

EARLY HISTORY OF THE CITY OF LAKE CHARLES.

Written by Hon. Geo. H. Wells, and

Deposited in the Corner Stone of the New Episcopal Church Last Sunday.

The city of Lake Charles has an area of six square miles, and fronts north, south and west, on a nearly circular lake, about two miles in diameter, also called Lake Charles. The Calcasieu river flows along the west side of that lake, and the water of the lake mingles with that of the river.

The first white settler here was Charles Sallier, who is said to have been a native of Italy. He settled on the southeastern shore of Lake Charles about A. D. 1808, and as the subsequent settlers commonly called him "Mr. Charles," the lake and the settlement upon its banks were named after him.

About A. D. 1829 some four hundred United States soldiers, under the command of Major Burch, established a garrison on the northeastern shore of Lake Charles, and remained there about three years.

Always prior to A. D. 1801 the settlement on the lake shore was called Lake Charles. In that year, by an act of the Louisiana state legislature, the inhabitants of that settlement, residing within certain boundary lines, were incorporated as the town of Charleston.

In 1807, by an act of the state legislature, drawn up by the writer hereof, the inhabitants of the town of Charleston were incorporated under the name of the town of Lake Charles. There is no other post office of that name in the United States.

In June, 1806, when the writer hereof located here, there was only one store in the town—then called Charleston—and it contained less than one hundred dollars worth of merchandise. A small, unpainted wooden building, known and occupied as the Catholic church, was the only church edifice in the town. It was on the site of the present and new Catholic church building, near the corner of Ryan and Kirby streets.

The oldest living inhabitant of Lake Charles is Mr. Jacob Ryan, who was born February 13, 1816. He came here in A. D. 1850, and the same year commenced the erection of his dwelling house on the same spot ever since occupied as his family residence, fronting the lake, at the foot of Broad street, on the south side of that street. He is and has always been one of the most respected citizens of Lake Charles, and the writer hereof is greatly indebted to him for his assistance in the preparation of the above brief sketch of the earlier history of Lake Charles.

In 1807 the total population of Lake Charles did not exceed four hundred. The town had then no newspaper, no railroad and no telegraph line.

The railroad from New Orleans, La., via Lake Charles, to Houston, Texas, was completed in March, 1880, and the first passenger train thereon from Lake Charles was run as an excursion train to Orange, Texas, March 26, 1880. The construction of that railroad, now forming from New Orleans to San Francisco, and thence into Oregon, what is known as the Southern Pacific Railway system, marked the first notable advance in the population and business of Lake Charles.

By an amended charter, adopted by a popular vote of its citizens in A. D. 1895, the town of Lake Charles became the city of Lake Charles.

To-day Lake Charles has nine church edifices, respectively designated as the Catholic church, the Methodist Episcopal church south (two), the First Baptist church, the German Lutheran church, the (Episcopal), Church of the Good Shepherd, the First Congregational church, and the Christian church, and four or five church buildings owned and occupied by Baptist and Methodist colored people. The Methodist Episcopal church people here have a regular organization, and regular church services, but no church edifice of their own. The members of the (Episcopal), Church of the Good Shepherd are now erecting a new church edifice, and its completion will be held to-day.

The last day of the school at Mt. Marion will be long remembered by all who attended its closing.

CORNICES, WINDOW CAPS, CRESTINGS, FINIALS, SKYLIGHTS, ETC. Corrugated and "V" Crimped, Painted and Galvanized. ROOFING!

—the latter completed to Alexandria, La.; three bank buildings, of the Watkins Banking Company, the First National Bank and the Calcasieu Bank; one telegraph line, the Western Union, and two telephone lines; two street car lines; combined electric, ice manufacturing and water works establishment; a fire department composed of five companies; six printing offices, respectively publishing the Lake Charles Echo, the Lake Charles Commercial, the American, the National Republican, and the Calcasieu Blade, all weeklies, and the Lake Charles Press, daily and weekly; one college building, the Lake Charles college; two public schools and several private schools; the convent of the Mariante Sisters of Holy Cross; five steam saw mills and two steam shingle mills; one foundry establishment; several wood-working manufactories; two brick and tile making plants; two steam laundry buildings; one steam rice mill; one steam ferry boat, plying between the city of Lake Charles and the town of Westlake; five hotels and several restaurants; the parish (of Calcasieu) court house; a city hall; one military company of the First Regiment of the state militia, the Lake Charles Light Guards; about twelve Sunday schools; and several associations and societies, among which are the Board of Trade, Master Masons, Royal Arch Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Honor, Knights of Pythias, American Legion of Honor, Woodmen of the World, Ancient Order of United Workmen, German Benevolent Association, Calcasieu Camp No. 62, United Confederate Veterans, and the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Laying of the Corner Stone of the New Episcopal Church. Lake Charles and vicinity furnished an audience of about one thousand last Sunday afternoon to witness the laying of the corner stone of the new Episcopal Church building, corner Kirkman and Division streets. The impressive ceremonies were conducted Bishop Seassums, of New Orleans, and assisted by Rev. Joseph H. Spearling, the beloved and honored pastor of the Episcopal church. The Bishop's address on this occasion was one of the ablest and most eloquent addresses ever delivered before an audience in the Lake City.

