1938

The Evolution of Louisiana Parishes in Relation to Population Growth and Movements.

John S. Kyser

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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THE EVOLUTION OF LOUISIANA PARISHES
IN RELATION TO
POPULATION GROWTH AND MOVEMENTS

A Dissertation
Submitted to the Graduate Faculty
of the
Louisiana State University
and
Agricultural and Mechanical College
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for
The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy
in
The Department of Geography
School of Geology

By
John S. Kyser
B. A., University of Michigan, 1921
1938
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The present study requires the recognition of aid given by so many individuals and agencies that even though the greatest effort is made to avoid omissions, there is little doubt but that such will occur — either in failure to name the individuals, or to give adequate emphasis to the quality and quantity of their contributions. Over a period of nearly eight years, the interest displayed and the help given by those who are ever instrumental in expanding our knowledge and interpretation of Louisiana was without exception generous and full. It is indeed a privilege to give printed expression of gratitude for the efforts of each and every person who gave of his or her time and energy.

It is always difficult to give adequate thanks to those faculty members who assume responsibility in any academic study. The interest, enthusiasm, and constant helpfulness of Dr. E. B. Kniffen, Professor of Geography and Anthropology, Louisiana State University, have been truly outstanding. Dr. R. J. Russell, Chairman of the Department of Geography, and Dr. H. V. Howe, Director of the School of Geology, expressed their approval of the study from the very beginning, and their suggestions have borne fruit in many ways. Especial acknowledgment is due Professor Walter Pritchard, Chairman of the Department of History, for his help in giving that broad historical background which contributed so meaningfully to an
interpretation of many situations associated with parish creations and alterations.

The state and parish agencies of Louisiana which extended the use of their facilities are: the State Land Office, the Board of State Engineers, the State Library, the Highway Commission, the Planning Commission, and the Clerks of Court of a large number of parishes. In addition to an expression of thanks to the Chairmen or heads of all these agencies, the author is especially grateful to Mr. Gervais Lombard, Research Engineer of the Board of State Engineers, and to Miss Mary E. Graham and Mr. Carl Campbell of the State Land Office.

Among the clerks of courts, particular acknowledgment is made of the assistance given by Mr. Randolph Bazet of Terrebonne; Mr. T. J. Bullock and his deputy, Mr. E. J. Hadnot of Vernon; Mr. E. J. Champagne of St. Mary; Mr. Z. C. Rabun of Union; and Mr. James J. Villemarette, and his deputy Mr. E. H. Schwartzzenburg of Avoyelles.

The work of a Federal agency has been of truly great aid. The Historical Records Survey under the able direction of Mr. John C. L. Andreassen made A Compilation of the Acts Relating to County, Parish, Judicial District and Congressional Districts in Louisiana which was most valuable in checking against the compilation of the author.

Individuals other than those associated with State agencies who made significant contributions to the study are Mr. S. A. Mayo of the Mayo Title Company of Lake Charles, and
Mr. John W. Rohrer of the Allen Title Company of Oberlin.

They gave invaluable help in establishing several points vital not only to the history of Calcasieu Parish but of those parishes derived from it.

Libraries and librarians should not be taken for granted. The efficient and cheerful help given by Mr. James A. McMillen and his staff of Hill Memorial Library, Louisiana State University, and by Mr. Robert J. Usher and his co-workers at Howard Memorial Library in New Orleans make these fine repositories of Louisiana materials assume the character of distinct personalities.

Last, but in no sense least, is the tribute to the work of Misses Emma Nell Phillips and Georgie Pickett. The amount of clerical and other aid given by Miss Pickett in correspondence, typing of manuscript, and other work was simply enormous. Without the help of Miss Phillips, the study would certainly have been impossible of accomplishment within any predictable length of time. Her help ranged from untold hours in cartography to an ever alert and constructively critical checking of the author's interpretation of the language of the statutes creating or altering parish boundaries.

To all others who contributed to the completion of this study, either by written or oral information, the author wishes to express a last word of appreciation.
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¹No separate map for 1930 since it is the same as 1920.

²1930 by wards.

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Relative to Map Interpretation

Parish Boundaries: Maps 1 to 12

1. Broken lines indicate that boundaries were anticipated or in doubt

2. Shaded areas indicate uncertainty of parish affiliation - also true for population maps

Distribution of Population: Maps 13 to 25

1. Each dot represents 1,000 people

2. Radii of spheres representing cities are to each other as are the cube roots of the numbers they represent
The discovery, interpretation, and cartographic representation of the steps in the development of the present parish pattern of Louisiana constitute the principal objectives of this study. Although the exact delimitation of the parishes is the major task, the entire process of their creation and change is visualized as a response to the growth and spread of population based on the several economic exploitations of Louisiana natural resources.

After an introductory survey which indicates the parish background in the French and Spanish colonial periods, and at the time of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the procedure in the study involves three major tasks: first, the collection of a complete file of acts of the legislature over a period of approximately one hundred and twenty five years, with supplementation by parish ordinances wherever necessary; second, the interpretation of the acts and the drafting of their provisions; and, third, the correlation with population.

The results are summarized for each United States decennial Census date from 1810 to 1950 inclusive. Two maps for each decade provide the most meaningful recapitations of the changes in any given period. One map indicates the parish boundaries as legally established by acts of the state legislature, or, after 1835, by either the legislature or the police juries of the parishes; the other gives a representation of population number and distribution.

The entire study was conducted with a distinct consciousness of the multiple aspects of the task. The principal objectives of delimiting the parishes and indicating the population distribution of Louisiana for each census decade have been attained. The obvious plausibility of a theory that there is a direct relation between the growth in number of political subdivisions and the increase in population in a frontier area is transferred to the category of definite proof by virtue of the petitions and statements of the people themselves.

Other results are those which review the background for certain controversial boundaries, and, in the instances of those which are not controversial, the suggestion of procedure that may avoid disputes in the future. A contribution of conceivable psychological value is that a knowledge of the innumerable changes in parish boundaries in the past may lead to the conclusion that there is nothing inviolable in those of the present.
Potential uses of the results obtained in the study have been indicated at least inferentially in the preceding paragraphs. For the first time, it will be possible to undertake studies which awaited the tortuous and painful establishment of the parish boundaries for the entire historic period following the creation of the twelve counties of 1805. Prior to the completion of the present work, students have been handicapped in their study of several phases of Louisiana history, government, economics, sociology, and geography because the mere listing of the names of parishes and their populations in the decade reports of the United States census meant very little whenever an attempt was made to visualize or represent the definite size and boundaries of the parishes.

Now that the varying areal extent of the parishes is known, it will be possible to undertake other correlated studies in historical cartography. For the first time, there is available the factual background to give exact territorial definition to Louisiana senatorial, representative, and judicial districts, and also to federal congressional districts. There are uses other than the territorial aspects of government. As an illustration of this, students of the historical aspects of crop distributions will now be able to plot productions with relative accuracy.

The above stress on the possible investigations that may be initiated as a consequence of the results obtained in the present work is fully justified. The frustration of the author’s desire to make several of them played a major part in the decision to undertake the treatise herein described. It is even possible that the most valuable contribution of the study may be that of a propaedeutic for additional investigations of Louisiana.
NATURE, SCOPE, AND METHOD OF THE STUDY

An analysis of the evolution of Louisiana parishes is the object of this study. The history of these political subdivisions is unquestionably unique in the annals of American commonwealths. This fact is stamped upon the thinking of the most casual student by the use of the word "parish" rather than county, and its very existence in only one of the forty-eight states is proof of the distinctive cultural background which gave rise to it. This background involved the fusion of concepts of local government in France, Spain, and even Britain as modified by American colonial and state experience.

To those interested in the various aspects of Louisiana parishes, such heterogeneity of origin presents many anomalies, and until the last decade students of Louisiana have done very little in the way of description and analysis of the seeming contradictions inherent in the general complex. The standard treatises which rank large in earlier writings on Louisiana history are notable for their failure to discuss the arresting and vital subject of parish development. More recently, Carleton and Calhoun have made substantial contributions to the more strictly governmental and historical aspects. Smith has been concerned with the sociological phases but at the


The Population of Louisiana: Its Composition and Changes (Baton Rouge, November 1937), Louisiana Bulletin No. 293.
same time has done significant work in allied fields.
- None of these studies undertook the historical delimitation of the parishes. Neither was it possible to represent the distribution of the inhabitants over the State for the simple reason that the boundaries of the parishes in any given decade constituted the great unknown.

In the pages which follow, and on the maps which are the keystone of the whole, both of these objectives have been attained save in the instances noted in the text proper. Further, it is shown both by the written records and unmistakable inference that there was a definite causal relation between the growth in numbers and movements of people and the evolution of the pattern of political subdivisions both in the number and form of the parts.

The organization of the study is, in a sense, suggested by that great American summarizer - the decennial census. After a brief summarization of the meager data in the Spanish and French periods, and at the time of the American purchase, the map of 1810 provides the orientation device for the real

It was this very lack of knowledge of the extent of the parishes which caused the author of the present study to undertake the task of reconstructing their limits throughout the entire period of statehood. In the larger sense, the study is a necessity for the reason that several other objectives in historical geography and allied fields are dependent upon it.

It is not meant to imply that this year marks the inauguration of the accurate delimitation of Louisiana parishes nor the definitive location of population - as a matter of fact only Concordia is bounded accurately - but it is a relatively concrete beginning and as such is a most valuable guide to further work.
beginning of the study. For approximately one hundred years after the first Federal census the legislature enacted numerous statutes which created new parishes, altered the boundaries of older ones, and slowly evolved the present parish pattern. It is these acts which constitute the basic source material for drafting the maps.

The essential plan of the study involves the construction of two maps for each decade from 1810 to 1930. One of these shows the parish boundaries as then defined and the other gives the distribution of population. The great essentials are the facts presented but interpretations and correlation are likewise a significant part of the study.

The method is neither strictly geographical nor historical but a combination of the two. The very nature of the study makes this a necessity. Were the acts for each decade to be listed and analyzed on a strictly chronological basis the result would be a disconnected and rather meaningless recitation of legislative enactments devoid of collective meaning.

The final parish creations - Allen, Beauregard, and Jefferson Davis - occurred in 1912.

Some of the acts are vague in language, and contradictory in regard to each other, but most difficult of all is the use of numerous place names that undoubtedly were well known in their day, but which, with the passage of time, lapsed into obscurity.

There is no separate map of parish boundaries for 1930 since it is identical with that of 1920.

For each decade, the contemporary parish delimitations are shown against a background of the present parishes in order that there may be observation of comparable extent.

The unit of measurement for population representation remains the same throughout the entire period - each dot represents 1,000 people. The spheres are used whenever there is a population exceeding 10,000 - their radii are comparable in that they correspond to the cube root of the numbers.
The basic geographic orientation, on the other hand, gives a regional organization of varied materials which makes it possible to piece together in a meaningful way the varied elements which constitute the story of the evolution of the Louisiana parishes.

The limitations of the study are those inherent in the magnitude of the task; it is truly multi-faceted. There is a variety of work which ranges from the basic legalistic establishment of the boundaries to what might appear as a "theoretical" correlation of a form of parish delimitation with the distributary action of streams.

It will probably be impossible to satisfy fully the interests of those workers in the various fields which have contributed to the final product. The historian will find material which immediately suggests elaboration; the political scientist may wish a fuller treatment of governmental aspects; and others may note statements which initiate trains of thought that are related but not strictly germane to the principal objectives. The limitations are granted, but it is hoped that fruitful use may be made of those aspects of the contribution which are available in no other sources.
The French Period. In 1721, the French divided their vast empire in interior America into nine districts. According to Fortier," "The province was divided into nine districts or quarters: New Orleans, Biloxi, Mobile, Alibamons, Natchez, Yazoux or Yazoos, Natchitoches, Arkansas, and Illinois." Of these, only two - New Orleans and Natchitoches - were within the present confines of Louisiana, although it is undoubtedly true that, later, a few individuals living in what is now Louisiana, looked to Natchez and, possibly Biloxi, as governmental centers. It is unfortunate that these administrative and judicial centers gave no clue to their territorial extent, but were merely named. Louisiana was yet very young, and even though the upbuilding of the Province was very slow, by the time of transfer to Spain settlement had made relatively great strides and the number of local governmental centers had quadrupled.

The Spanish Period. One of the first acts of O'Reilly when he appeared in Louisiana to take charge in the name of Spain, was the division of Louisiana into eleven districts under commandants: Illinois, Natchitoches, First Half of German Coast (St. Charles), Second Half of German Coast (St. John the Baptist), Pointe Coupee, Opelousas, Iberville Coast, Fourche of Chetimatchas, Kabahan-nosse, Rapides, and St. Genevieve.

"A. Fortier, A History of Louisiana (New York, 1904), I, p.72
"A. Fortier, op. cit., II, p.9
It is apparent from the mere listing of the names of the districts in the nearly half-century which had elapsed since the first designation of divisions under French rule that an increase in number from nine to eleven is to have been expected, but what might not have been foreseen, and what is germane to the present study, is that out of the new list, nine were within the present confines of the state of Louisiana. This is at once a testimonial of the relative extent and speed of settlement in the region of the Lower Mississippi as compared with the remainder of the vast territory of the Province of Louisiana.

It should be borne in mind that these divisions were lay governmental ones and that they are not to be confused with the twenty one ecclesiastical parishes which were created at about the same time:

"The province, for ecclesiastical purposes, was divided into twenty one parishes; four of which were without a church, and as many more without a priest, so that the whole clergy did not consist of more than nineteen individuals."/

At the time of the transfer of Louisiana to the United States, the ecclesiastical parishes were: Orleans-St. Louis Cathedral; St. Bernard; St. Charles; St. John the Baptist; St. James; St. Gabriel of Iberville; St. Josephs, also known as 'la iglesia de los Dolores', Baton Rouge; Feliciana; St. Francis, Pointe Coupee; Ascension; Assumption; St. Martin of the Attakapas; St. Landry of the Opelousas; and Natchitoches.

"These ecclesiastical parishes were never given boundaries. See Calhoun (op.cit, p. 9) for excerpt of letter from the Rev. J. J. O'Brien, S. J., Librarian of Loyola University, New Orleans. "Martín, François-Xavier, History of Louisiana from the Earliest Period, 1882, p. 303

Calhoun: The origin of County-Parish Government, p.91-92
The overlapping of these lay and ecclesiastical divisions is clear, and in a sense affords part of the background for the confusion of parishes and counties of a later date. In any event, it is the settlement zones that give the real background to both, and it was to the tangible concept of distribution of people that the "reporters" for President Jefferson turned when they wrote "An Account of Louisiana" (1803).

**Divisions of Louisiana in 1803.** A significant contribution to the early, approximate delimitation of Louisiana parishes is found in the famous description submitted to President Jefferson in 1803. This work, entitled *An Account of Louisiana*, described all of the "political" divisions and settlements of the vast area known as Louisiana. This great territory was recognized as having several principal divisions as follows:

"The province as held by Spain, including a part of West Florida, is laid off into the following principal divisions; Mobile, from Balise to the city, New Orleans and the country on both sides of Lake Pontchartrain, first and second German Coasts, Catahoula, Fourche, Venezuela, Iberville, Galvez Town, Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupee, Atacases, Opelousas, Ouachita, Avoyelles, Rapides, Natchitoches, Arkansas and the Illinois". p.5

Once more the relative importance of the area constituting the present state of Louisiana was outstanding: only three of the above divisions relate to territory outside present Louisiana boundaries. The importance of these lower Mississippi settlements is clear from the following: "The principal settlements in Louisiana are on the Mississippi, which begins to be cultivated about twenty leagues from the sea, where the plantations are yet thin, and owned by the poorest people."
Ascending you see them improve on each side, till you reach the city, which is situated on the east bank, on a bend of the river, 35 leagues from the sea."

The Account of Louisiana described the "settlements" as follows:

"The best and most approved are above the city, and comprehend, what is there known by the Paroisse de Chapitoulas, Premier and Second Cote des Allemands, and extends 16 leagues."

