Yesterday’s Louisiana News... Today!
Digitizing Louisiana Newspapers Project

A presentation for the
Le Comite des Archives de la Louisiane Annual Meeting
September 18, 2011
Baton Rouge, LA
Researching America’s First Record of History

Print Newspapers

Microfilm

Patron viewing a newspaper on microfilm at the State Library in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1965. Courtesy of Louisiana State Library.
Newspapers at LSU – we’ve been preserving them since the 1940s!
Why Digitize?
Why microfilm?
Digitizing Louisiana Newspapers Overview

- What is the Digitizing Louisiana Newspapers Project (DLNP)?
- How are the titles selected?
- What’s next?

To fulfill the grant specification of the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP)

To make freely accessible digitized historical newspapers (100,000 pages / grant)

- 1836-1922
- Historically significant
- Longevity*

Hosted by the Library of Congress

*Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*(http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/)

*Some titles are highly desirable with very short runs. These are usually included when possible.*
Recipients

28 states have received 1 or more NDNP grants

- **2005** (100,000 pages published between 1900-1910)
  - CA, FL, KY, NY, UT, VA
- **2007** (100,000 pages published between 1880-1910)
  - CA, KY, MN, NE, NY, TX, UT, VA
- **2008** (100,000 pages published between 1880-1922)
  - AZ, HI, MO, OH, PA, WA
- **2009** (100,000 pages published between 1860-1922)
  - CA, IL, KS, KY, LA, MN, MT, NE, NY, OK, OR, SC, TX, UT, VA
- **2010** (100,000 pages published between 1836-1922)
  - AZ, HI, MO, NM, OH, PA, TN, VT, WA
- **2011** (100,000 pages published between 1836-1922)
  - IL, KS, KY, LA, MN, MT, ND, OK, OR, SC, TX, WV
How are titles selected?

(1860 – 1922)
2009-2011 Title List
Regional Coverage
<table>
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<th>DLNP Title List 2009-2010</th>
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<tr>
<td>Abbeville progress</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bogalusa enterprise</td>
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<tr>
<td>Claiborne guardian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Colfax chronicle</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Colfax chronicle</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Comrade</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Concordia eagle</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Concordia sentinel</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Constitutional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily gazette and comet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Daily telegraph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feliciana sentinel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gazette and sentinel</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Herald</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
What’s Next?

Of the 578 total titles in the original list, only about 60 were chosen for the 2009-2011 DLNP = ~100,000
## What’s Inside?

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Historical Coverage</th>
<th>Content Interest</th>
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Political Items

- Public records
- Police jury proceedings
- Election proceedings
- Communications
- Jury duty roll
- Sheriff sales
- Probate/estate listings
- Tax delinquencies/sales
Economic Items

• Industrial development
• Monies
• Fairs
• Advertising
• Urban sprawl
• Homestead Act
Social Items

• Births/marriages/obits
• Personals
• Gossip columns
• Poetry and serials
• Comics
• Event announcements
• Social Organizations
• Sports, fashion, food
How Newspapers Can Help You Climb Your Family Tree

Genealogy

Special thanks to Judy Riffel for these tips!
Obituaries: Thomas Naughton, Sr.

DIED—In this city Saturday January 30th, 1886. Thomas Naughton, Sr.

The subject of this notice was born at Tuam, Gallway county, Ireland, September 17th., 1832. He emigrated to the United States when but 16 years of age, arriving at New Orleans in the spring of 1848 where he remained nearly four years. Leaving that city for Monroe in 1852, arriving here February 1st., of that year and remaining at his chosen home until his death. He was, years back keeper of the Ouachita parish jail and was at one time, member of the city council when the Editor was the mayor of this city. He had also at one time an extensive tin smithery here and at Trenton, but met with reverses. He was also an exempt fireman, being one of the leading spirits of its organization in the year 1868. He joined the Catholic Knights of America and died glorifying God. Such in brief is the history of an old citizen who identified himself with the interests of Monroe and who took pride in her material advancement.
IN MEMORIAM.

Died in New Orleans on the 1st inst.,
Mrs. JULIA A. BUTLER, wife of Dr. J. Butler of this parish, where she had gone imbued with hopes of renewing her failing powers and rebuilding her broken constitution, and thus lured with false hopes, she died from home and its sweet surroundings, though not amid strangers and in a strange land, for although separated from a portion of her family, along with her to smooth the pillow of death and cool the feverish brow, was the affectionate hand of a loving and devoted daughter and son. To them was intrusted the charge to bid adieu to father, sisters and brother, and to have the exclusive and melancholy duty to close her dying eyes.