The following is the list of articles deposited and sealed in the corner stone, to-wit: Copy of entries under the heading, "History," in the parochial register of the Church of the Good Shepherd, giving a condensed history of the church. Copy of minutes of the meeting of the congregation on the 8th day of April, 1896, at which meeting the mission was organized into a parish and it was definitely determined to build the proposed stone church.

List of the members of the congregation of the Church of the Good Shepherd. Printed copy of the Journal of the Diocesan Council held in Christ Church, New Orleans, La., April 15, 16 and 17, 1896, containing the address of the Rt. Rev. Davis Seassums, D. D., Bishop of Louisiana, to the council, the proceedings of the council, list of churches and clergy in Louisiana, the diocese of and reports from all churches for the year 1895-1896.

List of teachers, officers and scholars of Sunday school of the Church of the Good Shepherd. List of the officers and members of the Ladies' Guild. Copy of the inscriptions on the corner stone.

Copies of the following papers, viz: The American of August 19, 1886, containing a cut of the present place of worship on Hodges street and of the new building taken from the plans; the Daily Press of August 13, 1890, containing an account of the breaking of ground for the foundation of the new church on August 12, 1890; The American of October 28, 1896; the Lake Charles Commercial of October 31, 1896; the Lake Charles Echo of October 30, 1896; the National Republican of October 30, 1896; the Daily Press of October 31, 1896; Special Edition of the Press of 1895, and a bird's-eye view of Lake Charles and of Calcasieu pass, taken in 1895; the Diocese of Louisiana for October, 1896.

The following churches furnished histories of their respective congregations: First Presbyterian church, Rev. C. W. Lyman, pastor. Hodges street M. E. church, Rev. Harris, pastor. First Congregational church, Rev. B. H. Barbeau, pastor. Broad street M. E. church, Rev. R. J. Harp, pastor. Jackson street M. E. church, Rev. Neil, pastor.

The following named orders and societies furnished copies of constitution and by-laws, rolls of officers and members and history of their respective organizations: Lake Charles Lodge No. 105, F. & A. M. Lake Chapter No. 37, R. A. M. Anchor Lodge No. 50, I. O. O. F. Geosport Lodge No. 75, I. O. O. F. George Washington Lodge No. 74, I. O. O. F. Westlake. Noah Encampment No. 10, I. O. O. F. Apollo Lodge No. 3751, K. of H. Reliance Lodge No. 3278, K. of H. Hope Council No. 1112, A. L. of H. Mount Hope Tent No. 1, K. of the Macabees.

Miscellaneous — Envelope containing \$100 Confederate States note dated August 12, 1862, with interest at two cents per day; \$5 Louisiana State, 1863; \$1 Louisiana State note, 1864; \$1 Confederate States note, December, 1862. Deposited by Capt. Haskell—Confederate states 20-cent postage stamp; piece of stone from Pulpit Rock, Clark Isle, Plymouth Bay, one 25 and 50 cent piece of 1899.

History of Lake Charles, by Geo. H. Wells, Esq. Sandy coins of coinage of 1899. Sandy postage stamps, of 1899. The stone after being laid has three faces exposed, on each side of which are inscriptions. The first side reads as follows: Jos. H. Spearling, Rector. Geo. Lock, Senior Warden. J. G. Martin, Junior Warden. Vestry—Geo. W. Law, Wm. H. Altherston, W. J. Martin, Arad Thompson, C. Banker, J. H. Tuttle, W. Overton, M. F. Parot.

The second side bears the inscription, "1896," under which is a cross and the words, "Church of the Good Shepherd" Mission, 1895. Parish organized 1896." The third side bears the following: G. W. Law, W. J. Martin, Arad Thompson, building committee. C. W. Baizer, architect. McKnight Brothers, builders.

Jim, they are after you, ten or twelve strong.

Closing of Mt. Marion School.

Dry Creek, La., October 20, '96. MARRIAGE LAKE CHARLES COMMERCIAL.

Last Thursday Mr. Sam Miller closed his school at Mt. Marion. The day was fine. Sam had taken a few days time to prepare a treat for all. Notice was given the Sunday before that there would be dinner on the grounds and everybody was invited. Your correspondent knowing that Sam never does things by halves attended the closing exercises.