"Above this begins the parish of Catahanose, or first Acadian settlement, extending eight leagues on the river. Adjoining it and still ascending is the second Acadian settlement or parish of the Fourche, which extends about six leagues. The parish of Iberville then commences, and is bounded on the east side by the river of the same name which though dry a great part of the year, yet, when the Mississippi is raised, it communicates with the Lakes Maurepas and Ponchartrain, and through them with the sea and thus forms what is called the island of New-Orleans. Except on the point just below the Iberville, the country from New Orleans is settled the whole way along the river, and presents a scene of uninterrupted plantations in sight of each other, whose fronts to the Mississippi are all cleared, and occupy on that river from 5 to 25 acres with a depth of 40; so that a plantation of 5 acres in front contains 200. A few sugar plantations are formed in the parish of Catahanose, but the remainder is devoted to cotton and provisions, and the whole is an excellent soil incapable of being exhausted. The plantations are but one deep on the island of New-Orleans, and on the opposite sides of the river as far as the mouth of the Iberville, which is 35 leagues above New Orleans." p.6

Bayou Lafourche—Later, Parishes of Assumption (Venezuela), Lafourche

"About 25 leagues from the last mentioned place on the west side of the Mississippi, the creek or Bayou of the Fourche, called in old maps H. Riviere des Chitamaches, flows from the Mississippi, and communicates with the sea to the west of the Balise. The entrance of the Mississippi is navigable..." 7

T. L. Smith, The Population of Louisiana: Its Composition and Changes, states that Valenzuela (Venezuela) was "near Plattenville in Assumption Parish. "Chapitoulas has sometimes been regarded as a separate command, but is now included within the jurisdiction of the city. The lower part of the river has likewise had occasionally a separate commandant." Bartholome Lafon's map of 1806 locates Chapitoulas opposite the present Nine Mile Point.
only at high water, but will then admit of craft of from 60 to 70 tons burthen. On both banks of this creek are settlements, one plantation deep, for near 15 leagues, and they are divided into two parishes. The settlers are numerous, though poor, and the culture is universally cotton. On all 'creeks' making from the Mississippi, the soil is the same as on the bank of the river, and the border is the highest part of it, from whence it descends gradually to the swamp. In no place on the low lands is there depth more than sufficient for one plantation, before you come to the low grounds incapable of cultivation. p. 7

**Attakapas (Atacapas) and Opelousas.**

"This creek affords one of the communications to the two populous and rich settlements of Atacapas and Opelousas formed on and near the small rivers of Teche and Vermillion which flow into the bay of Mexico." p. 7

The description of Attakapas and Opelousas is introduced by reference to the means of communication between the Mississippi and the lands to the west. Although he states that the Bayou or Creek of Plaquemines is the best connecting link, he also refers to the connection afforded by the "creek" of Lafourche.

**Manchac.**

"Immediately above the Iberville, and on both sides of the Mississippi lies the parish of Manchac, which extends 4 leagues on the river, and is well cultivated." p. 8

This parish of Manchac was absorbed by the Baton Rouges - on the east to the Mississippi by East Baton Rouge, and on the west by West Baton Rouge. The name "parish" of Manchac had limited currency although the Manchac settlement was well known at an earlier period - especially its nucleus in which was the British Fort Bute at the head of Bayou Manchac and the trading post built around it. The "parish" of Manchac does not receive recognition in either of the acts of the Territorial
legislature which created the bounties in 1805 and the original nineteen parishes in 1807.

**Baton Rouge and its Dependencies.**

"Above it commences the settlement of Baton Rouge, extending about 9 leagues. It is remarkable as being the first place, where the high land is contiguous to the river, and here it forms a bluff from 30 to 40 feet above the greatest rise of the river. Here the settlements extend a considerable way back on the east side; and this parish has that of Thompson's creek and Bayou Sara subordinate to it. The mouth of the first of these creeks is about 49 leagues from New Orleans, and that of the latter 2 or 3 leagues higher up. They run from north to the 31st degree of latitude. Their banks have the best soil, and the greatest number of good cotton plantations of any part of Louisiana, and are allowed to be the garden of it." p.8.

**Pointe Coupee.**

"Above Baton Rouge, at the distance of 50 leagues from New Orleans, and on the west side of the Mississippi is Pointe Coupee, a populous and rich settlement, extending 8 leagues along the river. Its produce is cotton. Behind it, on an old bed of the river, now a lake, whose outlets are closed up, is the settlement of Fausse Riviere, which is well cultivated.

"In the space now described from the sea as high as, and including the last mentioned settlement, is contained three-fourths of the population, and seven-eights of the riches of Louisiana." p.8-9

**Concordia.** Even though the infant settlement of Concord (Vidalia) opposite Natchez was in existence at this time it received scant recognition in the Account:

"There is no other settlement on the Mississippi except the small one called Concord, opposite to the Natchez, till you come to the Arkansas river, whose mouth is 250 leagues above New-Orleans."

It is indeed interesting that, on a preceding page of the Account, the very existence of Concord had been denied:

"From the settlement of Pointe Coupee on the Mississippi, to Cape Girardeau above the mouth of the Ohio, there is no land on the west side that is not overflowed in the spring, to the distance of 8 or 10 leagues from the river, with from 2 to 12
feet of water, except a small spot near New Madrid; so that
in the whole extent there is no possibility of forming a
considerable settlement contiguous to the river on that side.
The eastern bank of the river has in this respect a decided
advantage over the western, as there are on it many situations
which effectively command the river."  p. 9.

It may have been that the authors were thinking in terms of
settlements based on cultivation, and in this sense their
description of the transportation significance of the place
does not make an irreconcilable conflict. Irrespective of
this conflicting description, the territorial legislature
created the County of Concordia out of the lower part of
this "impossible" area in 1806. If not justified by the
settlement conditions of that time, it was at least a
statement of hope for the future.

Rapides, Avoyelles, and Natchitoches.

"On the west side of the Mississippi, 70 leagues from New
Orleans, is the mouth of the Red River, on whose banks and
vicinity are the settlements of Rapides, Avoyelles, and Natch-
itoches, all of them thriving and populous. The latter is
situate 75 leagues up the Red river. On the north side of
the Red river a few leagues from its junction with the Mississ-
ippi is the Black river, on one of whose branches, a consid-
erable, way up, is the infant settlement of Ouachita, which
from richness of the soil may be made a place of importance.
Cotton is the chief produce of these settlements, but they
have likewise a considerable Indian trade. The River Rouge,
or Red Riv. r., is used to communicate with the frontiers of
New Mexico."  p.9

St. Bernardo.

"On the east side of the Mississippi, about five leagues
below New Orleans and at the head of the English bend, is a
settlement known by the name of the Poblacion de St. Bernardo,
or the Terre aux Boeufs, extending on both sides of a creek
or drain, whose head is contiguous to the Mississippi and
which flowing eastward, after a course of 18 leagues and
dividing itself into two branches, falls into the sea and
Lake Borgne."  p.13
Settlements below English Turn (Below St. Bernardo).

"At the distance of 16 leagues below New Orleans, the settlements on both banks of the river are of but small account. Between these and the fort of Plaquemines, the country is overflowed in the spring and in many places in incapable of cultivation at any time, being a morass almost into the sea, which is visible on both sides of the Mississippi from a ship's mast.

"From Plaquemines to the sea is 12 or 13 leagues. The country is low, swampy, chiefly covered with reeds, having little or no timber and no settlement whatever." p. 14

New Orleans.

"The city of New Orleans, which is regularly laid out on the east side of the Mississippi, in lat. 30°, N. and long. 90° W. extends nearly a mile south, to that of Chopitoulas above, and a little more than 1/3rd of a mile in breadth, from the river to the rampart; but it has an extensive suburb on the upper side." p. 18

The writers and compilers of the "Account" gave figures for the population of the area now included in the State of Louisiana. They had little faith in the accuracy of their figures, however, and so stated their conviction as follows:

"Memorandum. - This census is taken from the latest returns, but is manifestly incorrect, the population being under rated - from some places there have been no returns for the last seven years, and from those made this year it is easy to see that certain causes induced the inhabitants to give in short returns of their slaves and of their own numbers. The Spanish government is fully persuaded that the population at present considerably exceeds 50,000 souls." Appendix, p. 87.

The number of inhabitants, then, was highly uncertain and apparently the percentage of error increased with the distance from the older settlements along the Mississippi. Whether the lesser or the greater number is accepted, there is an interesting basis for comparison with the number of inhabitants and their distribution by districts as shown in the first United States Census of Louisiana - other than the present Florida Parishes - in 1810.

'& see Appendix lxxxv, lxxxvi
As a specific example they cited the discrepancy in the Atacapas as follows:

"From an official document, made in July last, and received from Atacapas since the statement, No. 3, was formed, it appears that it contained 2,270 whites, 210 free people of color, 1,266 slaves, in all 3,746 souls, instead of 1,447, as then stated. It is highly probable that the return for the neighboring district of Opelousas, is in the same proportion underrated."
THE PARISHES (COUNTIES) FROM 1805 to 1810

The 12 COUNTIES OF 1805.

The beginning of the American period was marked by an attempt to create minor civil divisions on the ancient county model prevailing in the older American commonwealths. At the first session of the first legislature of the newly organized Orleans Territory, the famous original twelve counties were created in the following words:

"An act for dividing the territory of Orleans into counties and establishing courts of inferior jurisdiction therein."

County of Orleans: shall comprehend all that portion of country lying on both sides of the Mississippi River from the Balize to the beginning of the parish of St. Charles, including the parishes of St. Bernard and St. Louis.

County of German Coast: shall comprehend the parishes of St. Charles and St. John the Baptist, commonly called the first and second German Coasts.

County of Acadia: shall comprehend the parish of St. James and the Ascension, commonly called the 1st and 2nd Acadian Coasts.

County of Lafourche: shall comprehend the parish of Assumption.

County of Iberville: shall comprehend the parish of St. Gabriel and so much of the parish of St. Bernard as lies within the territory of Orleans.

County of Pointe Coupee: shall comprehend the parish of St. Francis.

County of Concordia: shall comprehend all that portion of country within the following boundaries: beginning at the mouth of the Red River and ascending the same to the Black River to the Tensa River and along the same to the Tensa Lake; thence by a right line easterly to the Mississippi, and down the same to the point of beginning.

County of Ouachita: shall comprehend all that country commonly called the Ouachita settlements.
County of Rapides: shall comprehend the settlements of Rapides, Avoyelles, Catahoula, Bayou Boeuf, Bayou Robert, and all other settlements which are now are may be in the vicinity thereof, and which may in the opinion of the Superior Court lie nearly or more conveniently to the court house of the said county of Rapides than to the court house or seat of justice of any other county.

County of Natchitoches: shall comprehend the parish of St. Francis.

County of Opelousas: shall comprehend the parish of St. Landry, commonly called the parish of Opelousas.

County of Attakapas: shall comprehend the parish of St. Martin, commonly called the parish of Attakapas.

"The county court of each county shall fix and determine the seat of justice thereof in such manner to be most convenient for the majority of inhabitants at large."


The 19 PARISHES of 1807. The resistance of the Latin inhabitants of Louisiana to the new order was widespread and profound. Their well-known dislike for the new judicial system was undoubtedly one of the strongest factors working against the preservation of the counties as originally created. Consultation of the language of the act creating the counties makes it clear that the counties and "courts of inferior jurisdiction" were mutually dependent units, and any stigma that attached to one would be reflected directly in the other. It is not the function of this paper to analyze or review the reasons for the unpopularity of the counties, but it is significant to note that the opposition resulted in a length of life of less than two years, and at the second session of the territorial legislature, the original twelve counties lost most of their administrative

Calhoun, op. cit.
significance\(^2\) as the result of the passage of the act of 1807 which created nineteen parishes:

"An act supplementary to an act, entitled 'An act providing for the Superior Court going circuit' and for establishing courts of inferior jurisdiction."

SEC. 9: p. 10, "....and be it further enacted that the said territory shall be and the same is hereby divided into 19 parishes, as follows, to wit:"

1st. Orleans Parish: City of New Orleans with its precincts as they formerly stood.


3rd. Plaquemines Parish: Shall comprehend all that part of the country on both sides of the Mississippi below the Parish of St. Bernard as far as the Balize.

4th. St. Charles Parish:

5th. St. John the Baptist Parish:

6th. St. James Parish:

7th. Ascension Parish:

8th. Assumption Parish: That part of the settlement of Lafourche nearest to the river, and including one half of the population.

9th. Interior Parish: (Lafourche Interior): The remaining settlements and the lower part of Lafourche.

10th. Iberville Parish: Including the settlements of Galvez-town.

\(^2\)Calhoun (op. cit.) has called attention to the fact that the counties continued to have an electoral significance by referring to section 32 of the act of 1807 which read:

"That the division of the territory into counties shall subsist for the purpose of making the election of the Representatives of the territory, and levying the territorial taxes."
11th. Baton Rouge Parish: (West Baton Rouge): That part of the territory known by the name of Baton Rouge, from that part which is opposite the bayou of Manchac until the last part of the mouth of the Fels.

12th. Pointe Coupee: The parish of St. Francis (No. 1).

13th. Concordia Parish: The county of Concordia as now established.

14th. Ouachita Parish: The settlements of Ouachita.


17th. Natchitoches Parish: The parish of St. Francis (No. 2).

18th. St. Landry Parish: The parish of St. Landry and the Opelousas.


SEC. 33, p. 50: "...and be it further enacted that the act entitled 'An Act for dividing the territory of Orleans into counties and establishing Courts of Inferior jurisdiction therein', be and the same is hereby repealed, except in what is expressly preserved by this act.

Orleans Territory Acts of 1807, 2nd S. of 1st L. Approved March 31, 1807, Chap. 1, p. 2

The word county continued to have some currency to and beyond the middle of the century, although the duality of the county-parish system was ended officially in 1843 when the county was abolished as an electoral unit.

The exceedingly meagre references to boundaries in the acts of 1805 and 1807 are readily apparent. In the county creations of 1805, only Concordia was fully delimited; and of the nineteen parishes created in 1807, nine of them were

2/ Louisiana Acts 1843, 69.
merely designated by name, five refer vaguely to "settlements" four others contain some reference to definite points, and, again, only Concordia is definite because of the words "as now established". The legislature was conscious of the unsatisfactory nature of the boundaries given in the act of 1807, and in the final part of the ninth section provided:

"And in case of any difficulty relative to the boundaries of the respective parishes above described, it shall be the duty of the person exercising the powers of governor of the territory to declare and establish the boundaries between those parishes in relation to which doubts may have arisen, and to give notice of such declaration and establishment by public proclamation and otherwise as may be deemed expedient, and to submit the same to the next session of the Legislature."

Whatever the shortcomings of the definitions in the acts of the legislature, the descriptions are basic in that they indicate the historic nuclei for the evolving parish structure and hence they must be interpreted as fully as possible. The delimitation of individual parishes or groups of parishes is given in the following pages of this section.

Orleans: The original descriptions of Orleans,22 St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes are found in the act of the Territorial legislature of 1807, although the County of Orleans was given a rough delimitation in 1805. By that act the County of Orleans was to "comprehend all that portion of country lying on both sides of the Mississippi River from the Balize to the beginning of the parish of St. Charles".

The line between Orleans and St. Charles was conjectural unless the County of Orleans coincided in extent with the

22Because of its obvious importance, the exposition of this section is oriented about the triple aspects of the Parish and County of Orleans and the City of New Orleans.
CITY of New Orleans. In 1805 this assumption was not legally justified, although it may have been in the thought of the legislators.

The original parish act of 1807 defined the PARISH of Orleans as the "CITY of New Orleans with its precincts as they formerly stood." Conceivably this designation could have referred to the original city of New Orleans bounded by Bienville, Ursuline, and Dauphine Streets, but this is very doubtful because first, these were the limits during the first years after the establishment of New Orleans on the Mississippi, and, second, the Territorial legislature had bounded the city only two years previously, i. e., in 1805 as follows:

"Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Governor of the Territory of Orleans by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, That all that tract of country included within the following boundaries, shall continue to be a City, by the name of New Orleans; On the North by lake Pontchartrain, from the mouth of Chef Menteur to the bayou Petit Bouyou, which is about three leagues to the west of Fort St. John; on the West by bayou Petit Bouyou to the place where the upper line of the grant or concession, formerly called St. Beine, and now called Mazange, passes; from thence along the line of the plantation of Foree to the river Mississippi, and across the same to the canal of Mr. Harang, and along the said canal to the bayou Bois Piquant; from thence, by a line drawn through the middle of the last mentioned bayou, to lake Cataoucha, and across the same to the bayou Poupard" (Couba) which falls into the lake Barataria; on the South by the lake of Barataria from the bayou Poupard to the bayou Villars; from thence along the bayou Villars, to its junction with the bayou of Barataria; from thence, ascending the bayou Barataria, to the place where it joins the canal of Fazende and continuing in the direction of the last mentioned canal to the Mississippi; and finally on the east by ascending the Mississippi to the plantation of Rivier, and then along the canal of his present sawmill to bayou Depres, which leads to lake Borgne, and from the point.

23 See p. 67 for description of Orleans and other eighteen original parishes.

24 J. H. Deiler, The Settlement of the German Coast of Louisiana, p. 67-68.
where the last mentioned bayou falls into the said lake Borgne, by a line along the middle of that lake to the mouth of Chef Menteur, and from thence to the lake Pontchartrain".

Act of the Legislative Council for the Terr. of Orleans, (Chap. XII), Approved Feb. 17, 1805.

Whatever may have been the legal designation by the legislature in 1805, it is certain that there was no universal acceptance of any one CITY delimitation. Thus, in 1803, the Federal government as shown by the American State Papers referred to the upper limit of the CITY as being no farther up-River than Bienville Street. This conclusion must be reached inferentially but none the less unmistakably. It is arrived at through the request of the Ursuline Nuns for confirmation of their property after the American purchase:

"The Abbess and Community of the Ursuline Convent in New Orleans claim a tract of land situate about three miles above the city, on the left bank of the Mississippi containing five arpents in front, by 65 in depth, bounded on the upper side by the lands of widow Fanis, and on the lower, by those of Mr. Livaudais, Junior. It appears that said land was inhabited and cultivated by the claimants on the 20th of December, 1803, and for more than ten consecutive years prior to that period. Confirmed."

