was among the founders of the Co-op and first was elected as a member of the Board of Directors in June, 1944, serving a one year term. "Brother Baggett" as his friends affectionately call him, has had a powerful effect on the lives of many people. The award presented him noted this with the motto, "SERVICE ABOVE SELF", the creed that Rev. Seth Baggett has lived by.

The following is recorded highlights by Scooter Simmons, Director of Consumers Affairs, of the life of the rural electric co-op president, Rev. Seth Baggett, after submitting his resignation to the board of Directors on November 1, 1983:

William Seth Baggett was born in the community of Grant, Louisiana on March 24, 1901. He remembered attending the first consolidated school of Sugartown, Louisiana. When he was 12 years old, his family moved just south of Kinder and began farming rice. His dad tried rice farming for about 3 years until he finally decided that if the Lord would've wanted him to farm rice, he would have given him webbed feet to walk around in that water. After the attempt at rice farming, the family moved to the community of Hickory Flat, where Seth stayed until he finished school and married the "prettiest girl

in the whole parish," Mollie Nixon. He and Mollie started their own farm, but soon heard a higher calling. "It seemed like a voice spoke to me and said, Yes you have all this, but there are people dying without God and you aren't doing anything about it." His response to that voice was just the beginning of a life given to helping others. Shortly after he and Mollie committed their lives to the ministry, he was accepted into Moody Bible Institute in Chicago.

In making the award presentation, Leon Stracener of Sugartown summed up Brother Baggett's lifetime of service with the comment "He's always thinking of other people."

Rev. Baggett served as an example of unselfish leadership to all who knew him. A conservation program he started is still used in area schools.

William Seth Baggett Pioneered and started the Reeves Independent Congregational Church, served in the Kinder Congregational Church and other area churches. He was instrumental in telephone service and natural gas in the Reeves – Kinder area.

Services Held for Pioneer Board Member

Funeral services for Reverend William Seth Baggett were held at 2 p.m., July 20, in Camp Pearl Cemetery near Bel, Louisiana. Reverend Baggett died Wednesday, July 17, in Baton Rouge.

Rev. Baggett, a Congregational minister, was born in the community of Grant in 1901, where he was raised on a farm. He attended the first consolidated school when his parents moved to Sugartown.

He later married Mollie Nixon and started his own farm, but soon left for Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, where he began a lifetime of helping others.

One of the founders of Beaure-gard Electric Co-op, he served on the Board of Directors for over 22 years, acting as President of the co-op from 1976 until his retirement in 1983. In 1984, he was honored by the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives and presented an award that was engraved with a motto that he lived by, "Service Above Self."

If friends wish, they may make contributions to the Seth and Mollie Baggett Memorial Fund, designated for the continuance of Camp Pearl.



REV. WM. SETH BAGGETT

memorial poem

BROTHER SETH BAGGETT

In 1933 Brother Baggett began preaching in this area land. Everyone loved this "Preacher man." He knew the Bible from A to Z.



In Barnes Creek he baptized me. When called to preach-no matter how far. Paid no attention to bad roads or wear on his car. Myself and others have heard Brother Baggett say: "I would like to be preaching a funeral when the Lord comes one day." Saving Souls became quite a habit. We'll always remember

William Seth Baggett"

Zoe L. Reeves

THE WAY WE WERE:

When Bro. Baggett came to Reeves in 1933, the goats and briars had taken over the old Methodist church where he preached his first sermon in March: It was June 27 that the church was begun.

In the meantime, services were begun on Barnes Creek to help the ones who did not have transportation to Reeves. That was when Bro. Baggett baptized me, along with other friends, in Barnes Creek behind what is now Camp Pearl.

The old Barnes Creek building is now

on the grounds at Camp Pearl.

When Bro. Baggett came to Reeves in 1933, most people were not concerned about attending church. it was new to everyone, and I enjoyed it all. We surely could "lift the rafters" when we sang. When Bro. Baggett preached a sermon, he really got down to business.