At 10 a. m. Mr. J. J. W. Miller was called to the chair, and after a few well chosen words introduced Miss Zoe Miller, who delivered the address of welcome in a manner which would have done credit to many a one of more mature years. Dr. Geo. H. Lupton responded, and the work commenced in good earnest.

The music was very fine; the singing being conducted by Mr. Berry Deer. The morning was given over to the little ones who, one and all, did well. At 12:30 dinner was called. There was food for about six hundred on the table, which was about ninety feet long. There being only about four hundred and fifty people present, large and small, there was enough for all and much to spare. After dinner the school bell rang and again the house was crowded and the large ones came to the front. Space will not permit us to mention all the good and grand points. Miss McPater and Miss Havens did themselves justice in their special parts. Mr. Sam Miller made some good hits whenever he happened to be on the boards, and none would have thought when looking at him in the midst of laughter and mirth which he caused, that he, the jovial Sam, would bring tears to the eyes of many of the strong and manly who heard him deliver his valedictory, after which Mr. J. J. W. Miller stepped to the front, when a vote of thanks was offered and carried. The crowd then separated for their homes. We did not hear one word or see one act which would in any way mar the pleasures of the day.

The last day of the school at Mt. Marion will be long remembered by all who attended its closing.

Material is being placed on the Barbo property, corner Hodges and Pujos streets, for the erection of a handsome residence cottage.

All Saints Day, Sunday last, was observed by the usual services in the Catholic church. In the afternoon the cemetery was visited by many of our citizens, and wreaths of flowers were placed upon the tombs of departed relatives. The day was a most pleasant one.

Material is being placed on the Barbo property, corner Hodges and Pujos streets, for the erection of a handsome residence cottage.

CANDY! To celebrate the Trade of sample boxes of all Fine and Fancy Candies and confections of all kinds, wholesale and retail, in the city of Lake Charles, La. Write to the Candy Store, 101 N. Third St., Lake Charles, La.

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Great Inducements OFFERED BY Sol Bloch HIS ENTIRE STOCK GOING AT VERY LOW FIGURES FOR CASH! Call Early and Secure Bargains!

Fall Opening! LADIES ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO EXAMINE MY FALL STOCK OF PATTERN HATS AND BONNETS, AND NOVELTIES IN HIGH ART MILLINERY. MISS H. SCALLEY.

EDDY BROS. Wish their friends and patrons to look over their Large Stock of Winter Dress Goods, MOHAIRS, HENRIETTES, SURGES, PLADS, BROCADES, STORM SURGES, CAMEL'S HAIRS, NOVELTIES, ETC., that they have brought for their patrons, besides we have over Twenty-five Colors in Velvets. Our Notion Department is filled and we wish your patronage. Come and see us and examine our Goods and Prices. We will make it pay you. Yours, The Eddy Bros.

P. S.—A Choice Line of Wool Suits for Small Boys.

NEW LINE HARNESS and SADDLERY, Lake Charles Carriage and Implement Co., limited.

Fall Tips in Your Favor. If you want to know all there is worth knowing about the High Quality and the Low Prices? VISIT CHAS. G. HEBERT. Men and Boys Clothing, Gents' Furnishing Goods, Hats, Etc.

CHAS. G. HEBERT. Men and Boys Clothing, Gents' Furnishing Goods, Hats, Etc. SOLE AGENT FOR THE MILLER HATS.

Sheriff's Sale. Twelfth Judicial District Court, Parish of Calcasieu, State of Louisiana.—No. 2627. Deenoyers Shoe Co., vs. Poe & Bahel. BY VIRTUE of a writ of fieri facias issued to and to me directed by the Honorable Court aforesaid, I have seized and will offer for sale, at public auction, to the last and highest bidder, with the benefit of appraisement, as the Court House door of this parish, in the city of Lake Charles, Parish of Calcasieu, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, November 7th, 1896, between legal hours, the following described property, situated in the Parish of Calcasieu, State of Louisiana, and described as follows, to-wit: Lots Nine (9), Ten (10), Eleven (11), Fourteen (14), Fifteen (15) and sixteen (16), of the southeast quarter, and the east half of the southwest quarter of section Nine (9), Township Eight (8), south of Range Seven (7) West, containing 90 acres, more or less, together with all the rights, ways and privileges to the same belonging. Seized under said writ. Terms:—Cash on day of sale. A. L. LYONS, Sheriff of Calcasieu Parish, La. Sheriff's Office, Lake Charles, Louisiana, August 22nd, 1896. W. H. Taylor, Esq., Atty for Plaintiff. (Oct. 3, 1896.-8).