The exact location of the Nuns plantation presents difficulties, but when they decided to sell the land described above as the result of a decision to establish another convent on a plantation below the city of New Orleans, the extent of their land was made definite as the result of actual surveys. The sisters

"held a conference with Messieurs F. V. Poitier and Bartelmy Lafon, surveyors, in regard to the division and sale of this land. On September 18, 1810 the surveyors submitted a plan dividing the tract into city lots. A road was to be run

25 American State Papers, Public Lands, II, entry No. 366, p. 327."
through the center of the tract from the river to the swamps in the rear. This road, later St. Mary Street, was evidently named Chemin de Ste. Marie in honor of the Mother Superior. In addition, two other roads were to be run parallel to this central road, and were to be called Chemin de St. André, later St. Andrew Street, and Chemin de Ste. Felicité, later Felicity Street, in honor of the Depositaire and Assistant, respectively.

"The plan was accepted, and lots of land, usually measuring about three hundred feet in front, were sold. With the sale of this land and the consequent settlement of it, cross streets were constructed and buildings were erected. Thus came into being a new suburb of New Orleans, the Faubourg Nuns."26

On the basis of this description, even Felicity Street, the cityward boundary of the Nuns Plantation was thought of as being three²⁷ miles above the CITY, and at least nine or ten miles below the upper boundary of the CITY as defined by the Legislative Council in its act of February 17, 1805.

Because it is impossible, then, to know what is the extent of the PARISH in terms of the CITY as it "previously" stood, and also because the law of 1805 has the force of legal existence, and, finally, because the Parish of Jefferson which was carved out of the PARISH of Orleans in 1825 subsequently proved to extend much farther up the River than a narrow interpretation of the CITY-PARISH identity would permit, the up-River boundary for the parish of Orleans for the map of 1810 is placed at approximately the present line between Jefferson and St. Charles.

²⁷ The recent, accurate quadrangles of the U. S. G. S. show that the distance from Bienville Street to Felicity Street is only about two miles.
The act of the Legislative Council of February 17, 1805 is of such great importance because of its aid in establishing the upper boundary of Orleans Parish. It is the only early legal description of this boundary, and affords the background for the later misunderstanding in the general area of Lake Salvador (Barataria). It is certainly true, however, that the language of the act seems to be definite enough so that had it been adhered to there would not have been such variance in the drawing of boundaries in the Lake Salvador area. In any event, it will be used for the map of 1810 since there is no other act which refers to this upper boundary, no matter if the reference is to city or parish. This act of February 17, 1805 is the only early act which ever gave a clue to the upper limits of Orleans, and later, Jefferson Parish, and barring some unknown local ordinance is the only specific reference that places Couba Island in Jefferson - through its origin in Orleans - Parish.

As a background for delimiting the parish of Orleans on the south, it is necessary to see its relation to St. Bernard and Plaquemines. In 1807, St. Bernard parish was given the simple description of "commonly called La Terre-aux-Boeuf". By the same act, the original parish of Plaquemines "shall comprehend all that part of the country on both sides of the Mississippi below the Parish of St. Bernard as far as the Balize". These definitions were, of course, indefinite, and in 1809 the Territorial Legislature signified its intention of removing doubts concerning the boundaries of the tri-parish area as follows:
"An act to remove certain doubts relative to the limits of the parishes of New Orleans (Orleans), Plaquemines, and St. Bernard."

"...that the limit of the Parish of New Orleans (Orleans) is hereby fixed as Dessales' plantation included on the right shore of the river below the city, and at the plantation of Toutant Beauregard inclusively on the left shore; that the limit of the Parish of Plaquemines shall commence on the right shore of the River at the lower line of Dessales' plantation and on the left shore at the lower line of Delassise's plantation; and the limit of the Parish of St. Bernard shall commence at Delassise's plantation inclusively, running along the settlement of the Bayou Terre-aux-Boeufs."


The act is illuminating not only because of the more exact definition of the lower boundaries of Orleans, but because by its very omission of any reference to the upper boundaries it seems to recognize the validity of those which it had established in its act of February 17, 1805.

The omission of any reference to boundaries back from the river in this clarifying act of 1809 is the best evidence of lack of concern with any save the settled areas on the natural levee fronts. In terms of physical geography, St. Bernard meant the natural levees of Bayou Terre-aux-Boeuf, whereas Plaquemines involved both of the natural levees of the Mississippi below the Terre-aux-Boeuf outlet. For St. Bernard, the boundaries to the Gulf are analogous in that they are extensions of plantation lines, and for Plaquemines they include the natural levees and, in the absence of anything better, an approximation of the lines that were to come into existence as
the result of later acts.

The southwest boundary of Orleans parish is certainly highly controversial. According to the act of 1805 and if the act of 1807 were to be interpreted as making the PARISH of Orleans coterminous with the CITY of New Orleans as laid down in the act of 1805, the parish of Orleans ended on the line extending from Bayou Villars to Bayou Barataria to the Mississippi via the Fazende Canal. This must not have been the case, however, for later acts make it clear that Orleans PARISH was thought of as extending all the way to the coast in the Barataria Bay area: there was no question of confusing PARISH and COUNTY, for the act creating Jefferson Parish in 1825 definitely stated that it came from the PARISH of Orleans.

Lacking definite information, then, it is helpful to indicate this southwestern boundary as the line which later came to be part of the boundary between Jefferson and Lafourche and which had its first definition in the act of 1824 which established the eastern boundary of Lafourche Interior.

The recognition of St. Bernard and Plaquemines as separate parishes is of great interest and value because of the suggestion of certain "principles" of parish creation and delimitation which are apparent in several instances in the story of parish creations and alterations in the alluvial bottoms. As a background for the beginning of the establishment of these principles, the description of St. Bernard as given in An Account of Louisiana is indeed pertinent to many

descriptions and struggles in the future. In that account, St. Bernard is described as follows:

"On the East side of the Mississippi, about five leagues below New-Orleans and at the head of the English bend, is a settlement known by the name of the Poblacion de St. Bernardo, or the Terre aux Boeufs, extending on both sides of a creek, or drain, whose head is contiguous to the Mississippi and which flowing eastward, after a course of 18 leagues and dividing itself into two branches falls into the sea and lake Borgne. .... The land cannot be cultivated to any great distance from the banks of the creek, on account of the vicinity of the marsh behind them, but the place is susceptible of great improvement and of affording another communication to small craft of from 8 to 10 feet draught, between the sea and the Mississippi."

The description is indeed meaningful in that it shows the reason for the separate existence and the narrow and tenuous form of the settlement pattern.

Plaquemines parish was given anything but a hairline delimitation - it "shall comprehend all that part of the country on both sides of the Mississippi below the Parish of St. Bernard as far as the Balize" - but it does give a naive and therefore extremely convincing demonstration of the forces which have been of continuous importance in helping to mold parish outlines throughout the entire alluvial area of the state. First of all, it is seen that the Mississippi River is not considered a boundary but rather a unifying agent, and, second, when taken in conjunction with Bayou Terre aux Boeufs, which is roughly at right angles to the Mississippi, that the rear margins of natural levees with their accompanying poor

27 In Louisiana alluvial bottomland area, the original annual overflow of the Mississippi River and its distributaries created twin ridges, roughly parallel to the line marking the center of the streams, and also marginal to the channels, which are called natural levees. Along the minor streams these natural levees ordinarily have their maximum development within the first mile from the channel margins. The relief within this
drainage, and at least originally, heavy vegetative growth, do suggest "lines" of delimitation even if only approximate.

St. Charles (First German Coast), St. John the Baptist (Second German Coast). These parishes constituted divisions of the County of the German Coast in a way which conformed to traditional usage. The boundaries of the German Coast cannot, of course, be fixed definitely although the Lafon and other maps place the lower one not far above Kenner, and the upper as not so far below the Bayou des Acadiens which proceeds from College Point not far below Convent.

The boundary between the first and second German Coasts was always nebulous, but again Lafon's placement of the names St. John the Baptist and St. Charles indicates that a conventional boundary was near Bonnet Carré Point (Bonne Quarre). In addition to the testimony of early maps, there is the emphasis given by the present boundaries between the ancient parishes on the lower Mississippi. This is especially significant in this area for the reason that despite their great age, and consequent opportunity for lengthy disputes - as found farther up the river and in other parts of the state - the mile may vary from about 5 to 9 feet, and the highest point usually occurs within a short distance of the channel margin. Thus, if the picture is grasped, it may be understood that between the natural levees of Bayou Terre aux Boeufs and those of the Mississippi there is a low area which is of slight value and uninhabited - or at least was until the muskrat and petroleum era of the twentieth century. Such regions constitute zones rather than lines of delimitation. The interminable maze of drainage features so many of which are of comparable size and importance make the selection of any one, a matter of difficulty. At least two major boundary disputes in Louisiana have their background in this condition.

Deiler, (op. cit), states: "According to a map of the year 1731 (Crown Maps), the German settlement of that time began on
statutes indicate that there was virtually no controversy among the parishes that constituted the German and Acadian Coasts.

**Ascension and St. James.** Above the old German Coast was found the Acadian Coast which extended from the boundary indicated above to, according to Lafon, approximately Philadelphia Point on the west bank, and 81 Mile Point on the east bank. In fact Lafon uses what is now Bayou Conway, which proceeds from 81 mile point, as the boundary between the "Comte D'Yberville" and the "Comte L'Acadie". The boundary between the St. James (First Acadian Coast) and Ascension (Second Acadian Coast) was approximately at - a little below - Point Houmas.

The primary concern with the extent of these parishes is, naturally, their frontage on the Mississippi. In preceding pages it has been indicated that the Mississippi did not serve as a line of delimitation but rather as a source of unity. Historically, all of the parishes forming the counties of the German and Acadian Coasts must be considered in the light of their habitation possibilities, and so viewed, these parishes are nothing more than twin ribbons of elevated land extending along the great stream.

Locally there is a significant difference in the distance of lateral extent from the Mississippi, however, and again the the upper side of Bonnet Carré Bend, about four miles below Edgard, in St. John the Baptist parish, and extended from there down the Mississippi. But the map fails to show the German settlement on the other side of the river, where the census of 1724 places a number of Germans.
land form and drainage pattern gives the vital clue. In the rear of the major natural levee of the Mississippi there may be found distributaries which have themselves built up natural levees of cultivation proportions—as Bayou Grosse Tete in Point Coupé and Iberville—and in these instances the stream with its settlers came under the political sway of the major groups living on the high land near the Mississippi. In other instances, the drainage features represent almost the reverse, and this condition prevails in the area under consideration.

On the west the boundary of St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, and St. James was found in the present Bayou Verret—Bayou Chevreuil—Lac Des Allemands—Bayou Des Allemands—Lake Salvador (Grand Lake Barataria) drainage system. These drainage features occupy the lowest portion of the area between the Mississippi and Bayou Lafourche. They are at the axial pit of the exceedingly gently sloping "V" which is really the nature of the Mississippi-Lafourche interstream area. Lafon, Darby, and others recognize the validity of this boundary until they reach the parish of Ascension, or, as formerly referred to, the Second Acadian Coast or the parish of "the Fourche".

This last name is significant in understanding the western extent of Ascension. The fork (Fourche) made by Bayou Lafourche and the Mississippi gives a stretch of alluvium in Ascension.

During the pre-American period this stream was referred to as the Cahabannose (Catahanose in An Account of Louisiana, and even other variations in spelling). The St. James area was sometimes referred to as the Catahanose—see the quotation from An Account of Louisiana in the report to Jefferson.
which is much wider than in St. James, St. John the Baptist and St. Charles. In addition, there is no comparable western boundary for Ascension short of the major streams of the Atchafalaya swamp, and the boundary is so designated.

East of the river, there is no natural rear boundary\(^{32}\) for the parishes formerly constituting the German and Acadian Coasts short of the Manchac (the River Iberville)-Amite River-Lake Maurepas-Pass Manchac-Lake Pontchartrain line. In the early period of Louisiana settlement, interest was centered on the front concessions of the Mississippi and even later when property titles included both front and rear concessions,\(^{32}\) the distance was approximately only three miles, and thus stopped far short of this series of drainage features. The extension of the parish boundaries to these features is a reflection of the low value of the lands and lack of rival claimants.

Assumption and Interior \(\text{(Lafourche Interior)}\). Beginning with Assumption, Bayou Lafourche and its distributaries determine the general extent of both Assumption and Lafourche Interior. The language used for Assumption "that part of the settlement of Lafourche nearest to the river, and including one half of the population" testifies to the unity of the Lafourche region.

Assumption parish was, in general, that part of the Bayou  

\(^{32}\) It is interesting to note that at the present time, the people of the parishes are interested not only in the borders of such features as Lake Pontchartrain but also the extent out into the lake. Flood control projects, and more recently, oil developments are responsible for this changed attitude, and already Orleans Parish has defined her boundaries as extending out into the middle of Lake Pontchartrain.

\(^{32}\) Each of the front and rear concessions had a depth of 40 arpents. Frequently they were owned by the same individual. The owner of the front concession had legal priority of right to purchase the rear concession contiguous with his property, but should he fail to do so he could not prevent acquisition by another.
Lafourche region beyond the area of coalescence of the natural levees of the Mississippi and Lafourche, while Lafourche Interior represented the part of the Lafourche system which was remote from the Mississippi as compared with the original parish of Fourche which embraced the head of Lafourche. As was true of the Mississippi, so did Bayou Lafourche act as a unifying agent for the high land bordering each stream margin, and it was the low poorly drained areas far beyond the natural levee fronts that were thought of as lines (zones) of delimitation.

Iberville-West Baton Rouge. The limits of Iberville and Baton Rouge (West Baton Rouge) were not difficult to fix in so far as the Mississippi River front was concerned. The River Iberville (Bayou Manchac) had, of course, been one of the oldest and most accurately definitive boundaries in all Louisiana history since it was an international as well as a local boundary. The new act of 1807 made an additional note to the effect that the parish was to include "the settlements of Galvez-town" which meant to include all people who had settled in the vicinity of the junction of Bayou Manchac and the Amite River. It is clear, therefore, that the eastern boundary of Iberville went that far east although it might have gone farther. Lacking anything more definite, it seems logical to have Iberville and Ascension meet on the Amite River at a point which is a short distance to the east of this settlement. The boundary between Iberville and Ascension is placed rather arbitrarily near the line which came to be adopted approximately three decades later.
West of the River, it is possible to give a definite northern boundary to Iberville on the Mississippi since, in one of the few definite boundary wordings in the act of 1807, the southern boundary of Baton Rouge was fixed at a point "which is opposite the bayou of Mandhac". All that has been written applies to the river front only, for the boundary disputes of the next several decades reveal the complete lack of agreement on control of territory away from the river - the Grosse Tete-Bayou Maringouin-Alabama Bayou area.

The boundaries of West Baton Rouge were indicated definitely for the natural levee front, namely from a point "which is opposite the bayou of Manchac' until the last part of the mouth of the False", and although there have been slight modifications, this river extent has held to the present.

In both West Baton Rouge and Iberville, the western boundary was not stated and the extension of the lines of the Atchafalaya is just another example of the combination of 1) an extension of parish lines in rough conformity with plantation boundaries, and 2) ending at a stream of significant size located far beyond the settled natural levees of the master stream.

**Pointe Coupee.** Following the general practice already indicated, Pointe Coupee is the remainder of the area between the Mississippi and the Atchafalaya and north of West Baton Rouge. This parish, which received its name from the point which was cut by the formation of False River in 1722, did not prove simple in the future, for all boundary disputes in the entire state of Louisiana, the one between West Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee was almost perennial - this dispute lasted for
approximately fifty years.

Concordia. Continuing on up the Mississippi, the parish of Concordia is an immense relief for the historical cartographer in that it, of all the parishes, had a perfectly definite delimitation. However, the map of 1810 records one difference from that indicated in the county act of 1805. In that year the northern boundary of Concordia was fixed at a line to be run east to the Mississippi from Tensas Lake which meant that the northern boundary of Concordia was approximately in the middle of township 11 - it intersected the Mississippi almost due east of the present town of St. Joseph.

Before the first census was taken, the boundary had been pushed northward to a point opposite Walnut Hills (Vicksburg):

"An act to remove certain doubts as to the northern limits of the county of Concordia."

"....that in place of running east from the Lake Tensa (sic.) to the river Mississippi, the line shall continue northerly, so as to include the inhabitants living on and in the vicinity of the west bank of the Mississippi as far north as Walnut Hills, thence down said river to the beginning."


It is clear from the wording of this act that the people north of the small settlement of Concord (Vidalia) were either sufficiently numerous or vociferous to make their voice heard to the extent of securing their inclusion in the already tenuous parish of Concordia.