Mrs. Butler was a native of this parish, being the daughter of one of the early pioneers of the forest, who with brave heart and stout hand laid the foundation of his fortune and at his leisure in after years, successfully built the superstructure in becoming one of the largest cotton planters in the parish; and in this secluded place she was wooed and won by her husband, a then young and promising Physician of the neighborhood, and from the day of her marriage she has been the devoted wife, as in time, the
Obituaries: Sylvester A. Davis

Death of Sylvester R. Davis.—At 3 o’clock, this afternoon, the mortal remains of this good citizen, honest man and planter, will be entombed at the Magnolia Cemetery. Mr. Davis was an old resident of this parish, among whose inhabitants he numbered hosts of friends. We extend our condolences to his bereaved relatives.

Died.

DAVIS—In this parish, on Wednesday, September 29th, 1880, S. R. DAVIS—aged sixty-five years.
Obituaries: Mrs. Sarah Jane Hooper

Mrs. Sarah Jane Hooper died in Pineville on Thursday night. She was buried yesterday morning at 11 o'clock.

Rev. H. J. Wright formerly a
Montgomery and Vicinity.

Dry and hot.
Road working is the order of the day.

Mrs. Francis Duboys died on the 9th of August.

A beater medal is in course of preparation for those petitioners against building the court house.

Griffin Smith cut and severely wounded Jeff. Kelly on the 10th. The attack was wholly unprovoked. Grif. will be arrested for this piece of innocent-and harmless fun.

Tom Johnson and some other young men recently disturbed public worship. They acted disgracefully, and, when remonstrated with, Tom became irate and drew a pistol on J. M. McCain. This young man is wanted. He is gone.

Some smart young men are amusing themselves tearing down and defacing sign boards on the Colfax road. Boys, that is neither nice nor smart. Your conduct is quite reprehensible. You are known, and may be dealt with by law.
Tips for Finding Obituaries

• Start with first/last name and “died”
• If too few results, remove first name
• If too many results, narrow date range and specific locations
• Try initials or abbreviations – Jno. Wm. Chas.
• Use other terms such as obituary, buried, cemetery, death
Beyond Obituaries: Coroner's Inquests

- Inquests.—In addition to those we noticed on Wednesday last, there were others held by Coroner Dan Young of our Parish, not reported by us at that date, to-wit:

  On the 7th inst., he held an inquest on the body of a German by the name of Rinebold, aged about 26 years, found dead in the Mississippi River opposite this city. It appeared that the deceased had went into the river to bathe and was accidentally drowned. The verdict of the Jury was in accordance with the above facts.

  On the right bank, on the 8th inst., an inquest was held upon the body of the slave Bob Jackson, belonging to Col. Sparks.

  On the 9th instant, on the body of a boy named Thomas Bailey, aged about nine years, a native of Canada. The deceased was drowned in the Mississippi River on Sunday previous. Verdict, accidental drowning.

  On the 11th instant in the City of Jefferson, upon the body of a German by the name of Christian Casper, about 25 years of age. The verdict of the Jury was, “suffocation from the intensity of the heat.”

  On the same day at Gretna, in this Parish, upon the body of a German by the name of John Priestley, 25 years of age; employed on the Opelousas Railroad. Verdict, “Sun-struck.”

  On the 12th instant, Coroner Young held an inquest upon the body of a man in Houma, by the name of Michael...
Beyond Obituaries: Crime Reports

The True Democrat.

AN ATROCIOUS CRIME UNEARTHED

E. K. Judson, Inmate of Asylum at Jackson, Horribly Murdered—Dr. E. C. McKowen Arrested and Charged With the Crime.

E. K. Judson, Inmate of Asylum at Jackson, Horribly Murdered—Dr. E. C. McKowen Arrested and Charged With the Crime.

Humdrum existence in the Pelicanas was broken into by a startling occurrence that came to public knowledge last Monday morning, and which has been the chief topic of conversation ever since. At an early hour on that day, a negro laborer at Wakefield, going to his work discovered the figure of a man lying against the embankment in front of Wakefield post-office and about 50 yards away from that building. He called to Mr. Louis G. found the rig at his door when he opened his shop that morning, but identified it as being the property of Dr. E. C. McKowen. The deputies went at once to Dr. McKowen’s residence and placed him under arrest. Dr. McKowen showed a willingness to talk but was advised not to do so by the officers, who showed him every consideration possible in the circumstances. They accorded him an interview with his family and friends and then sending improper letters through the mails. The commissioner promptly dismissed the case and turned the accuse over to the coroner, who adjudged him insane, and he was taken to Jackson, where he remained up to the time of his death.