My best friend in the early days of the church was Elsie Reeves. We rode her Dad's school bus to Reeves to church and also to Dry Creek to a revival.

I just wanted to share my thoughts on the old days of the church. Fifty years have seen many changes, and we thank the Lord for the nice, big, modern church He has given us.

- Zoe Reeves

"Washing Clothes Recipe"----imagine having a recipe for this!!! Years ago a Texas grandmother gave the new bride the following recipe: This is an exact copy as written and found in an old scrapbook, spelling errors and all.

WARSHING CLOTHES

Build fire in backyard to heat kettle of rain water. Set tubs so smoke wont blow in eyes if wind is pert.

Shave one hole cake of lie soap in boilin water.

Sort things, make 3 piles---1 pile white, 1 pile colored, 1 pile work britches and rags.

To make starch, stir flour in cool water to smooth, then thin down with boilin water.

Take white things, rub dirty spots on board, scrub hard and boil, then rub colored don't boil just wrench and starch.

Take things out of kettle with broom stick handle, then wrench, and starch.

Hang old rags on fence.

Spread tea towels on grass.

Pour wrench water in flower bed. Scrub porch with hot soapy water. Turn tubs upside down.

Go put on clean dress, smooth hair with hair combs. Brew cup of tea, sit and rock a spell and count your blessings.



THE JOHNSONS'



The Johnsons'

George Hebert "Kib" Johnson and Kathryn Simmons Johnson

Information for article taken from newspaper clipping found in AGHS archives written by Laura Jayne/Flair editor

Kib and Kathryn Johnson met quite a few years ago in Mississippi, when Kib was teaching Earth Science at Kathryn's high school. While Kib was explaining the movements of the planets around the sun, Kathryn was falling in love. She made a comment, "It took me seven years to convince him I was the one. I had to go away to Mississippi State Teachers College and come back again to convince him."

Mr. Johnson "Kib", of Reeves, La. graduated from Reeves High School in 1925 and attended La. State Normal College in Natchitoches, La. In 1928 he went to Progess, Miss, taught for two years and was principal the last year. He returned to Allen Parish and taught in Fairview and Oakdale. He went to Rayne and in 1944-45 was the football coach to the State Championship that year. He returned to Reeves in 1945 and became principal 1946. He received his master's degree from LSU in 1947.

Mrs. Kathryn Johnson taught English, and reading at the Reeves School. She was also a full-time librarian before retiring from teaching in 1972. She stated that she got into her careers because of her husband. She went away to college after first meeting Kib, and deciding that if she was going to marry him, it would probably be a good idea to be in the same profession. She said that God put her in the classroom and made her love it. The school where she was teaching needed a qualified librarian or someone working on their library science degree in order to get accreditation from the Southern Association. Mr. Johnson thought his wife would like it, so Mrs. Johnson went back to school for library science. She worked part-time in the library for a few years, and then ended up working full-time in the library for three years before retiring.

Because of health reasons, Mr. Johnson retired in 1972 and Mrs. Johnson retired along with him. He loved being retired, but Mrs. Johnson "loathed it." Her retirement didn't last long. In Oberlin, the State Department of Human Development needed a social worker for about six months to fill a vacancy which was offered to Mr. Johnson, but Mrs. Johnson took it. She loved the job and decided to try to get on permanently, so

she took the civic service exam and ended up being a social worker, visiting people's houses, making sure they had enough food, money, and clothes.

In spite of the busy careers, Mrs. Johnson found time to write and paint and did even more after she retired. She wrote the book, "Patteran", a biography about the life of the Rev. Paul Leeds, founder and pastor of the First Congregational Church of Kinder. She said it was one of the things she was most proud of and also the different students she taught over the years. The walls of their unique home in Reeves were adorned with pictures and collages she put together. They built their home together. The front of the house faced the back yard and a pond with a slanted roof and comfortable porch overlooking the pond. The upper level of the house was a library full of books and collections. They collected over the years—bottles, elephants, stamps, coins, rocks, masses of collections.