The last six parishes named in the act of 1807 include all the remainder of Louisiana: roughly the vast area west of the

alluvial lands of the Mississippi, although even this is too broad, for in reality, the first thirteen parishes extended only as far west as the Atchafalaya-Grand Lake drainage feature in the Atchafalaya Basin, and in the Tensas Basin only as far west as the Red, Black, and Tensas and as far north as Vicksburg. Thus, in 1810, Ouachita was in part a Mississippi Alluvial parish for it included all that territory contiguous to the Mississippi in what is now East Carroll and most of Madison Parishes.

The parishes of Ouachita, Rapides, and Avoyelles are all delimited with the vague words "the settlements of" and even Natchitoches is referred to by the totally indefinite description of "the parish of St. Francis" - number two, since Point Coupee was also known as St. Francis, number one.

Ouachita, and Natchitoches. The settlements of Ouachita, Rapides, and Natchitoches were all offspring of streams, and in an attempt to estimate the extent of each into the vast no man's land beyond the streams, one man's guess was as good as another's. In the case of Ouachita and Natchitoches, many years elapsed before there was even a semblance of establishing a definite boundary between the two. In the next decade, the people of Ouachita and Natchitoches reciprocate in naming the boundary in terms of the other, and neither group had the least idea of the line to which the other extended.

In view of the above, it is clear that it is necessary both to anticipate and recapitulate in order to draw boundaries for the map of 1810. In regard to the eastern boundary of
Natchitoches, it is certain that it should be extended at least as far east as the line between ranges 3 and 4 for in the creation of Claiborne in 1828, the legislature used the words, "an act to create a new parish in the parish of Natchitoches, to be called the parish of Claiborne". In view of this there would seem to be no especial reason to overrule Darby's line in his map of 1816 which fixed the boundary between Natchitoches and Ouachita at approximately the Louisiana Meridian. It is not quite certain, even, but that Darby intended to use the Louisiana Meridian as an approximation of the boundary, and because of its obvious importance it is used in the present study on the map of 1810. Again anticipating, it is well to note that the creation of Claiborne apparently gave impetus to the thought of limiting the eastward extent of Natchitoches to the line between ranges three and four west, at least insofar as the area north of the line dividing townships 13 and 14 (the southern boundary of Claiborne) was concerned, for by 1839, Union, which was contiguous to Claiborne, was described as being formed wholly from Ouachita.

One other point is of significance in explaining the boundary of the remainder of eastern Natchitoches parish north of Red River, as indicated on the map of 1810. The creation of Catahoula in 1808 established a perfectly definite east-west line which extended from Bayou Dain to Castor Creek. Clearly, in the absence of other descriptions, this line should be taken as the boundary between Catahoula and Ouachita, and if it is extended westward until it intersects the Prime Meridian, this
point might be considered the southwestern corner of Ouachita. As will be indicated under Rapides, another definite point was fixed in the act of 1809 which extended Natchitoches as far down Red River as the mouth of the Rigolets de Bon Dieu. These points have been selected for use in drawing the remainder of the southeastern boundary of Natchitoches Parish, north of Red River.

Rapides. The discussion of Rapides is next both in terms of chronological order of legislation and in its central position in relation to surrounding parishes. The limits of this vast parish are also indefinite, but some help is obtained from legislation which occurred after the creations of 1807.

The words used in the creation of Catahoula — "That that part of the county of Rapides known by the name of the Catahoula settlement is hereby divided into a separate and distinct parish." — prove that Rapides was thought of as extending originally as far north as township 11 and included the territory west of Concordia approximately as far west as Little River.

Along Red River itself the extent was not clear but only two years elapsed until Rapides and Natchitoches were separated by a line passing through the point marking the confluence of Red River and the Rigolets de Bon Dieu:

"An act altering the lines separating the county of Natchitoches from the county of Rapides."

SEC. 1: "...that the line dividing the county and parish of Natchitoches from the county and parish of Rapides shall intersect the Red River at the confluence of the Rigolets de Bon Dieu, and shall run from thence to the west in east to the Northeast corner of the county.
of Ouachittas, (sic.) so as to include in the county and parish of Rapides all the settlements below the Rigolets de Bon Dieu and the Red River."


On the south, both Natchitoches and Rapides were unbounded and the drawing of definite boundaries was to be a matter of decades. Again, in the absence of any proof or evidence to the contrary, there is no reason for setting aside Darby's analogous line which approximates the base line or the 31st parallel. Lafon indicates an extension of the "Comte des Opelousas" to a latitude in line with southern Avoyelles.

Perhaps the best reason of all for accepting this as a rough approximation lies in the fact that the prairies of the Opelousas (St. Landry) extended over most of what is now Evangeline Parish and the Opelousas was ever thought of in terms of its prairies. A part of a northwestern parish is upland coastal plain, and the meeting place of prairie and pine clad hills marks a change in all phenomena from land forms to general culture of the inhabitants.

Finally, and again anticipating, an act of 1816 entitled "An act establishing the limits between the county of Opelousas and the County of Rapides" uses Elm Bayou as the focal line and this little stream is approximately three miles south of the 31st parallel. The westward projection of the line to the north of the settlements on Elm Bayou, then, is used as the boundary separating Opelousas (St. Landry) and Rapides.

It has been noted that the only definite boundary between Natchitoches and Rapides was in the Red River alluvial bottoms - and this had really been defined as a point. The boundaries of
huge Natchitoches were perfectly definite on the north and west - even though they had not yet been marked by surveyors monuments - but in the area of the vast rolling pineries to the west of the alluvial lands there was no boundary.

This rugged Kisatchie country, known to geographers and geologists as the Kisatchie Wold, was indeed a frontier region until the coming of the lumberman about the beginning of the twentieth century. It is significant that Lafon knew so little of this area that on his map of 1806 he covered it and most of the rest of the great southwestern part of the State - north of the Calcasieu coastal zone - with a great circle in which he gave the written title and description of his map. In the present study, the boundary between Natchitoches and the boundary between Natchitoches and Rapides is made to follow the approximate crest of the Kisatchie Wold. This is in keeping with Latourrette's map of 1847, and with the final legal drawing of the line more than a century later. (It is certainly worthy of comment that at least one boundary between two of the original and largest parishes should have existed so long without legal delimitation.)

Avoyelles. The "settlements of Avoyelles" differed from those in Natchitoches and Rapides in that they were not so exclusively stream settlements. This is not to indicate that streams were unimportant for the act of 1818 which defines the limits of Avoyelles definitely refers to settlements around Bayou Rouge, and one of the focal points was on Red River, but it is important to remember that the Marksville prairie has been an important
site for settlers from the beginnings of human occupancy of Louisiana.

There is no way to indicate the boundaries of Avoyelles until the act of 1818, and so the practice of borrowing against the future will be used once more. In the act of that year Avoyelles was extended up Red River as far as the Widow Holmes Plantation, and the location of this tract seems to be something more than a mere coincidence with what is an outstanding condition of Red River. This plantation is just above the pronounced southerly dip of the river - here the Red reaches farther south than at any other point before its junction with the Mississippi - and it is most suggestive as a demarcation base for political or even other divisions.

The extension of Avoyelles north and east of Red River to Catahoula lake was not surprising for this large area of swamp was essentially uninhabited and the hill lands are not far north of Catahoula Lake. On the south the cutting off of Avoyelles just to the south of the Prairie Rouge probably reflects nothing other than that from this settlement on the distance to Opelousas was too great and that conditions were such as to give an orientation toward the Red and Atchafalaya River.

St. Landry (The Opelousas) and Attakapas (St. Martin). These last two of the original nineteen Louisiana parishes were essentially the vast prairies of southwest Louisiana, although, in the absence of contrary claims and logical extension of political divisions to the western limit of the Orleans Territory, they are shown as encompassing their well known prairies and also as including what were once the magnificent longleaf pine forests of modern
Calcasieu, Beauregard, and parts of Allen and Vernon parishes. Again, it is well to be reminded of the uninhabited condition of this vast area, and of Lafon’s confession of utter lack of knowledge concerning any part of it save the littoral.

On his map, Lafon designates the "comte de Oppeloussas" as the area west of the Atchafalaya, and south of a line drawn along the course of Bayou Rouge and which leaves this bayou near what is now northern St. Landry parish and hence diagonally to the 31st parallel. On the southeast he makes Bayous Fusilier and Carancro the boundaries, while on the south as a whole he indicates a straight east-west line leaving Carancro in a latitude a little north of the 30th parallel - (he shows it as directly west of "St. Martin’s" although he correctly has St. Martin in Attakapas.)

The "comte des Attacappas" means both the Teche country south of the junction with Bayou Fusilier including the swamps of the Atchafalaya on both sides of Grand Lake as far east as Grant River, the region between the Teche and the Vermillion River and the vast prairies to the west of the Vermillion River extending all the way to the Sabine. Lafon's east-west boundary between Attakapas and St. Landry has already been indicated.

This wholly unnatural boundary is not used in the map of 1810 for the reason that an act of only ten years later...
repudiates it, and substitutes one which is much more natural in every way. In that act a line was drawn from a point not far from the source of Bayou Caranéro to the headwaters of Bayou Queue de Tortue and thence down that stream to the Marmonaut and to the sea. This natural line has been recognized in all subsequent parish building and used for the map of 1810.

**Catahoula.** To Catahoula belongs the honor of being the first creation after the original nineteen parishes. It escaped being with the original group by less than a year, and its creation within so short a time was a portent for the decades to come. The territorial act creating Catahoula reads as follows:

"An act erecting the Catahoula into a distinct parish."

"...that that part of the country of Rapides known by the name of the Catahoula settlement is hereby divided into a separate and distinct parish, ..., all that part of the said county of Rapides included within the following bounds, to wit: beginning at the mouth of the Bayou Tensas, thence up the said Bayou to the Tensas lake, thence through the said lake, running northwest until it strikes the River Aux Boeuf, so as to include all that settlement known by the name of Sicily, thence up the said River Aux Boeuf to its junction with the Ouachita River, thence up the said Ouachita River to the Bayou Pain, a line running from thence west until it strikes the south fork of Catahoula or little River, thence down the said river to its junction with the Ouachita and Bayou Tensas and place of beginning, shall be one distinct parish and called and known by the name of Catahoula Parish."


**Summary.** And thus, at the time of the first United States census for Louisiana, the area which is on the verge of statehood presents twenty of her present sixty-four parishes. Concordia and Catahoula alone are accurately delimited and it is apparent that Louisiana political regionalism is indeed in embryo. There is
the greatest disparity in size, and, less important, in population. Natchitoches, Rapides, Ouachita, and Opelousas (St. Landry), to use the outstanding illustrations, are much too large for the transport facilities of the day. With the increase in population, the people demand easier access to the courts, to the assessor and to other agencies of government, trade, and other recognized agencies of society.

Save for the Lower Mississippi, the population groups are few and widely scattered, but a beginning has been made, and in the next few decades the population doubles and redoubles, and, with the surge over the state for good agricultural lands, the creation of additional minor political subdivisions goes on apace.

Any attempt to make a direct correlation between the number of parishes added during this decade would be decidedly misleading, for an examination of the list summarizing the number of parish creations by decades reveals that the additions are those brought about by the special circumstance of the Florida Parishes. Other than these, St. Mary was the lone addition during the period. Louisiana as a State is yet new, and even though the total population of the State doubled during this decade, this is frequently given a wrong interpretation. Of the 76,854 people added from 1811 to 1820, 22,225 constituted the addition made by the Florida Parishes.

This is likewise futile in any other decade, for there is no doubt but that the force of population increase in parish creation was cumulative, and its consequences, therefore, were somewhat spasmodic.
The period 1811 to 1820 was one of critical importance for the people and territory within the present boundaries of the State of Louisiana. Perhaps no American commonwealth ever had a greater concern with political boundaries in a like period. The separate admission of the Florida parishes and the remainder of the present state of Louisiana, the unique inclusion of a statement of the boundaries of Louisiana in the Constitution of 1812, and, finally, a war which, in a sense, might well have determined whether the present state of Louisiana should ever exist - all of these constitute a vivid background for the creation of new parishes and the alteration of old boundaries.

Although the decade ending with 1820 was by no means the quantitative equivalent of the three decades to follow, it recorded the creation of six new parishes and seventeen additional acts which altered or defined boundaries of parishes already in existence. Older residents and recent settlers in the area removed from the older parishes along the natural levees of the Mississippi were becoming articulate in their demands for governmental areas that would better fit their needs and desires. It is both convenient and meaningful to divide the exposition for this period under the headings: Florida Parishes, and the remainder of the state. In part because of chronology, but more especially because of the ³⁶Actually from October 27, 1810.
definite unity, the Florida Parishes will be considered first.

The Florida Parishes

The beginning of the story of parish creations and alterations in this decade must necessarily start with the Florida parishes. On October 27, 1810, President Madison issued the following proclamation:

"Whereas the territory south of the river Mississippi and extending to the river Perdido, of which possession was not delivered to the United States in pursuance to the treaty concluded at Parish on April 30, 1803, has at all times, as is well known, been considered and claimed by them, as being within the colony of Louisiana conveyed by the said treaty, in the same extent that it had in the hands of Spain, and that it had when France originally possessed it."

"...that possession should be taken of the said territory, in the name and behalf of the United States. William C. C. Claiborne, Governor of the Orleans Territory of which said territory is to be taken as part, will accordingly proceed to execute the same;...""

1810 Proclamation of the President of the U. S.

A few weeks later - December 1, 1810 - Governor Claiborne took possession of the region of the Florida parishes:

To Col. Covington
Near Natchez
Dec. 1, 1810.

Sir:

"Availing myself of the authority, vested in me by the president of the U. S., and of which you are advised, in the orders of the Secretary at War, under date of the 27 October, you will detach for immediate service under the command of a proper officer from two hundred and fifty to three hundred effective men (including a detachment of light artillerists with two field places) with instructions

37 That part of the present State of Louisiana east of the Mississippi River, south of the 31st parallel, west of the Pearl River, and north of a line drawn through the middle of Bayou Manchac, the Amite River, Lake Maurepas, Pass Manchac, Lake Pontchartrain, and the Rigolets."
to the commanding officer to proceed without delay to the
post of Point Coupie, and then to halt until he shall be
informed by me of "the point or station within the District
of Baton Rouge which he is to occupy. It is expected that
this detachment will move on the morning of the 3rd instant,
and that the Gun Boats now lying in the Harbour of Natchez
will be employed as a means of transportation. As it is
very possible a large force may be necessary, to effect the
views of the president with respect to Florida, I must
require of you to take immediate measures to follow (on the
shortest notice) with your whole effective force "leaving
a detachment sufficient to furnish the necessary guards at
the cantonments," and that for this purpose if the public
means of transportation are deemed inadequate, you will lose
no time in purchasing up boats of the country
(a line missing)
a Barge and crew to be in readiness at Fort Adams to receive
me; I have to further request that you would detail two
subaltern officers to accompany me from that place."

I am

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

1810 Official Letter Books of W. C. C. Claiborne

Colonel Covington had scarcely been despatched to West
Florida until the Orleans Territory legislature erected the
entire area of West Florida into one enormous COUNTY to be
known by the name Feliciana:

ORDINANCE: "...that so much of the territory of Orleans
as lies south of the Mississippi territory and eastward
of the River Mississippi, and extending to the Perdido,
shall constitute one county;" to be known and called by
the name of Feliciana."
Approved December 7, 1810, Ordinance, pl 210

It must have been apparent that such a large and attenu­
ated area was unserviceable for even moderately effective

Governor Claiborne and the legislators for the Territory
evidently were not impressed by the act of 1807 abolishing the
counties as administrative units in the Territory of Orleans,
or, as intimated by a later act of December 22, 1810 they were
thinking of the County as an electoral unit which would later
be divided into smaller administrative units.
governmental purposes, for only two weeks later the Territorial legislature divided the area between the Mississippi and the Pearl into four PARISHES:

ORDINANCE: "...that there be established within the county of Feliciana four parishes, whose limits shall be as follows, to wit:"

Feliciana Parish: "All that tract of country lying below the boundary of the Mississippi territory and between the most easterly branch of Thompson’s Creek and the river Mississippi.

East Baton Rouge Parish: "All that tract of country lying between the most easterly branch of Thompson’s Creek and the river Iberville, and extending from the river Mississippi to the Amite.

St. Helena Parish: "All that tract of country lying below the boundary of the Mississippi territory, and between the Amite and the river Ponchatoula (sic) including the settlements of Chicoonta, Bogoneto, and Pearl River.

St. Tammany Parish: "Within the residue of the county of Feliciana."

Creation of DeLoux and Pascagoula Parishes. The record of parish (county) creation in the old region of West Florida is probably without duplication in the history of any other American commonwealth, and because of the continuing uncertainty over West Florida a climax was reached in the legislative erection of two parishes in territory that is now a part of Mississippi and Alabama, and which never belonged to Louisiana:

ORDINANCE: "...that in addition to the parishes established within the county of Feliciana, ..., there be established within the county aforesaid two other parishes, whose limits shall be as follows, to wit:"

DeLoux Parish: (Biloxi Parish) All that tract of country
which extends from the east bank of Pearl River to the river Beloxy (sic.), and below the boundary of the Mississippi territory.