The Asylum authorities regarded him as harmless and allowed him certain liberties and privileges. Sunday he was given permission to visit Jackson,
District Court Proceedings.

District court convened April 2, with Judge W. F. Blackman presiding, and a grand jury was empanelled as follows:

W. O. Hutchinson, Foreman
J. P. Lewis    H. L. Hammons
H. C. Williams  Bert Worsham
M. W. Walker    P. M. Ussery
H. F. McManus  H. B. Sexton
J. C. Rogers    E. P. Nugent
J. L. Kent

E. J. Vallery vs. J. Q. Long, dismissed at cost of plaintiff.
Bank of Montgomery vs. Geo. L. Ethridge, rule dismissed at cost of plaintiff.
D. H. Wallace vs. J. Cicero Wilson, judgment for plaintiff for $224.50.
Will Napoleon vs. Sarah Napoleon, divorce granted.
Mrs. Emma Dixon vs. T. L. Dean, constable, judgment decreeing her owner of property claimed in her petition.
Henry Edwards, plead guilty to retailing liquor without license, fined $250 and costs, and in default of payment to 60 days in jail, subject to work the roads.
Ramon Cornett, plead guilty to same charge and given same fine and sentence.
Beyond Obituaries: Marriage Notices

The Progress. (Shreveport, La.) 1892-1900, February 6, 1897, Image 2

To Be Married.

Cards are out announcing the coming marriage of Mr. John N. Birdwell and Miss Louise Jeter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Jeter, all of Bossier parish.

Mr. Birdwell is a splendid young man, honest, energetic, capable and is one of Bossier’s best young citizens.

Miss Louise Jeter is one of the sweetest and prettiest young flower which blooms in North Louisiana. Gentle, loving and cultured, fit to ornament any home, and Mr. Birdwell may well feel proud of the the valuable prize he has won.

The marriage will take place at the residence of the brides parents on the 17th inst.

Our editor acknowledges the receipt of an invitation.
NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

SHERIFF’S SALE.

State of Louisiana, Parish Court, Parish of Grant.

By virtue of a writ of fi. fa., issued in the above numbered and entitled suit, and to me directed, I have seized and will offer for sale, to the last and highest bidder, at the Courthouse door, at Colfax, parish of Grant, between the hours prescribed by law, on Saturday, November 10, 1877, the following described property:

One gray mare,
Six bales of cotton,
One hundred (100) bushels of corn,
A lot of cotton in patch (about 6 bales).

Terms of Sale—Cash, with benefit of appraisement.

C. B. NUGENT, Sheriff.

Colfax, October 25, 1877.

SHERIFF’S SALE.

State of Louisiana, Parish Court, Parish of Grant.

L. Bloom and Jno. L. Adams & Co.

By virtue of a writ of fi. fa., issued in the above numbered and entitled suit, from the Parish Court in and for the parish of Grant, and to me directed, I have seized and will offer for sale, at public auction, at the Courthouse door of Grant parish, at Colfax, during the hours prescribed by law, on Saturday, the 10th November, 1877, the following described property, seized as the property of the defendant, to wit:

One sorrel horse.

Terms of Sale—Cash, with the benefit of appraisement.

C. B. NUGENT, Sheriff of Grant.

Colfax, Oct. 6, 77.

SHERIFF’S SALE.

Ninth Judicial District Court, Parish of Grant.

Bush and Levert vs. Thorn Bush.

By virtue of a writ of fi. fa., issued and directed to me in the above entitled suit, I have seized and will offer for sale, on Saturday, the 17th day of November, 1877, in front of the Court House, in the town of Colfax, between the hours of 1 o’clock M. and 4 o’clock P. M., all of the right, title and interest of Thom Bush, said interest being one-seventh in the following described property, viz: a farm covering a part of Red River, at the junction of the Darro, bounded above by Bayou Darro in the rear by lands of Joshua Hues successions, containing about thirteen hundred acres; also, a tract of land, fronting on Red River, bounded above by tract last described, below by the old plantation, on both sides by lands of Joshua Hues successions, containing about six hundred and forty acres; also with all the improvements on both tracts of land; also a tract of woodland lying on Bayou Darro, bounded by the Darro on the north and on the other sides by lands of Joshua Hues successions, containing three hundred and twenty acres; another tract of woodland, bounded by lands of M. Calhoun and L. Bouligny’s estate, and in the rear by lands of Strether, containing five hundred acres or less.