The Johnsons loved to travel and went all over the United States. Being a principal, the only way they were allowed to take summers off was if they were going to school, so they enrolled in summer programs all over the place, from Wyoming to Colorado to Montana.

Mrs. Johnson said when she went back to college for her library science degree, they looked at her transcripts and saw about fifteen different universities and colleges.

The Johnsons were involved with ELDERHOSTAL, a program for people over 60 who can travel and take courses at different universities all over the world.

The Johnsons were the parents of one son, Kim, and grandparents of three. They loved Reeves, La. where they were members of the Reeves Independent Congregational Church. Mrs. Johnson said the church was the pivot of their lives in Reeves. They both considered themselves lucky with a lifetime of happy memories behind them. Mrs. Johnson passed away in 2000, and Mr. Johnson passed away in 2002. They are both buried in the Lyles Cemetery, Reeves, La.

THE LITTLE STORE

Interview for "Entre Nous" with Della Ortego taken by Eleanor LaFargue published in Kinder Courier

Fonzie had "Arnold's, Lake Charles had "Tom and Mac's", but only Kinder had "The Little Store." Of course, Della Ortego's name is synonymous with the name of her mother and dad's store. The Little Store opened sometime in the forties, and was located across the street from the Kinder Elementary School, but at the time was also Kinder High School. Della helped her mom operate the store for many years even as a little girl, and shared many memories that are sweet to many that went to school in Kinder.

At noon you could pick up a hamburger for five cents, pop in a big bottle for a nickel, and homemade pies by Mrs. Lilly Ortego for ten cents. Some of the famous patrons were Glen Hanchey, who was principal in the early years, then later Mr. Salter. Mrs. Annie Rogers, Ruth Green, Fred Allen, and a Mr.Smith, the first band teacher, were the other faculty members that would come over for coffee. Della remembered being in the sixth grade when Mrs. Green was getting married, and the class gave her a shower at the store, and of course her mother furnished refreshments.

Many courtships developed over a "pop" at the little store. One in particular was Wilma Darbonne and Alvin Nevils, which later resulted in marriage. Unfortunately, Alvin was Kinder's first fatality of World War II. Della also remembers Justine Coekran and Marius Griffiths beginning their courtship in those days.

No one had thought of Master Charge or Visa in those days, but you were allowed to run a tab. The rules were parental approval, and you must pay your account in full each week. A third generation, Margaret Richard Vincent remembers her grandmother keeping the accounts in a special notebook. She said you would just call out, "put a candy bar on my bill."

Being directly across from the basketball court, Della was privy to all goings on at school. She remembers when Lester Armand came to coach the first basketball team,

Lula Bell, Betty LaFargue, Lurlene Smith, and Lurlene Moreau, high school students then, all were great admirers of the new young teacher.

Della left The Little Store to work at the famous Joy Theater during the early years. At times, she worked both places, rotating her hours. She remembers training many Kinder alumni for positions at the theater. Some of her class included Rita Leger, Margaret(her niece), and Carolyn Burgess. She commented that it is really sad that the kids of today don't have a "picture show" in Kinder anymore. She said the show would open a 2:45 pm and by 3:15pm there would be a complete sell out. They had jack-pot drawings every Tuesday. On Thursday, the merchants would give passes.

After twenty years at the theater, Della went on to the "Yellow Jacket Inn", which became a very popular hang out for the kids of the late fifties and early sixties. She left there after a few years and was employed at "Mr. G's" for twenty-two years.

Della is loved and remembered by everyone for her very good sense of humor.

If you don't recount your family history, it will be lost, Honor your own stories and tell them too. The tales may not seem very important, but they are what binds families and makes each of as who we are...

Learning family history is the key to unlocking who we are...

CLERY STOLE

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Send Curries for: Allen Geneelogical and Historical Society, P. O. Box 769, Kindler, Louisiana 70368

2019 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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