Pascagoula Parish: All that tract of country which extends from the eastern bank of the Beloxy river to the bayou Batrie (including all the settlements on the bayou Batrie and the Pascagoula) and which lies below the boundary the Mississippi territory.

"...within the residue of the county of Feliciana there shall be formed such other parishes as may hereafter be deemed expedient."


ORDINANCE: "...that the parish of Pascagoula, whose eastern boundary was by an ordinance, bearing the date the 4th of January instant, declared to be the bayou Batrie, shall from and after the date hereof be extended to the Rio Ferro, or Dog River, and that all the settlements east of said river shall hereafter be included within the parish of Pascagoula."


Increase in number of Florida Parishes. It was noted that four parishes were created in that part of West Florida which is within the present boundaries of Louisiana even before that part of the State constituting the old Territory of Orleans was admitted to the Union. The enabling acts of the legislature of Orleans Territory and of the Federal Congress of February 16, 1811 and February 20, 1811 respectively were a part of the law on the land for only two months when the Territorial legislature increased the number of the Florida Parishes from four to six and these parishes collectively were co-extensive with the COUNTY of Feliciana:

"An act establishing the parish boundaries of the county of Feliciana."

"...that the county of Feliciana shall be divided into six parishes,..."
Felician Parish: Lying between the lower line of the Mississippi territory to the mouth of Thompson's Creek, and the line running thence due east to the river Amite; and its western boundaries, shall be the Mississippi.

East Baton Rouge Parish: Lying between the parishes of Felician and Iberville, and between the Mississippi and Amite rivers.

St. Helena Parish: Shall comprehend that tract of country lying below the line of the Mississippi territory and between the Amite and the river Tanchipao (sic.).

St. Tammany Parish: Lying east of the Tanchipao (sic.) to Pearl River and south of the Mississippi territory.

Biloxi Parish: Lying south of the Mississippi territory and extending from Pearl River to the river falling into the bay of Beloxi (sic.).

Passacoula Parish: Lying south of the Mississippi territory and extending east from the river falling into the bay of Beloxi (sic.).

Orleans Terr. Acts of 1811, 2nd S. of 3rd L. Chap. 28, p. 120, Approved April 24, 1811

Florida Parishes Separate from the Remainder of Louisiana. At this juncture it is well again to emphasize the point that the Florida Parishes were apart from the remainder of the present state of Louisiana. The unique territorial description in the Louisiana constitution of 1812 is, of course, the most obvious proof of this:

"We, the representatives of the people of all that part of the territory or country ceded by the treaty made at Paris on April 30, 1803, between the United States and France, contained in the following limits, to-wit: Beginning at the mouth of the river Sabine, thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of said river, including all its islands, to the 32° of latitude; thence, due north to the northern most part of the 33° of north latitude; thence along the said parallel of latitude to the river Mississippi; thence, down the said river to the river Iberville; and from thence, along the middle of the said river and the Lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain to the Gulf of Mexico; thence, bounded by the said Gulf, to the place of beginning, including all islands within three leagues of the coast...."
Federal Act Admitting Louisiana to the Union. On April 8, 1812, Congress passed the act admitting all of the present State of Louisiana save the Florida Parishes to the Union:

"An act for the admission of the State of Louisiana to the Union, and to extend the laws of the United States to the said state."

"Whereas the representatives of the people in all that part of the territory or country ceded under the name of Louisiana, by the treaty made in Paris April 30, 1803, between the United States and France, contained within the following limits, that is to say: (limits same as enabling act) did, on Jan. 22, 1812, form a Constitution and State government for themselves, and gave to the said state the name of the State of Louisiana in pursuance with an Act of Congress entitled 'An Act to enable the people of the territory of New Orleans to form a Constitution and State Government, and for the admission of said state into the Union on an equal footing with the original states, and for other purposes,' and the said Constitution having been submitted to Congress, and by them being hereby approved; therefore"...the State of Louisiana to be admitted to the Union.

Sec. 6. Provisions of act to go into effect and have force on April 30, 1812.

1812 12th Congress of the U. S., 1st S.
Thorpe, vol. 3, p. 1378, Approved April 8, 1812

Louisiana Legislature Given Authority to Add Florida Parishes.
The Florida Parishes were not for long "beyond the pale", for only six days later Congress passed the act which gave the legislature of the newly born State of Louisiana the power to add the Florida parishes to its original area:

"An act to enlarge the limits of the State of Louisiana."

Sec. 1. "...That in case the legislature of the State of Louisiana shall consent thereto, all that tract of country comprehended within the following boundaries to-wit: Beginning at the junction of the Iberville and the river Mississippi; thence, along the middle of the Iberville, the river Amite, and of the Lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain to the eastern mouth of the Pearl River; thence up the eastern branch of the Pearl River to the 31° of north latitude; thence along the said degree of latitude to the river Mississippi; thence down the said river to the place of beginning, shall become and form a part of the said State of Louisiana, and be subject to the Constitution and
and laws thereof, in the same manner, and for all intents
and purposes, as if it had been included within the original
boundaries of the state."

Sec. 2. "....That it shall be incumbent upon the Legislature
of the State of Louisiana, in case they consent to the
incorporation of the territory aforesaid within their limits
at their first session, to make provisions by law for the
representation of said territory in the Legislature of the
state upon the principles of the Constitution, and for
securing to the people of the said territory equal rights,
privileges, benefits and advantages with those enjoyed by
the people of the other parts of the state. Which law will
be liable to revision, modification, and amendment by
Congress, and also in the manner provided for the amendment
of the State Constitution, but shall not be liable to change
or amendment by the Legislature of the State."

1812 12th Congress of U. S., 1st S.
Thorpe, vol. 3, p. 1380, Approved Apr. 14, 1812

Florida Parishes Made Part of Louisiana by State Legislature.

Although Congress approved this act on April 14, the Louisiana
legislature did not give its consent and approval until
August 4, 1812:

Resolution: "....giving the assent of the Legislature to
enlargement of the limits of the State of Louisiana."

"Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives
of Louisiana in General Assembly convened, that whereas the
Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of
America in Congress assembled, by an Act entitled 'an Act
to enlarge the limits of the State of Louisiana' have proved
that in case the Legislature of the State of Louisiana shall
consent thereto, all that tract of country comprehended
within the following bounds, to wit: beginning at the
junction of the Iberville with the river Mississippi; thence
along the middle of the Iberville to river Amite, and along
the lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain to the mouth of the
Pearl River; thence up the eastern boundary of the Pearl
River to the 31° of the north latitude; thence along the
said degree of latitude to the river Mississippi; thence
down the said river to the place of beginning p shall become
and form a part of the said State of Louisiana, and be subject to the constitution and laws thereof in the same manner and for all intents and purposes as if it had been included within the original boundaries of said State."

"Be it therefore resolved and it is hereby resolved, that the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, in General Assembly convened, do approve of and consent to the enlargement of the limits of the said state of Louisiana, in manner as provided by the above in part recited act of Congress, hereby declare that the same shall forever be and remain a part of the State of Louisiana."

La. Acts of 1812, 1st S. of 1st L., Chap. 1st Approved August 4, 1812

At last, Louisiana's boundaries are defined - if not all surveyed; the territorial period is ended, and all future parish acts are those of the legislature of the enlarged STATE of Louisiana.

Remainder of the State

Delimitation of Natchitoches County. After the admission of the entire area of Louisiana to statehood, Natchitoches was the first parish (county) to receive the attention of the STATE legislature. As if conscious that its great area and vague delimitation were matters demanding attention, the legislature bounded Natchitoches as accurately as the conditions of the period permitted:

"An act for defining the limits of the County of Natchitoches."

"...that the county of Natchitoches shall be and is hereby bounded as follows, viz: on the north by the 33° of latitude, on the south by the county of Rapides, on the east by the county of Washita (sic) and on the west by the river Sabine and the line running north from the 32° of latitude on said river Sabine until it intersects the northern most part of the 33° of latitude, and the Governor be hereby authorized and required to commission two persons to act as justices of the peace in and for the settlement of Bayou Pierre."
La. Acts of 1812, 1st S. of 1st L.,
Chapter 12, p. 48, Approved August 25, 1812

One part of this act is of great importance because of the part it plays in the interpretation of the language of acts passed in the following decades. The words in question are: "on the SOUTH, by the county of Rapides". The query posed here is: should Rapides be considered as extending to the Sabine River? It is maintained herein that later acts of the legislature assume that it did.

The first definite piece of evidence that Rapides should be thought of as reaching the Sabine River is found in the act of 1840 creating Calcasieu from St. Landry (Opelousas). The act, in part, reads: "...all that territory in the parish of St. Landry...thence due north to the dividing lines between the parishes of St. Landry and Rapides, thence ALONG SAID LINE TO THE SABINE RIVER."\

The next reference which makes a contribution is to be found in the act creating Sabine in 1843. The pertinent words in that act are:

"thence westwardly on said line to the western bank of the Sabine River; thence southerly, following the line between the United States and the Republic of Texas, TO THE POINT WHERE THE LINE BETWEEN THE PARISHES OF NATCHEZACHES AND RAPIDES INTERSECTS THE SAME: thence following said parish line until it intersects the line between ranges 7 and 8".

It will be noted that the act uses the work "county" even though the act of 1807 designates the creation of Rapides PARISH.

Another act which is of critical importance in support of the contention is given in an act of 1852 described as "An act to fix the boundary between the parish of Rapides and the parishes of St. Landry AND Calcasieu". This act states:

Sec. 1: "...that the boundary line between the parish of Rapides and the parish of St. Landry and Calcasieu be fixed as follows:

Beginning at the upper mouth of the Elm Bayou where it connects with the Bayou Cocodrie; thence up the said bayou Cocodrie, to the point where the old road leading from Natchitoches to Opelousas crosses it; thence westward to the Cherawinche crossing on the river Calcasieu; thence in a right line to the mouth of the Anna-Coco Creek where it empties into the river Sabine; thence up the Sabine to the Natchitoches line."

Clearly, Rapides was thought of as extending to the Sabine River. These statements do not, of course, bear directly upon the boundary between Natchitoches and Rapides, but it is essential to bring forth evidence which is pertinent to establishing the conclusion that Rapides was thought of as extending to the Sabine River.

The method of recapitulation that has been employed in this study was, naturally, denied to Darby who honestly admitted that he drew many of his lines by analogy. Almost all other cartographers of the period - to the middle of the century - followed the boundary Darby indicated between Natchitoches and Rapides, but there was one notable exception. In his superb map of 1847, La Tourrette indicates a line drawn from the point marking the junction of the Rigolets de bon Dieu and Red River to the point where the 31st parallel intersects the Sabine River.

It seems quite likely that they merely reproduced Darby's line.
On the present map of 1820 this line will be anticipated because of all of the reasons given, plus the additional one that this line approximates the crest of the most pronounced topographic feature of Louisiana. This feature, the Kisatchie Wold, was "terra incognita" for a long period in Louisiana history, and its very lack of settlement made it a boundary of a nature akin to that served by the low-lying back lands between the natural levees in the alluvial bottoms portion of the state.

Creation of Warren; Concordia and Ouachita. Outside of the Florida Parishes, the first of the older parishes to receive attention in this decade was the parish of Concordia. The act relating thereto is unique in the history of Louisiana parish building, for it both enlarged and divided Concordia:

"An act for the better defining of the limits of the county of Concordia and dividing the same into two parishes, and for other purposes."

SEC. 1: "...that the limits of the county of Concordia shall continue from Lake Tensau (sic.) to the bayou Macon, and ascending said Bayou - which shall be the dividing lines of the counties of Concordia and Ouachita to the 33° of North latitude - thence down East to the Mississippi River, and thence down the same to the place of beginning."

SEC. 2: "...that the county of Concordia shall be and the same is hereby divided into two parishes to be called and known by the names of Concordia and Warren."

SEC. 3: "...that the Parish of Concordia shall comprehend all that part of said county, beginning at the junction of the Red River with the Mississippi River and ascending the latter about three miles above Grand Gulph, to a place known as Shipps's Bayou, thence along said Bayou to Lake St. Joseph, thence northerly through the middle of said lake to a Bayou called, and known by the name of Durosset's Bayou at or near the plantation of Gibson Clark, Jr., thence along the said Bayou to the Tensau - thence down the to Black River - thence down the Black River to its junction with the Red River - thence down the same to the beginning."

SEC. 4: "that the parish of Warren shall comprehend all the part of the aforesaid county beginning on the Mississippi River, about three miles above the Grand Gulph, at the place
Shipp's Bayou, thence along said Bayou to lake St. Joseph, thence northerly through the middle of said lake to a Bayou called Durosset's Bayou at the plantation of Gibson Clark, Jr. - thence along said Bayou to the Tenasau, thence to bayou Macon, thence up the bayou Macon to the 33° of north latitude - thence down East to the Mississippi River - thence down the same to the beginning."

Orleans Terr. Acts of 1811, 2nd S. of 3rd L. Chapter 10, p. 34, Approved March 20, 1811

First, the very title of the act is indeed illuminating in its representation of the state of mind in regard to parishes and counties. Calhoun\(^3\) in his study of the county-parish government of Louisiana makes the point that in his earlier work on the history of Concordia parish, he had concluded that the wording was inexplicable, but upon completing his study of the early functions of counties and parishes he felt that the legislators still held the view that the county was to continue as an electoral unit even though the parish was the only official unit for administration.

Whatever the intent of the title in regard to governmental organization, it is clear that the net results of sections 1, 2, 3, and 4, were: 1) to reduce the area of Concordia on the north by something more than approximately the present parish of Madison, and 2) to create the short-lived parish of Warren which embraced essentially the parishes of Madison and East Carroll.

The parish of Warren is without parallel in the history of Louisiana parish creations. It is the only one which was actually brought into existence and after a brief life of three years was redivided between Concordia and Ouachita - the \(^{43}\)Calhoun, op. cit.
parents of 1811. The net result to Concordia was to extend its northern border about ten miles north of the line which existed prior to the creation of Warren, and to reestablish Ouachita on the Mississippi River. (See map of proposed parishes as well as map of 1820.)

St. Martin and St. Mary - Attakapas. The creation of St. Martin and St. Mary parishes occurred no less than six years before an act was drawn which established the line between the vast parishes of Opelousas and Attakapas. It can hardly be doubted, then, that this reflected the relatively great density of population on the Teche as compared with the rather distant prairies in the area of the present parishes of Acadia, Jefferson Davis, and Evangeline.

In 1805, the county of Attakapas had been defined in the words: "shall comprehend the parish of St. Martin", and again in 1807, Attakapas parish was coincident with "the parish of St. Martin." Thus, St. Martin is the mother of St. Mary even though the law reads to divide Attakapas:

"An act to divide the county of Attakapas into two parishes."

SEC. 1: "...that the county of Attakapas, shall be divided into two parishes to be called and parish of St. Martin and the parish of St. Mary.

SEC. 2: St. Martin Parish: "...shall contain all that part of the said county north, or above the line running east from the upper line of the plantation of Francis Boutte, on the Bayou Teche, to the great lake, and west from the said Francis Boutte plantation to the mouth of the bayou of the petite Anse on the Bay.

St. Mary Parish: "...shall contain all the remainder of the county, that is to say, all that is south or below the said line."

Orleans Terr. Acts of 1811, 2nd S. of 3rd L. Chapter 24, p. 104, Approved April 17, 1811
The division was of greatest significance along the Teche, and the line was placed not far below the present city of New Iberia which is just below a great meander of the Teche nearly central to its linear extent. Present St. Mary and most of Iberia parishes were thus separated from the older St. Martin.

The act of 1811 was considered too vague, and in 1813, the legislature redefined the division:

"An act to explain an act, "An act to divide county of Attakapas into two parishes."

"....That a straight line to be run from the westwardly corner of the upper line of the plantation of Francis Boutte, where he now lives, to the head of the canal leading to the Petite-Anse Island, thence down the canal to the Petite-Anse Bayou, and down the same to the bay commonly called the Vermillion Bay, thence southwestwardly with the bay and the line of the State, to the entrance into the Bayou Teche, thence up the bay of the same to include all the settlements on the bayou that intersects with the bay on the east side of what is commonly called Berwick's Bay, and not included in either of the parishes of the Lafourche, thence up the middle of the Grand Lake to the place where a line running east from the aforesaid Francis Boutte plantation shall strike the said lake, shall belong to the parish of St. Mary."

Approved: March 20, 1813

Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard. Even the older area on the Mississippi near the capital of the Territory was without definite parish boundaries, and in 1811 the legislature passed the second of its acts designed to establish definite delimitations of Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes:

"An act to amend the act entitled 'An act to remove certain doubts relative to the limits of the parishes of New Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard.'"

