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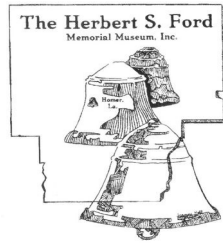
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Artificial Limbs

Prosthetics designed to replace missing body parts have been in use since ancient times. The earliest prosthetic to have been discovered is dated between 950 B.C. and 710 B.C. It is an artificial toe found on the foot of an Egyptian mummy.

Artificial limbs facilitated limited movement and were crafted from materials such as wood and leather. They were designed to resemble the body part being replaced. Soldiers' injuries sustained during World Wars I and II led to major gains in prosthetic technology.

An artificial leg is on display in the Medical Room of The Ford Museum. It was hand-carved from wood and utilizes leather dog collars at its upper end to fasten the device to the stump of the wearer's leg. A metal bar with a hinge on each side of the "leg" allows the device to "bend" at the knee. It is stained brown and has white plastic toe-nails glued onto the foot portion. It was made by Mr. Seaborn Smith, a well-known carver in this area, for a Mr. Gantt circa 1988.



**Egyptian mummy toe
950 B.C.-710 B.C.**

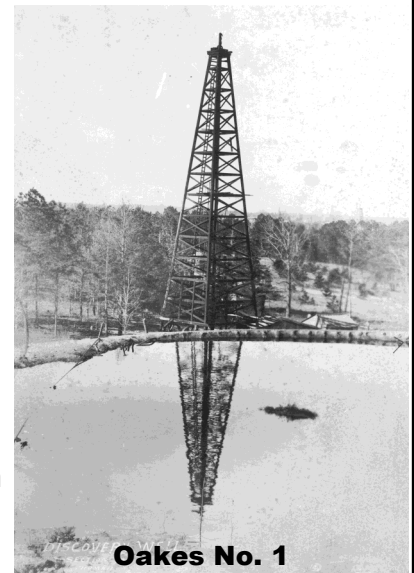


Artificial leg in the Ford Museum

Discovery of Oil in Claiborne Parish

The early years of the 20th century brought profound social and economic change to Claiborne Parish. The catalyst for this change was the discovery of oil in the region.

The discovery well of the Homer Field, drilled on the Shaw lease by Consolidated Progressive Oil Company, came in on January 12, 1919, pumping 2,500 barrels of oil and water at a depth of 1,409 –1,416 feet. The first gusher was Standard Oil's Guy Oakes No. 1, completed on October 10, 1920, producing 20,000 barrels a day at 2,090 feet.



Oakes No. 1

In the early part of 1921, speculators began drilling in the Haynesville district. Shreveporter J. E. Smitherman and his associates brought in the Taylor No. 2 on March 30, 1921 and, almost overnight, Haynesville mushroomed from a town of 1,000 to a boomtown of 10,000. By November, seldom a week passed without there being at least a dozen completions in the Haynesville Field. It became customary to let wells “blow over the top,” and a well that did not “paint the derrick” was almost considered a failure.



Painting the derrick

Oil was discovered in Lisbon on December 18, 1936. The discovery well, located on the H. W. Patton place, was brought in by Reb Oakes and J. D. Caruthers, Sr. at a depth of 5,100 feet.



Maggie Patton No. 1

Following the discovery of oil in 1919, Homer's population swelled with businessmen and speculators. Oil revenues facilitated the paving of the streets around the Courthouse and led to the replacement of many old wooden structures with new brick ones. Other public improvements included a modern light and water plant, as well as a new high school building.

In July 21, 1920, Homer became the host city for the first airmail flight in the South. Homer was chosen because of the heavy volume of mail due to the oil boom and, also, because it had built an airport. The flight, sponsored by Gulf States Aircraft Corporation, left Shreveport's Fair Grounds at 2:45 p.m., carrying 25 pounds of mail and returned from Homer at 5:25 p.m., carrying 35 pounds of mail.

After oil was discovered in the Haynesville Field, new schools and churches, as well as a new water works and sewage system were built. Oil boom prosperity gave rise to 200 new residences, 14 brick store buildings, 21 hotels, 18 warehouses, 53 rooming houses, two movie theaters and two newspapers. Haynesville's three banks, according to one official statement, had investments that reached six figures weekly, giving Haynesville one of the strongest financial foundations in the state.



An L&NW 38-car train of oil leaving Haynesville



Thomas Killgore
No. 1, West Lisbon,
1955

During Lisbon's short history as the "Oil Metropolis of North Louisiana," temporary living quarters for newcomers were set up in the village's water office. The Claiborne Parish Sheriff increased Lisbon's police presence during the boom to provide improved protection for the residents. A temporary building was constructed to serve as an office for the Sheriff's Department, as well as a jail for lawbreakers. Lisbon's churches and school were hard-pressed to accommodate the phenomenal growth of the community.