Terms of Sale—Cash, with benefit of appraisement.

CHAS. R. NUGENT, Sheriff of Grant.

Colfax, Oct. 6, 77.
Beyond Obituaries: Delinquent Taxpayers

Colfax Chronicle. (Colfax, La.) 1877-1981, November 12, 1877, Image 1
On motion of Mr. Jennings, Thomas Castro and G. W. Fox, were similarly placed on the pauper list, with $5 per month.

On motion of same, Mrs. T. H. Allen was placed on the pauper list, with $5 per month.

On motion of Mr. Addison, Mrs. Litton Cook and Mrs. Martha Lynch were placed on the pauper list, with $5 per month each.

On motion of Mr. Blackstone the Police Jury adjourned 'till 3 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 3 o'clock P. M., the Body met pursuant to adjournment.

Present Wm. Payne, President.
B. H. Baird,
W. C. Ross,
E. S. Blackstone,
F. Jennings,
Jacob Kile,
G. Fontenot,
The mortuary report of the past week gives 501 deaths from yellow fever, a decrease of forty-seven from the week previous. This is the first time that there has been any decrease reported, and it is to be hoped that the decrease will continue. Almost invariably, the first decline in the weekly report marks the turn of the epidemic. Meantime in other cities the fever is on the increase. The highest mortality here in any one day was 90. Last Monday, the number of deaths in Memphis was 111. The population of that city is not one fourth as great as that of New Orleans.

Since our last notes were written, the fever has found its way into the families of other ministers. The wife of Rev. M. W. Trawick was seized last week, but fortunately is now convalescent. Rev. J. W. Flinn, pastor of the Franklin Memorial church, was taken down last Friday. His case was very pronounced.
Destroyed by Fire.

The home of Mr. Ralph W. Elliott, about two miles from town, was completely destroyed by fire last Thursday. It is believed that the fire originated on the roof and that it was caused by a spark from the chimney. The loss is a very heavy one to Mr. Elliott as not only the house but all its contents were burned. Among the articles consumed by the flames were a number of relics that were highly prized by the Elliott family. The property destroyed was one of the most comfortable homes in this section.
Beyond Obituaries: Commercial Advertisements

Shreveport News. (Shreveport, La.) 1864-1865, June 10, 1865, Image 1
Miss Lucille Anderson was the guest of her sister, Mrs. Jack Mills, the first part of the week.

Mrs. Wm. Terry and children who have been visiting at the home of Mrs. Terry's mother, Mrs. Stewart, went to their home in New Orleans Thursday.

Mrs. L. T. Davis and daughter, Mrs. T. P. Davis, were over from Jennings Sunday visiting relatives.

Miss Lucille Anderson was the guest of her sister, Mrs. Jack Mills, the first part of the week.

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Mrs. C. H. Gruke last week have returned to their home in New Orleans.

Mrs. Astierie and little daughter who were guests of Mrs. C. H. Gruke last week have returned to their home in New Orleans.

The Odd Fellow and Rebekah Lodges have taken rooms in the Woodmen Hall over the old Cooper Drug store, where they will hold their meetings in the future.

The Martin building, the second story of which has been occupied as lodge rooms for several years, will be remodeled and converted into a one-story building.

Get your Photos at Carroll's Studio now.

Mrs. H. E. Wesson is here from Brewton, Alabama, paying a visit to her mother, Mrs. E. M. Gallup. Her children, Ella B. and Henry J., have been visiting their grand mother for the past six weeks.

Mrs. Astierie and little daughter who were guests of Mrs. C. H. Gruke last week have returned to their home in New Orleans.

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Have you heard about that entertainment the Ladies' Guild is going to give on the 29th of this month?
Basic Search
Advanced Search
Thank you!

Athena N. Jackson
Project Manager - Digitizing Louisiana Newspapers
LSU Libraries Special Collections
Hill Memorial Library

Questions?

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p) 225-578-3686