"....that the limits of the Parish of New Orleans be and that the same is hereby fixed at Dessalle's plantation inclusively on the right bank of the river down to the City, and at the upper limits of Rinker's plantation on the left bank; that the limits of the Parish of Plaquemines shall begin on the right bank at the interior limits of Dessalle's
plantation, and on the left bank on the upper limits of Rinker's plantation inclusively; and that the limits of the Parish of St. Bernard shall begin at the back line of Lasie's (sic.) plantation, including all the settlements of Bayou Terre-aux-Bouefs."

Orleans Terr. Acts of 1811, 2nd S. of 3rd L. Chapter 19, p. 72, Approved: April 10, 1811

It is clear from these acts that the drainage-land form complex with its influence which actually amounted to an environmental control of population distribution fixed the essentials of the delimitation of at least St. Bernard and Plaquemines. St. Bernard meant the natural levees of Terre aux Bœufs, while Plaquemines was essentially the natural levees of the Mississippi below the formerly much more important Terre aux Bœufs distributary. Both parishes later found their rear boundaries somewhere in the drainage systems of the otherwise almost featureless marsh areas away from the nuclear streams.

Orleans in the original county of 1805 included both Plaquemines and St. Bernard, went as far up the Mississippi as St. Charles, and, as was pointed out previously, the upper limits were not fixed with certainty because of the impossibility of making a positive statement of the extent of the city at the time referred to as "its precincts as they formerly stodd." As was shown, this delimitation applied only to the portion north of Lake Salvador. There was no line between Orleans and Lafourche Interior to the south of Lake Salvador, and for the map of 1820, anticipation is made of the line which was established in 1824.
In 1818, St. Bernard was enlarged:

"An act to enlarge the limits of the parish of St. Bernard."

"...that the limits of the parish of St. Bernard shall be so enlarged as to include the plantations of Julian Poydras and V. Delassize............" La. acts of 1812, 2nd S. of 1st L p. 8, approved: December 28, 1812

The northern boundary of St. Bernard was changed in 1817:

"An act further to determine the limits of the parish of St. Bernard."

"...that the limits of the parish of St. Bernard shall be, and the same hereby removed, so as to comprehend the tract of country situated on the left bank of the river Mississippi, from Julian Poydras' plantation to the Canal des Pochurs?........"

Approved: February 22, 1817

Point Coupée, West Baton Rouge, Iberville. The long and troubled history between Point Coupée, West Baton Rouge, and Iberville did not result from the lack of a favorable beginning for Point Coupée and West Baton Rouge - at least in regard to the settled front lands of the Mississippi. In the county act of 1805, Baton Rouge is not mentioned, and Point Coupée was defined as the "parish of St. Francis" (no. 1). The act of 1807 mentions Baton Rouge (West Baton Rouge) for the first time. Its

"Some confusion has arisen in the minds of many persons, from time to time, concerning the location of the Fisherman's Canal, referred to in many of the Acts of the State Legislature as forming a part of the parish boundary in the rear portion of the Crescent City Stock Yard Tract, and extending from the south side of Florida Walk, in T. 12 S., R. 12 E., northward to Bayou Bienvenue.

"This confusion has arisen due to the fact that the condition of that part of the original Fisherman's Canal, referred to in the Acts has been allowed to deteriorate to such an extent that use of it was long since abandoned in favor of a nearby route
Territory was taken from Point Coupee and Iberville although the contribution of each is impossible of commutation.

In the act creating the original nineteen parishes, West Baton Rouge was one of the few to be given a definite delimitation:

"That part of the territory known by the name of Baton Rouge, from that part (point) which is opposite the bayou of Manchac until the last part of the mouth of the False."

It was not to be expected that so general a description as "the last part of the mouth of the False" would remain unmodified for relief and drainage conditions in the False River-Pointe Menoir (Manoir) area invited controversy. First and foremost, False River was one of the first ox-bow lakes made after the arrival of the White man, having been started in 1722. At the time of the act of 1807, the Mississippi had been building its natural levee across the mouths of False River and these natural dams meant that there was no direct connection between "the last part of the mouth of the False" and the Mississippi.

An examination of the map reveals that the southwestern base of the Pointe de Manoir was at one time nearly enclosed through another natural stream that also leads into Bayou Bienvenue, reaching the latter a little over 2000 feet east of the junction of the true Fisherman's Canal.

"Probably for the lack of any name of its own, this alternate, or later on developed route, also became known as Fisherman's Canal, and it was afterwards greatly enlarged and improved by the Orleans Levee Board when the latter threw up an embankment along its west bank, in hopes the embankment might answer the purpose of a deflector should, perchance, any floodwater from below the City limits seek to find its way towards the area in the rear of Florida Walk, rather than out into Lake Pontchartrain, via Bayou Bienvenue. The false Fisherman's Canal was still further enlarged when the Lake Borgne Levee Board constructed its Jackson rear protection levee, incorporating, in the western part of the same, the unfinished work started earlier by the Orleans Levee Board.

"The true location of that part of Fisherman's Canal serving as the boundary line between Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes, though much less conspicuous, is properly shown on the recently completed Chalmette Quadrangle Sheet...."

Part of a brief in the Orleans Folio, Board of State Engineers, N.O.
by the lower reach of False River and the present channel of Mississippi. The Mississippi followed this course for a period fully ample to build significant natural levees, and to leave the typical depression, roughly midway between the natural levees adjacent to the lower reach of False River and the Mississippi. Settlement took place on both stretches of natural levee and with the development of property lines it was but natural that the line between the two parishes should gravitate to the axis of the lands of poor drainage. It was not clear, however, whether the boundary between Point Coupée and West Baton Rouge should follow the rear line of the concessions fronting on False River or those facing the Mississippi proper. In 1812, the boundary was fixed at the rear of a concession facing False River:

"An act altering and determining certain limits between the parishes of Pointe Coupée and Baton Rouge."

"...that the line which forms the eastern bounds of the 40 acres of the title lands situated on the Chanal of the Fausse Riviere, in the parish of Pointe Coupée and on the Pointe Du Manoir in the parish of West Baton Rouge shall henceforth be the division line between the limits of said parishes and...the title lands aforesaid belonging to Messrs. St. Cimir, Pourceau, George Mathurin and Young, which till now have formed a part of West Baton Rouge shall...be part of the parish of Pointe Coupée and render the jurisdiction of the same, either as to the collection of taxes or the administration of justice and police."

La. Acts of 1812, 2nd S. of 1st L., p. 4
Approved: December 14, 1812

It is clear that the boundary was fixed only for the region of the Point Menoir. The map for 1820 indicated the boundary between West Baton Rouge and Point Coupée beyond this point in broken lines which is merely a manner of stating the convention of including all of the back country to the Atchafalaya.
Catahoula and Avoyelles. In 1813 the area included in Catahoula as created in 1808 was enlarged by an extension to the north of approximately 30 miles - almost to the present northern boundary of Franklin:

"An act to define the limits of the parish of Catahoula".

SEC. 1: "....that the limits of the parish of Catahoula shall hereafter be as follows: beginning at the junction of the Ouachita and Tensas rivers, thence running up the Tensas river to the Bayou Macon; thence up said bayou until a due west line will strike the mouth of Ouachita lake at its junction with the river aux Bouefs; thence down said river Bouefs to the mouth of the Fourche; thence a direct line to the Prairie de Coot on the southwest side of the Ouachita including said prairie; thence a direct line to strike Little River at the first fork, above the salt works; thence down Little River to Catahoula lake; thence up Black River to the mouth of the Tensas, the place of beginning including the settlements on the west bank of the Black River, as low down as the said Crocodile in the said parish of Catahoula, provided, however, that any tax that may be due from the before mentioned inhabitants on Black River shall be liable to be collected, as heretofore provided."

SEC. 2: "....that all that part of the state to the east of the eastern limits of the parish of Catahoula shall be included in the parish of Concordia."

Approved: March 24, 1813

One part of the act is ambiguous. The words "thence down Little River to Catahoula lake; thence a direct line to strike Black River at the mouth of the Crocodile" leaves doubt as to whether the line should have been run from the upper or the lower end of Catahoula lake. Fortunately this point is cleared up in the law of 1818 establishing the boundaries of Avoyelles. In this act there are the words "thence due north until said line strikes the Catahouley lake, thence down the said lake to the lower end thereof, thence a direct line to strike the Black River, opposite the mouth of the Bayou Crocodile."
In establishing the boundaries of Avoyelles, the county act of 1805 had referred to Avoyelles as a part of Rapides. Rapides was to "comprehend the settlements of Rapides, Avoyelles," etc. - and in 1807, when Avoyelles was created, Avoyelles parish was merely designated as the "Settlements of Avoyelles". Thus, it was clear that a delimitation was in order. In 1818, the extent of Avoyelles was set forth as follows:

"An act to define and establish the boundaries of the parish of Avoyelles."

"...beginning at the upper boundary of the Widow Holmes' plantation, thence due north until said line strikes the Catahouley lake, thence down the said lake to the lower and thereof, thence a direct line to strike the Black River, opposite the mouth of the Bayou Crocodile, to include in Catahoula all settlements on Black River above the said Crocodile, thence down said Black River to its junction at Red River, thence down the same to the Mississippi, thence down the same to the Chafalaya; thence down the same until a line, running due west will include all settlements and prairies of Bayou Rouge, shall strike the Bayou Boeuf, including the settlements on both sides of the said bayou Boeuf, up to the mouth of Hoffpower bayou, from thence a straight line to the place of beginning, all laws to the contrary notwithstanding."

Approved: February 4, 1818

The delimitation of southwestern Avoyelles in the year 1818 seems to have been misinterpreted by most cartographers. Probably most of them followed Darby's map of 1816 which indicated Avoyelles extending only as far as the western natural levee of Bayou Rouge. A critical examination of the language referring to the delimitation beginning with the words,"until a line running due west...", indicates beyond all doubt that this line should go to the western natural levee of Bayou Boeuf. This line on the map of 1820 so interprets the language and also recognized the apparent
confusion in the "mouth of Huffpower bayou". This small stream is and especially was a shuttle, for water might run either way. A consideration of the drainage pattern indicates the only logical assumption is that the enactors of the law referred to the western terminal of Bayou Huffpower, and the boundary is so drawn.

Feliciana and East Baton Rouge. The status of the boundary between East Baton Rouge and Feliciana was unsatisfactory and in 1815 the legislature provided for the selection of two commissioners "for the running of the boundary line between the parishes of Feliciana and East Baton Rouge".

SEC. 7: Provides for the selection of two commissioners "for the running of the boundary line between the parishes of Feliciana and East Baton Rouge."

Approved: January 31, 1815

Beginning of delimitation of Opelousas. It has been indicated previously that the extent of Rapides was quite uncertain. Because of its central position in the state, it is but natural that, in part at least, the extent of Rapides should be defined by a delimitation of the parishes which were marginal to the nuclear area, i. e., settlements around the settlement at the rapids (Alexandria). This was the procedure in the instances of Catahoula and Avoyelles, but on the south there was the equally well recognized parish (county) of Opelousas (St. Landry). A boundary was certain to be indicated sooner or later.
As a rather timid beginning, the legislature passed the act of 1816:

"An act establishing the limits between the county of Opelousas and the county of Rapides."

"...To commence above the mouth of the Alm bayou on the bayou Crocodile, so as to include the settlements on each side of the said Elm bayou; thence up a straight line to the upper end of the riffle on bayou Boeuf; thence across the same to the head of Hufpoeur's bayou so as to include the settlements on each side of said bayou."

La, Acts of 1816, 2nd S. of 2nd L., p. 18
Approved: February 29, 1816

It is noteworthy that the only attempt at delimitation was in the alluvial country in extreme southeastern Rapides. The line on the map of 1820 is nothing more than a suggested extension of the one which legally has standing only east of Bayou Crocodile. Obviously it is a step, however, and for the first time there is the beginning of "authority" for placing the dividing line between Rapides and Opelousas (St. Landry) approximately on the 31st parallel. A legally described line to the Sabine River was not drawn until 36 years later.

Boundary established between Opelousas and Attakapas. Although the nuclear areas of the Opelousas and Attakapas "countries" - the former centering in modern St. Landry and the latter in present St. Martin - were always well known, their limits, and especially the boundary between the two, were not. The act of 1817, for the first time, fixed the boundary whose segments save for very minor alterations, have served as parish boundaries to the present day. The act gave the following description:

"An act to establish the boundaries between the counties of Opelousas and Attakapas."

"...beginning on the right bank of the river Chafalaya at
a point where it is intersected at the south boundary of township No. 7, south of the 31° of north latitude, as established under the authority of the surveying department of the United States, thence with the said township line due west of the bayou commonly known as bayou Portage of Fuselier; thence up the said bayou to the northeast corner of land conceded to Charles Devilliers; the title whereof has been confirmed to him by the certificate of the Land Commissioners of the western district marked B, No. 173; thence with the upper or northwest boundary of said tract to the river Teche; thence up the Teche to the junction of the bayou Fuselier; thence up the Bayou Fuselier to the river Vermillion; thence with the Bayou Vermillion to the mouth of the bayou Carancrow; thence up the said bayou Carancrow to the northeast corner of the land of Augustine Nizat, as confirmed to him by the certificate of the commissioners of the United States of the western district of the territory of Orleans, marked A, No. 1787; thence by a right line to the head of the Bayou Queue de Tortue; thence down the said bayou to the River Nememtou; thence down the said river Nememtou by its main western branch to the sea; that part of the country to the right of the said line from its departure on the Chafalaya being hereby declared to be within the county of Opelousas, and that to the left being hereby declared to be within the county of Attakapas."

La. Acts of 1817, 1st S. of 3rd L., p. 66
Approved: February 7, 1817.

Washington Parish Created from St. Tammany. The last act in this decade was the one of 1819 which created Washington by dividing St. Tammany. The original St. Tammany stretching all the way from the 31st parallel to Lake Pontchartrain and the Rigolets was more than 56 miles in length. The act creating Washington placed the line only a little to the north of the center of the old parish. The census of 1820 gave the new parish 2,517 people as opposed to 1,723 in St. Tammany and thus indicates the same popular demand for a political division which would better serve the larger number of people.

"An act to divide the parish of St. Tammany, and for other purposes."

SEC. 1: "...that the said parish shall be divided by a line running east and west, beginning at David Robertson's on the Tanchipaho, thence a direct line to Daniel Edwards' on the Tchifoncta, thence a direct line
to the strawberry bluffs ( ) on the Bogu Chitto
and from thence a line on east until it strikes Pearl
River, which said land it shall be the duty of the
surveyor of said parish to run, and plainly mark and
designate, and the expense of the same to be defrayed
by the parish of St. Tammany."

SEC. 2: "....that all that tract and parcel of coun­
try lying east and north of the aforesaid line, and
within the division line of the state of Mississippi,
be called and known by the name of Washington parish,
and it shall be the duty of the judge of said parish
thereafter to be appointed to advertise in the usual
manner an election for the seat of justice of the
same on the 4th day of July next; and the place having
the highest number of votes of the qualified voters
shall be recognized and established as the permanent
seat of justice therein."

Approved: March 6, 1819

General Acts:

Creation of Surveyor General. Even though Louisiana had
achieved statehood for a period of less than six years, it was
apparent that there was a need for surveyors who might not
only facilitate the proper bounding of individual land
parcels, but which might serve in the capacity of governmental
divisions as well. To this end, the legislature passed the
following act in 1818:

"An act to create a Surveyor General and parish surveyors
in the State of Louisiana," approved March 18, 1818.


State Boundaries. Granted that the parish boundaries of
Louisiana were yet in a highly nebulous state, it is
significant that even the state boundaries had not
yet been marked. As the last boundary act of this decade, the legislature directed the governor to communicate with the president of the United States on the subject of Louisiana's northwestern boundaries:

Resolution: "That the Governor be requested to correspond with the President of the United States on the subject of running off and marking the west and north boundary lines of the State of Louisiana, to wit: The line beginning on the Sabine River, at the 32nd degree of north latitude, thence along the same parallel of latitude to the Mississippi river."

LOUISIANA PARISHES: 1821 to 1830

The parish acts of the decade of 1821 to 1830 are concerned primarily with the older, more densely settled southern portion of the state since only two out of 15 are related to the northern section. Although the movement of people from the older states of the Southeast to North Louisiana was already well begun, not enough time had elapsed to permit crystallization of sentiment for new parishes, or, in any event for recommendation of specific delimitations. Four of the acts of this decade create new parishes, and in general there is a definite movement to define boundaries more accurately.

Creation of Terrebonne: The first act of this period created Terrebonne:

"An act to create a parish in the county of Lafourche, to be called the parish of Terrebonne."