Although the prominence of the petroleum industry in Claiborne Parish has declined in recent years, the traditions and values of this exciting period are being kept alive for future generations through memories, oral histories and exhibits at The Ford Museum.



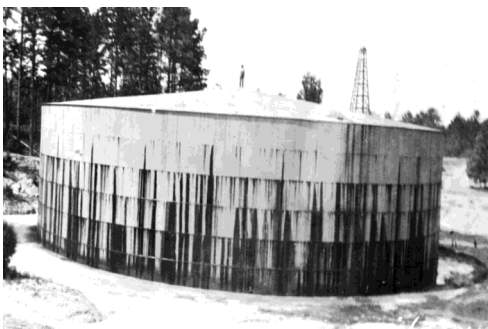
12-mule team loaded for a camp in the Homer Field



Dirt roads taxed by heavy equipment



Typical family housing for Homer and Haynesville Fields



62 storage tanks in Claiborne Parish held 2,310,000 gallons of crude oil each



Six roughnecks on Chatman No. 9

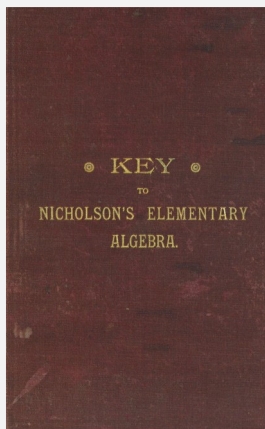
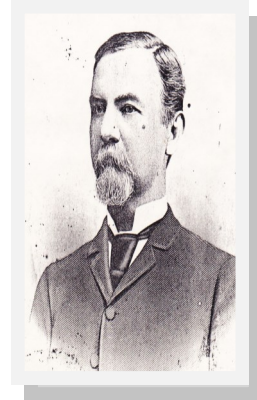
Colonel James William Nicholson

Colonel James William Nicholson is one of Claiborne Parish's most distinguished citizens. He was born in Macon County, Alabama, on June 16, 1844. Six months later, his family immigrated to Louisiana, settling first at Parker's Creek and, two years later, moving to the easternmost edge of Claiborne Parish, where they established the Cane Ridge* community. In 1853 the family moved to the Forest Grove community, where the children could have improved access to education.

Nicholson enrolled in the Homer Male College at the age of 14. There he studied Latin, Greek and his favorite subject, mathematics. Recognizing his gift, his classmates dubbed him "The College Mathematician."

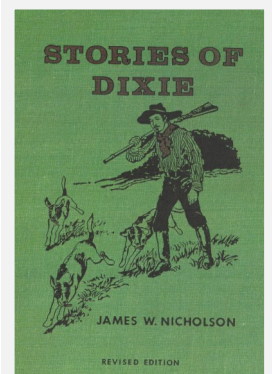
With the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, Nicholson joined Company B, Twelfth Louisiana Infantry, and served until the South surrendered in 1865, attaining the rank of Sergeant. Upon his return, he was offered the position of Professor of Mathematics at the Homer College. He was awarded a Master's Degree in 1867 and, in 1870, he and Austin Harris established a private academy at Arizona, Louisiana, where many Claiborne Parish youngsters received their basic educations.

In 1877, Nicholson accepted the position of Chair of the Mathematics Department at Louisiana State University, a position he held for 40 years. He also served two terms as President of the University. When Nicholson assumed the office of President, Governor McEnery made him a Colonel on his staff, LSU being a military school at the time.



Nicholson authored a series of textbooks for primary to college level. He is best known for his "trigonometric circle," an aid for learning the functions of sine, cosine, tangent, etc. For many years his textbooks were used at such prestigious universities as Duke and Yale.

Stories of Dixie was published by Nicholson in 1915. The book is both historical and autobiographical. In it he relates the story of his family's journey to Louisiana from Alabama and their labors to carve out farms in the wilderness of North Central Louisiana. He also relates many personal anecdotes from his friends and fellow soldiers during their years of service in the Confederate Army.



In 1889, Nicholson had the honor of delivering the eulogy at the funeral of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America.



James W. Nicholson died on March 22, 1917 and is buried in Magnolia Cemetery in Baton Rouge. His Claiborne Parish legacy will always be his great respect for education.

*In its heyday, the now-vanished settlement at Cane Ridge featured a Post Office, general store and Doctor's Office. Best estimates put its location a short distance west of the intersection of Flatwoods Road and LA Highway 2 in eastern Claiborne Parish. The Museum is actively seeking information on the Cane Ridge community. Please contact the Museum with any information you may have concerning Cane Ridge.