Sheriff's Sale. Twelfth Judicial District Court, Parish of Calcasieu, State of Louisiana.—No. 2631 and 2777. Cincinnati and Lake Charles, La., Land Co. vs. Franklin W. Joliet. BY VIRTUE of a writ of fieri facias issued to and to me directed by the Honorable Court aforesaid, I have seized and will offer for sale, at public auction, to the last and highest bidder, without the benefit of appraisement, at the Court House door of this parish, in the city of Lake Charles, Calcasieu parish, La., on Saturday, November 14, 1896, between legal hours, the following described property, to-wit: That certain piece or parcel of land lying West of Front Street, sometimes called Lake Street, and North of Pujos Street, by one hundred feet (100 ft.), in depth, measuring back West between parallel lines, together with all the buildings and improvements, consisting of a two-story frame building called the City Market, and wharves adjacent to said building, also other buildings on said wharf belonging to said property. Seized under said writ. Terms:—This being the second offering the above described property will be sold for whatever it will bring, on a credit of twelve months, purchaser to furnish bond with good and solvent security, with eight per cent. per annum interest from date until paid; costs and taxes amounting to \$20.00, more or less, to be paid cash out of price bid. Sheriff of Calcasieu Parish, La. Sheriff's Office, Lake Charles, Louisiana, October 22nd, 1896. W. H. Taylor, Esq., Atty for Plaintiff. (Oct. 24, '96).

Sheriff's Sale. Twelfth Judicial District Court, Parish of Calcasieu, State of Louisiana.—No. 2606. Moses Lobe & Sons vs. Poe & Bahel. BY VIRTUE of a writ of fieri facias issued to and to me directed by the Honorable Court aforesaid, I have seized and will offer for sale, at public auction, to the last and highest bidder, with the benefit of appraisement, at the Court House door of this parish, in the city of Lake Charles, Parish of Calcasieu, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, November 14, 1896, between legal hours, the following described property, to-wit: The southeast quarter of section Twenty-six (26) and the Northwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of section Thirty-five (35) Township Eight (8) South, Range Ten (10) West, containing 80 acres, together with all the rights, ways and privileges to the same belonging or in any way appertaining thereto. Seized under said writ. Terms:—This being the second offering the above described property will be sold for whatever it will bring, on a credit of twelve months, purchaser to furnish bond with good and solvent security, with eight per cent. per annum interest from date until paid; costs and taxes amounting to \$65.10, more or less, to be paid cash out of price bid. Sheriff of Calcasieu Parish, La. Sheriff's Office, Lake Charles, Louisiana, October 22nd, 1896. W. H. Taylor, Esq., Atty for Plaintiff. (Oct. 24, 1896).

Sheriff's Sale. Twelfth Judicial District Court, Parish of Calcasieu, State of Louisiana.—No. 3127. Succession of Prettyman Barr. BY VIRTUE of a writ of fieri facias issued to and to me directed by the Honorable Court aforesaid, I have seized and will offer for sale, at public auction, to the last and highest bidder, with the benefit of appraisement, at the Court House door of this parish, in the city of Lake Charles, La., on Saturday, November 21st, 1896, between legal hours, the following described property, situated in the town of Lake Charles, parish of Calcasieu, State of Louisiana, and described as follows, to-wit: Mrs. Harriet A. Barr's undivided one-half (1/2) interest in and to Block Twenty-two (22) of the Sallier subdivision, together with all the improvements, rights, ways and privileges to the same belonging or in any way appertaining thereto. Seized under said writ. Terms:—Cash on day of sale. A. L. LYONS, Sheriff of Calcasieu Parish, La. Sheriff's Office, Lake Charles, Louisiana, October 14th, 1896. R. T. O'Bryan, Esq., Atty, representing writ. (Oct. 17, '96).

We Employ Thousands of responsible persons of both sexes to distribute our advertising in part payment for a HIGH GRADE Acme bicycle, Schwinn's First Class. Shipped for examination. No work required. The bicycle proves as represented. We are the only large manufacturers in the country who sell direct to individuals. Investigate. Write for particulars to F. K. FERNALD, Manager, Acme Cycle Co., Elkhart, Ind. U. S. A.

Cold water's Shoe Store. Is receiving New Shoes Every Week, and it will be to your BENEFIT to see him. Examine his SHOES before buying elsewhere. Goldwater's Shoe Store 1244 street, near Calcasieu Bank.

HOW ABOUT Your Winter Wood? HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF IT? GEORGE WILLIAMS, the WOOD MAN, is prepared to furnish your winter supply of Oak, Ash and Pine, wood, any length, and in any quantity. Special prices on large orders. A good quantity of FAT PINE furnished free of charge. If you wish see George to give you or call on him at 1244 street, near Calcasieu Bank, and have your order and George will do the rest. American Responsible.

Transfer Line! George & Swift are the only reliable and trustworthy transfer agents in the city. Please call with them.