SEC.1: ".....that all that tract of country, lying to the westward of bayou Lafourche, bounded as follows; to the east, from the middle of the line drawn from the lower boundary of Charles Ballot's plantation, to the lower side of Lacoupe of Bayou Boeuf; [ ] thence following the line parallel with Bayou Lafourche, to within 80 arpens of Bayou Terrebonne, from thence winding round the settlement of the said Bayou Terrebonne, to the distance of 40 arpens from Bayou Lafourche, to be continued until the distance of 80 arpens from the latter bayou can be effected, without encountering the limits of the lands on Bayou Terrebonne; from thence still at a distance of 80 arpens from bayou Lafourche, a line parallel with the said bayou, to the bayou Blue-water, following whose right bank to the sea, shall terminate its eastern boundary, to the west starting from the

The spelling on the township plat is Belot. His name is indicated on lot 26 of T.14S, R.15E., SE. District. It is probable that in 1822 he also owned lot 27 for this places the line exactly opposite the Fermier line used to bound Lafourche on the other side of the bayou. The township plot was not surveyed until 1857.
lower side of Lacoupe of Bayou Boeuf to the settle-
ments on the Atchafalaya, and following the eastern
shore of Atchafalaya bay to the sea, including Marsh
Island (Isle de Marcais) shall form a separate parish
to be called the parish of Terrebonne."
App: Mar. 22, 1822

The act creating Terrebonne has proved to be fraught with
difficulty and misunderstanding in several ways. These troubles
begin with such a minor point as the spelling of a planter's
name (Ballot), and work through the obscurity of description of
directions for running the lines, to a confusion of streams to be
used for boundaries. The last of these difficulties resulted in
the most aggravated court proceedings in the history of Louisiana
parish boundary disputes. The climax is reached when, on the basis
of evidence now available, the court reached a decision which,
in view of indubitable drainage conditions, appears indefensible.

Earlier in this study, attention was directed to the drainage
unity prevailing in the Lafourche basin from the standpoint of
distributary pattern. Just as Lafourche Interior originally
received recognition as a unit distinct from the Mississippi River
proper, so Terrebonne was recognized as having essential unity of
its own. The very existence of Terrebonne parish is the result
of the distributary action of six bayous: Terrebonne, Black,
Blue, Grand Caillou, Little Caillou, and Du Large, the focal one
of which is Terrebonne.

The similarity of the natural complex and the/comparable
delimitation of Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes is indeed strik-
ing. Both exist because of the distributary relation to a larger
stream; in both parishes the upper boundaries of the parish fail
to go all the way to the parent stream but stop short of it. This reflects the control of the major, parent stream in two ways: the dominance of its natural levee, and its earlier settlement with orientation of land holdings toward the major stream and the acceptance of what is essentially their rear boundaries as the beginning of what might be termed the distributary parish.

Terrebonne parish differs from Lafourche parish in that even though the former has one central stream - Bayou Terrebonne - it does not dominate as does Bayou Lafourche in Lafourche Parish. The inhabited portion of Lafourche Parish is very largely a single pair of natural levees extending more than seventy-five miles. A study of the drainage map reveals that at the site of the present town of Thibodaux, there was formerly a most important outlet for the surplus waters of Bayou Lafourche. Until recently the old channel of Terrebonne could be traced all of the way to Bayou Lafourche, and not far on either side were the headwaters of Bayous Black and Blue. Terrebonne and Black almost parallel each other until they reach the site of the city of Houma. This is a critical point for here Black turns abruptly towards the Atchafalaya on the west, and only a short distance below Houma Terrebonne sends out a distributary named Petit Gaillou; in between the two are found the other distributaries - Grand Gaillou, de Large, and even the smaller Le Carpe - which radiate fan-like from this central point.

"The linear pattern of Lafourche when combined with one of the densest rural populations in the United States has won for it the near-sobriquet of "The longest STREET in the world"."
The population distribution in the parish is in perfect accord with the higher ground of the natural levees of the streams. When they narrow and are encroached upon from the rear by the marsh in the southern part of the parish, settlement ceases, but the marshes are exploited by the people at or near the lower reaches of the natural levees. Thus there is no loss of parish unity and this is heightened by having all roads—formerly the streams were the roads—point toward a common market, educational, court, recreational, and, in the main, religious center.

On the west, there is no natural "break" east of the lower Atchafalaya, and, generally described, this is the western limit of Terrebonne. On the east, Terrebonne's natural boundary is in the lower (theoretically, the lowest) portion of the inter-stream trench between Bayous Terrebonne and Lafourche. In general this may be made out very readily but in drawing this boundary, confusion and controversy has arisen over Bayou Blue Water. There is also a Bayou Blue which is continuous with Bayou Blue Water, and it is the misinterpretation of the relations of these two streams with each other together with the relation of both to Bayou Point au Chien that resulted in the court struggle.

It is of more than passing interest that the largest parish in the state should have only one high school which is at the hub of a half-wheel of spokes.

The word Chien (dog) is a corruption which belies the real origin of the naming of the bayou. The residents of lower Terrebonne and Lafourche originally named the bayou Chene because of the numerous live oaks found along the lower reaches of the natural levee. These oaks stood out so prominently from the surrounding marsh that they commanded attention.
mentioned in the preceding paragraph. Although the court reached a final decision in the year 1888 - this boundary will be treated more fully in later decades - the addition of petroleum and possible sulphur to the economic catalogue of this unique parish makes it quite possible that attempts will be made to reconsider the entire boundary dispute.

**Lafourche Interior delimited from Assumption and Jefferson.** Further boundary definitions were made in the Lafourche - Terrebonne-Assumption region:

"An act to determine the boundaries of the parishes of Assumption and Lafourche Interior, and the eastern boundary of the last mentioned parish."

SEC. 1: "... that the boundaries between the parish of Assumption and the parish of Lafourche Interior, be, and are hereby fixed to the upper boundary of the plantation of Etienne Fermier, ( ) on the left side of Bayou Lafourche."

SEC. 2: "... that from the point where the upper line of the plantation of Etienne Fermier being continued intersects with Bayou Cabahonnosse, the right bank of Bayou Cabahonnosse, as far as Bayou Chevreuil, the right bank of Bayou Chevreuil, as far as Lake Des Allemands, a line drawn from the mouth of Bayou Chevreuil to the mouth of Bayou Des Allemands; the right bank of Bayou Des Allemands as far as grand lake Barateria; a line drawn from the mouth of Bayou Des Allemands to the mouth of Bayou Pierrot, the right bank of Bayou Pierrot, the half of Petit lac des Canards, the half of the bayou which unites the last with Lake Rond, the half of Lake Rond, the half of the bayou by which the said lake is united to Lake Des Islets, from thence the bank of the Lake Des Islets as far as la Passe a Mondion, the half of the Passe a Mondion ( ) as far as the sea, including the Grande Isle, shall constitute the eastern boundary line of the parish of Lafourche Interior, any law to the contrary notwithstanding."

App: March 7, 1824
Section two of this act is one of great importance to the present day. Barring undiscovered local ordinances made under the general permissive statutes of 1835, 1880, and 1928, it yet separates Lafourche from Jefferson. Because of its outstanding importance — geophysical testing indicates petroleum possibilities — court proceedings may occur over this potentially meaningful boundary. In view of this alone, it deserves a detailed analysis.

Little difficulty of interpretation is encountered until the line reaches Lake Rond. On his map of 1807, Lafon showed a Bay Rond as an arm of Barataria Bay. In 1838, Gatesby Graham indicated a large Lake Rond west of Barataria Bay and connected with the Gulf entirely independently through Lake (Bay) Des Islets.

The words "the half of the bayou which unites the last with Lake Rond" has to refer to what is now shown on the Bay Dogris quadrangle sheet as Grand Bayou.

"The half of Lake Rond" may mean Hackberry Bay alone or it might mean Hackberry and Creole Bay plus Creole Bayou. In this event, Fricot Bayou is "the half of the bayou by which said lake is united to Lake Des Islets". If Hackberry Bay alone is taken as synonymous with Lake Rond, then Creole Pass, Creole Bay, and Fricot Bayou must be regarded as "the half of the bayou by which the said lake" - Lake Rond - "is united to Lake Des Islets" (Bay Des Ilettes).

It is not certain how to interpret "from thence the bank of the Lake Des Islets as far as la Passe a Mondion". It might
be either the east or the west shore of the Bay (Lake).
Parenthetically, it should be noted that whichever of these
water body interpretations is wrong, the fact remains that,
barring the local ordinances referred to, this act is yet in
force and it admits of no possibility of a range line as the
Lafourche-Jefferson boundary. In any event Pass A Mondion,
(Barataria Pass) east of Grand Isle was temporarily the eastern
boundary of Lafourche.

Creation of Lafayette. A decade after the division of
Attakapas and the creation of St. Martin and St. Mary, the
former is divided further:

"An act to create and establish a new parish in the
county of Attakapas, to be called the parish of La­
fayette."

SEC. 1: ".... that the parish of St. Martin is and
shall be, .... divided, and a new parish be formed out of
the western part of said parish, which shall be called
and known by the name of the parish of Lafayette."

SEC. 2: "....that the division line between the parishes
of St. Martin and Lafayette shall commence at the northern
boundary of the county of Attakapas, at the junction of
the Bayou Carancrow with the Bayou Vermillion - thence
down said Bayou Vermillion with its meanders to the lower
line of lands formerly claimed by Leclere Fuselier -
thence along the lower line of said tract of land, 40
French arpens, thence along the back lines of the tracts
of land fronting on the left or east bank of the Bayou
Vermillion to a point marked C, on the division line run
by William Johnson, Parish Surveyor of the parish of
St. Martin, and now deposited in the office of the
Secretary of State, thence east to the west or back
boundary line of lands claimed by the heirs of Alexander
Chevalier Declouet, thence in a direct line till it
intersects the northwestern boundary of lands formerly
claimed by Francois Ledee, at a point marked I, on the
plan of the division line run by William Johnson afore­
said - thence along said Ledee's boundary to the Bayou
Vermillion, thence as the Bayou Vermillion meanders to
the junction of the Bayou Tortue with the Bayou Vermillion,
thence up the Bayou Tortue as it meanders to the bridge
over said Bayou, near the plantation of Louis St. Julien, thence along the line run by William Johnson aforesaid, to Lake Peigneurs, thence south 9° 10 minutes east to the Gulph of Mexico."

SEC. 3: ".... that all that part of the county of Attakapas west of the line described in the 2nd Section of the present act shall form the parish of Lafayette, and the remainder of the space formerly comprehended in the parish of St. Martin shall compose the parish of St. Martin."


A knowledge of geomorphic provinces - essentially the land form and drainage aspects - gives meaning to the creation of Lafayette. As the result of this act, St. Martin centered on the natural levees of the Teche whereas Lafayette meant the terrace lands to the west. Further, and even though it is not so pronounced as in the region of the Mississippi River to the east, there is an interstream depression between the Teche and the Vermilion which again serves as a boundary for part of the division between St. Martin and Lafayette.

The part played by streams was important. In a day when water transport was the standard means of moving goods, it was but natural that Vermilion River should be looked upon as an outlet for the products of the region. Attempts of the people living along the Vermilion to secure its improvement give testimony to the importance of this nuclear feature in helping to bring about the creation of Lafayette.

Creation of East and West Feliciana. The division of Feliciana in 1824 was but the beginning of what at times was to be an acrimonious struggle between the eastern and western portions of the former parish of Feliciana. For the year 1824,
the delimitation of the two parishes was simple enough, although there might be some misunderstanding of one part of the law:

"An act to abolish the parish of Feliciana, and to create and establish two parishes in lieu thereof."

SEC. 1: Parish of Feliciana divided into parishes of East and West Feliciana.

SEC. 2: "...that the parish of East Feliciana shall contain all that part of the late parish of Feliciana, east of Thompson's Creek, and beginning at the most eastern boundary of said creek to the line between this state and the state of Mississippi, and the parish of West Feliciana shall contain all that part of the late parish of Feliciana west of said creek."

App: Feb. 17, 1824

The location of the mouth of Thompson's Creek at this time was uncertain, for accretion, cutting, and reaccretion resulted in significant shifts in position. The quadrangles prepared under the direction of the Mississippi River Commission (New Roads sheet) indicate that the mouth of Thompson's Creek was approximately one mile farther north than at present.

Definition of boundaries between Iberville, West Baton Rouge, and Ascension. In 1824, there was a statement of purpose to define the boundaries between the ancient parishes of Iberville and Ascension:

"An act to draw the boundaries between the parish of Iberville and the parish of Ascension, and for other purposes."

App: April 8, 1824.

Although this represented only an intention, it indicated that the delimitation was desired.
In 1825, the legislature passed an act which was undoubtedly the most favorable to Pointe Coupee of any ever attempted by the partisans of this parish. The delimitation of this date is as follows:

"An act to determine the limits of the parish of Pointe Coupee and to grant certain powers to the police jury of said parish, and likewise to that of the parish of West Baton Rouge."

SEC. 1: "...that the parish of Pointe Coupee shall be circumscribed in the following limits, to wit: running from the northern extremity of the line pointing towards the east, the lower line of a tract of land now the property of Alexander Baudin, and situated on the Pointe de Manoir, thence the following said line towards the south, and the lines bounding the depths of the lands and plantations, situated on the eastern bank of the Chanel of the Fausse river, as far as Grand Bayou Poydras, thence running down Grand Bayou Poydras as far as its confluence with the Grosse Tete, thence in a straight line to the west, as far as the Atchafalaya river; thence running up the Atchafalaya to the Mississippi, and thence running down the Mississippi as far as the point of departure."

La. Acts of 1825, 1st S. of 7th L., p. 82
Approved February 4, 1825

Had this act remained as the law of the state, the southern boundary of Pointe Coupee would have been south of even the southern boundary of West Baton Rouge, and in addition the latter parish would have been confined to a narrow strip along the Mississippi, in places little more than a township in width.

West Baton Rouge, disputed the above act by passing in 1826, an act which entered a counter claim to the area lying in the western part of the region between the Mississippi and the Atchafalaya:
"An act to determine the southern and western boundary of the parish of West Baton Rouge."

SEC. 1: The southern boundary shall be "a line drawn southwest from the present point of division between the parishes of West Baton Rouge and Iberville to the Atchafalaya River."

SEC. 2: "....the Atchafalaya River in the several courses thereof shall be and is hereby named to be the western boundary line of the parish of West Baton Rouge."

App: April 7, 1826

This act would have established the southern boundary of West Baton Rouge about two miles north of the line which had been indicated as the southern boundary for Point Coupee, and in view of the much older statement of boundaries of West Baton Rouge would have seemed to be much more in accord with historical development.

The act favoring West Baton Rouge was challenged almost immediately, and only eighteen days later the act of April 7, was postponed:

"An act to postpone the operation of an act to determine the southern and western boundary of the parish of West Baton Rouge."

The acts mentioned, approved Apr. 7, 1826, shall not go into operation until the end of the next session of the Legislature.

App: April 25, 1826

The first two acts of the above series of three had obviously been sponsored by representatives of Point Coupee - almost certainly those living along the Mississippi natural levee fronts - and it is not unlikely that the act postponing both of the preceding acts was sponsored by Iberville as indicated by subsequent acts.
By 1827 it was realized that the entire matter of this disputed territory needed additional study but in the meanwhile neither West Baton Rouge nor Point Coupee should have its way:

"An act relative to the limits of the parishes of Iberville and West Baton Rouge, and for other purposes."

Pending a report to be made to the State Legislature the settlements of bayou Grosse Tete shall be included in the parish of Iberville. Further, "....the act entitled 'An act to determine the southern and western boundaries of the parish of West Baton Rouge', approved April 7, 1826, be and the same is hereby repealed.

App: Mar. 24, 1827

As the final chapter in the dispute of this decade, the legislature decided that, for the moment at least, Iberville should have the peopled section of the Mississippi-Atchafalaya interstream area:

"An act to amend an act entitled 'An act relative to the limits of the parishes of Iberville and West Baton Rouge, and for other purposes.'"

SEC. 1: "....that all that portion of territory situated between the bayou Grosse Tete and the Bayou Maringouis, is hereby made a part of the Parish of Iberville."

SEC. 2: "....that, until a good and practical road be made between the settlements on the Bayou Grosse Tete and some point in the parish of West Baton Rouge, which shall not be more than three miles to the right or to the left of the court house of the last mentioned parish, all such persons as are now or may hereafter be settled on Bayou Grosse Tete, as above mentioned, shall continue to be within the limits and jurisdiction of the parish of Iberville."

App: Mar. 18, 1828

The net result of the above struggle between Iberville, West Baton Rouge, and, to a lesser extent, Point Coupee, involving territory between Bayou Grosse Tete and the Atchafalaya, principally in townships 9 and 10, ranges 8, 9, and 10, resulted
in gains for Iberville as follows:

1) confining West Baton Rouge to the area east of Grand Bayou Poydras *;*

2) the momentary far southward extension of Point Coupee,

3) the acquisition of all the area between Bayou Maringouin and the rear of the left bank natural levee of Bayou Grosse Tete by Iberville, and, finally,

4) the uncertainty of the ownership of the area between Bayou Maringouin and the Atchafalaya River.

This struggle between the parishes of Iberville and West Baton Rouge is indeed suggestive of the relative strength of contemporary forces in determining local areal political allegiance. The importance of the natural levee pattern and water navigation is outstanding. The words "the settlements of Bayou Grosse Tete shall be included in the parish of Iberville" again prove that the middle of the stream was not the boundary, and that, in general, the settlements along both natural levees of Grosse Tete made a natural unit to be included in whatever parish could provide the most feasible outlet to the Mississippi.

For the time being it was much simpler to reach the Grosse Tete settlements by navigation of the bayou itself — and using the Bayou Plaquemine connection with the Mississippi — even though this was by no means always satisfactory. The problem of building a road through the swamps land lying between the left bank natural levees of Grosse Tete and the right bank natural levee

*It should be noted that all other acts had been postponed or repealed so that, legally, Point Coupee temporarily included the wedge of land between Grand Bayou Poydras and the rear of the natural levee of Bayou Grosse Tete.
of the Mississippi was as yet too large an undertaking. It is obvious, however, that the words "until a good and practical road be made between the settlements on the Bayou Grosse Tete and some point in the parish of West Baton Rouge, which shall not be more than three miles to the right or to the left of the court house [which was on the Mississippi River natural levee] of the last mentioned parish" indicated a hopeful attitude that such a road would be constructed, and the western territory brough within the confines of West Baton Rouge. It is clear too that the tenuous southward prong of Point Coupee was anomalous, and would undoubtedly be subject to early revision.

The acts of this decade yet left a large area roughly west of Bayou Maringouin and Grand River and to the middle of "the Grand Lake" in dispute between St. Martin, Iberville, West Baton Rouge, and Point Coupee.

Creation of Jefferson. This decade recorded the final parish creation from the original county and parish of Orleans. The new parish of Jefferson was designated with exceeding brevity:

"An act to divide the parish of Orleans, and for other purposes."

"...that the third senatorial district (of Parish of Orleans) shall form a parish under the name of the parish of Jefferson."

Louisiana Acts of 1825, 1st S., 7th L., p. 108

Even though this description is quite general, the constitution of 1812 makes it possible - together with other acts relating to other parishes - to give Jefferson an approximate delimitation.

The act of 1811 creating St. Martin had fixed the eastern boundary of St. Martin as The Grand Lake, and up to 1830 there were no acts clarifying this statement. As will readily be seen by study of the map, there was no provision for the boundary
The constitutional provision was as follows:

"The State shall be divided into fourteen Senatorial Districts, which shall forever remain indivisible, as follows: The Parishes of St. Bernard and Plaquemines, including the country above as far as the canal (Des Pêcheurs), on the east of the Mississippi, and on the west as far as Bernoudy's canal, shall form one district. The city of New Orleans, beginning at the Nun's Plantation, above, and extending below as far as the above mentioned canal (Des Pêcheurs), including the inhabitants of the Bayou St. John, shall form the second district; the remainder of the county of Orleans shall form the third district."

La. Constitution of 1812, Art II, Sec. 10.

As has been shown previously, the lower line of the Nun's Plantation was at Felicity Street, so that this may be taken as the eastern boundary of Jefferson, east of the Mississippi.

The upper boundary of Jefferson, east of the river was, of course, St. Charles, but it is impossible to do more than approximate the boundary in terms of the present location.

West of the river, the western boundary of Jefferson to the south of St. Charles had been indicated in 1824 and the eastern boundary of Jefferson had received a meager definition by the acts which referred to Plaquemines and Orleans.

The boundaries were yet highly unsatisfactory, and two years later their indefinite nature was acknowledged in the law, which did, however, specifically refer to Grand Isle:

"An act to amend an act entitled 'An Act to determine the boundaries between the parishes of Assumption and Lafourche Interior, and the eastern boundary of the last mentioned parish,' approved March 7, 1824."

in the area north of the Lake, although later, Grand River and allied streams came to be the boundaries between Iberville and St. Martin. For the purposes of this map, they will be taken as reference lines for delimitation of the disputed area.

5See provisions of Act of 1824, 2nd. Sess. of 6th Leg., page 68.
SEC. 1: "...that until the boundaries of the parishes of Orleans, Jefferson and Lafourche shall have been particularly defined by law, the Island commonly called Grand Isle shall make part of the parish of Jefferson."

SEC. 2: "...that all processes issued from the parish or justice of the peace of the parish of Jefferson, shall be executed on all the bayous, lakes, swamps, or land situated back of the highlands and settlements adjoining the parish of Lafourche Interior until the limits between those two parishes shall have been fixed as aforesaid."

App: March 22, 1827

The inclusion of Grand Isle did not complete the westward extension of Jefferson for in 1820 the Cheniere Caminada was added. The act provided:

"That the Cheniere Caminada which was comprised within the limits of the parish of Orleans before the adoption of the act entitled 'An act to determine the boundaries of the Parishes of Assumption and Lafourche Interior and the eastern boundary of the last mentioned parish' be annexed to the Parish of Jefferson from the passage of this act."

La. Acts of 1820, 2nd S. of 9th L., p. 64
Approved Mar. 15, 1830

The creation of Jefferson in terms of the Senatorial districts mentioned in the Constitution of 1812 removed the uncertainty regarding the extent of Orleans Parish: it now extended from Felicity Street to the Canal des Pêcheurs. This statement refers, of course, to the habited portion of the parish extending along the Mississippi. The back country stretching toward Lakes Pontchartrain and Borgne was included in Orleans parish only by inference.

**Delimitation of St. Tammany and Washington.** In 1819, Strawberry Bluff on the Bogue Chitto was designated as the point from which a line should extend due eastward to the Pearl River to form the boundary between St. Tammany and Washington parishes. The act of 1826 merely made it more specific in that it referred to two definite boundaries of the lands on R. S. Chappel on the Strawberry Bluff:

"An act to determine the boundaries between the parishes of St. Tammany and Washington."

"...that henceforward the north and east boundaries of the enclosed land of Richard S. Chappel lying on the Strawberry Bluff ( ), shall be the designated line between the parish of St. Tammany and Washington,
App. Feb. 22, 1826

By the end of the first quarter of the 19th century the Upland Coastal Plain east of the Red and west of the Ouachita had received a large number of settlers from the older states in the Southeast, and by 1828, huge and indefinite Natchitoches parish received the first of its numerous bits of territorial surgery which continuously were to reduce its area for the next half century.

**Creation of Claiborne.** This, the first of the Upland Coastal Plain parishes to be carved from Natchitoches was delimited in the simple township and range manner which was so typical of the "hill" areas, as follows:

"An act to create a new parish in the parish of Natchitoches, to be called the parish of Claiborne."
"...that all the portion of territory within the following boundaries, to wit: beginning on the eastern bank of Red River, about 50 miles north west of the town of Natchitoches, at the northern boundary line of township 13; thence east in the direction of said line to the dividing line between range 3 and 4 west; thence along said line, which shall form the western boundary of the parish of Ouachita, north to the Arkansas territory, thence west to the main branch of Red River, and descending the same to the beginning, be, and the same is erected into a new parish to be called the parish of Claiborne."

La. Acts of 1828, 2nd S. of 8th L., p. 70
App: Mar. 13, 1828

A glance at the map makes it clear that even the new parish was a large area - so large, that it in turn was later to yield Bossier, Webster, and Bienville as well as retaining a significant area under its own name.

In view of the present importance of Red River alluvial bottoms, it may seem strange that this new parish should have been so slightly bound up with the river. In the present study it is not necessary to do more than allude to well known conditions which hindered settlement in the rich bottom lands of the Red, namely: 1) the difficulties of overflow, 2) the raft conditions which hindered navigation, and 3) the prevalence of malaria which made the "hills" more attractive even though they were not so fertile.

Apart from the creation of Claiborne, this act is of great importance because for the first time limitation is given to the western boundary of Ouachita: the words "the dividing line between range 3 and 4 west; thence along said line, which shall form the western boundary of the parish of Ouachita"
Boundary established between Ouachita and Catahoula. Two years later, Ouachita is definitely delimited from Catahoula as follows:

"An act to establish the boundary line between the parishes of Catahoula and Washita (Ouachita)."

SEC. 1: "...beginning at the point where the dividing line between range 14 - 15 starts at the bayou Macon, thence west on said line to Big Creek, thence down said creek to the dividing line between the range 13 - 14, thence west on said line to little river.

SEC. 2: "...that all persons, who by the establishment of this line may be thrown into a different parish, from where they have been formerly assessed, shall be entitled, until the next ensuing assessment, to the right of suffrage, by exhibiting to the commissioners of elections, in the parish where they may be thrown, a tax receipt, from the collectors of the parishes where they were formerly assessed."

App: Mar. 4, 1830

Request to mark State boundary. This decade witnesses another request made of the federal government to mark a State boundary line:

Resolutions: relative to the line dividing this state from the Arkansas Territory, for the purpose of having the line "run out and marked under the authority of the general government."
THE PARISHES FROM 1831 TO 1840

The decade 1831 to 1840 is marked by a definite change in the tempo and locale of parish creations and alterations. The movement of people into Louisiana from other states is at something of flood tide—the population of Louisiana increased 63.4% in this decade as opposed to 40.6% from 1820 to 1830, and 46.9% from 1841 to 1850. Even though the results of the movements of the period 1821-1840 did not result in the maximum parish creation until the decade 1841-1850, still seven new parishes were created from 1831 to 1840.

Of these seven parishes, five were in the District North of Red River and the Northwestern District. The sixth, Calcasieu, was also largely on the frontier, and the seventh, Livingston, although nearer the areas of older settlement was also relatively new country, and thinly peopled.

Creation of Livingston. The first region to receive legislative attention in this decade was the Florida Parishes. St. Helena was one of the original parishes to be created from the County of Feliciana in 1810. Now, in 1832, St. Helena was to be divided, and the first act merely gave the power to divide the parish and to select commissioners:

"An act to divide the parish of St. Helena".

SEC. 1: "...that all that part of the parish of St. Helena lying and being south of a line to be established as hereafter directed, shall and the same is hereby erected a distinct and separate parish, to be called the parish of Livingston."

Fifteenth Census of the U. S.: 1930, Population Bull. La., page 455.
SEC. 5: "Commissioners to be selected to determine parish line...; and that said commissioners shall have power to designate the point on the east bank of the river Amite where such line shall commence, and run due east, or as near so as the local situation of said parish may appear proper to the aforesaid commissioners; and that the parish north of said line shall be known and designated as the parish of St. Helena, and that the parish south of said line shall be called Livingston. La. Acts of 1832, 3rd S. of 10th L., p. 20
App: Feb. 10, 1832

Apparently the commissioners made a decision without much difficulty for in the following month the legislature passed the delimiting act:

"An act to explain and amend the act entitled 'An Act to divide the parish of St. Helena', approved Feb. 10, 1832.

Sec. 1: "...that the dividing line of the parishes of St. Helena and Livingston shall commence on the river Amite on the dividing line of the 4-5 township (4th and 5th townships) as designated by the U. S. Surveyors and run thence east along said line to the point at which the same intersects the river Tanchipaho."
La. Acts of 1832, 3rd S. of 10th L., p. 130
App: Mar. 30, 1832

Boundary defined between East Felician and East Baton Rouge.
The second legislative act of this decade fixed the boundary between these two parishes as follows:

"An act fixing the boundaries of East Feliciana and East Baton Rouge."

"...beginning at the lower and southerly limits of the tract of land on which Port Jackson stands, thence running on said line until it strikes the road from Fort Hudson to Robert Newport, thence running so as to leave said road entire in the parish of East Feliciana, to where said road crosses the present road of East Feliciana and East Baton Rouge, from that point easterly so as to strike the river Amite one mile due north of the present line between East Feliciana and East Baton Rouge, and all the territory above or northerly of said line shall belong to and form part of East Feliciana, and all below or southerly of said line, to the parish of East Baton Rouge."
App: Mar. 7, 1832
This line is the result of historic and locational forces of great strength and interest. To see them properly, it is well to give a brief résumé of the sequence of relations between the two parishes.

In 1810 there was no East Feliciana Parish and East Baton Rouge extended all the way from Bayou Manchac to the thirty-first parallel and from Thompson's Creek to the Amite River. The residents of Feliciana Parish objected to the small area allotted their parish and in 1811 the area of East Baton Rouge north of a line drawn eastward from the mouth of Thompson's Creek to the Amite River was given to Feliciana.

When Feliciana was divided in 1824, East Feliciana reached the Mississippi but the accommodation was subject to all the limitations inherent in the dimensions of a point. As a result, the inhabitants of East Feliciana worked to enlarge their frontage on the river.

"The original boundary line, it must be remembered, terminated at the mouth of Thompson Creek, which at that time was about three miles north of where it enters the Mississippi today. Here was located, at the foot of the bluffs, a "Landing" which served the "Town of Port Jackson" (known also as Thompson Creek), situated on the bluffs. (Skipwith, H.: East Feliciana, Louisiana - Past and Present Sketches of the Pioneers (New Orleans, 1892), p. 9; also Brown, Harry Bates: Port Hudson, A Study in Historical Geography, Masters Thesis; L.S.U., 1936, p. 9).

"In 1832 a new boat landing and railroad terminus to which was given the name Port Hudson, was constructed on the Mississippi, about two miles southeast of the mouth of Thompson Creek. The territory served by the new port and

terminus lay largely within East Feliciana Parish; consequently the line was changed so as to include Port Hudson in that parish. Skipwith explains the situation thus: "Port Jackson had too small a port and was too closely identified with the slow methods of the olden times. An Act of the Legislature of 1832 wiped out famous old Port Jackson and a landing more commodious, with a larger front was captured by Statute from East Baton Rouge in anticipation of the vast streams of commerce which were to flow from the construction of the railroad from Clinton."

"The wording of the law is indefinite. Exactly where are the 'southerly limits of the land on which Port Jackson stands'? Just what is meant by 'said line'? Just where is Robert Newport and the road leading to it? Let us examine the accompanying illustrations drawn from the various maps which were consulted. From them we can at least trace the story of the uncertainties that lay in the minds of the map makers themselves, and gain an understanding of the reason why the police jury, in 1867, resolved to pay 'the sum of five hundred dollars to any person or persons who will get up a correct map of the parish of East Baton Rouge'.

(1) "The location of Port Jackson is omitted from all the maps, thereby making the 'southerly limits of the land on which it stands' a matter of conjecture.

(2) "The boundary line is shown consistently in the early maps as a straight line in spite of the establishment by law in 1832 of the downward dip at its western end.

(3) "The location of Port Hudson on La Tourette's Map (1846) is shown on the dividing line between the two parishes. It is interesting to note in this connection that a thesis writer on the early history of East Baton Rouge Parish says: 'At this time East Feliciana had a great influence in the legislature, and after much contention Port Hudson was divided in half - one half being in East Baton Rouge and the other in East Feliciana. (Booth, Fannie Day: Annals of the Parish of Baton Rouge. Master's Thesis, L.S.U., 1933, p. 43.)"

"The Minutes of the police jury of East Baton Rouge Parish recount obstacles that arose during the progress of the work by the two surveyors. On August 11, 1891, S. W. Peebles, president of the police jury of East Baton Rouge Parish requesting that 'the survey made by Mr. Hagaman by order of the police jury of East Feliciana of that part of the boundary line between said parish
of East Feliciana and East Baton Rouge, between the intersection of the old line with the line made by the Act of 1832 and the Mississippi River as made by William Brown in 1832 be accepted and recognized as the final boundary line between said two parishes.* On motion duly seconded the boundary line as surveyed by Mr. Hagan was accepted as final and binding by the parish of East Baton Rouge. (Minutes, Vol. 4, pp. 347, 364, 370, 416.) This official map, preserved in the Parish Plat Book of East Feliciana Parish, established in detail the dip in the western end of the boundary line.*

St. Martin, St. Mary, and (Assumption). The law of 1833 regarding these two parishes is of more than ordinary interest. It reads:

"An act to authorize commissioners to draw a division line between the parishes of St. Martin and St. Mary."

"...Confirmable to an act to explain an act entitled 'an act to divide the county of Attakapas into two parishes', approved March 20, 1813.
La. Acts of 1833, 1st S. of 11th L., p. 28
App: Feb. 15, 1833

The law of 1813 was supposed to explain the original law of 1811, but the above law of 1833 indicates clearly that even the law of 1813 was not accepted as final, and that the need for confirmation was felt twenty years after the explanatory act. The police juries of St. Martin and St. Mary parishes authorized a resurvey which, upon completion on November 28, 1833, reestablished the original line.

A significant commentary on this is to be found in the fact that although St. Martin has census returns for 1810 and 1820, there are no separate returns for St. Mary until 1830. In reality, then, the law of 1833 and the separate census return for 1830 indicate the final official recognition of the separate existence.

Historical Records Survey, op. cit., p. 4-7.
Boundaries defined between St. Mary, Terrebonne, and Assumption. Assumption, Terrebonne, and St. Mary were among the first parishes to be affected by the permissive act of the State legislature of 1835 relative to the changing of parish boundary lines by cooperative parish action. St. Mary took the initiative, notified the parishes of Terrebonne and Assumption of her intention to run the boundary line and upon failure of these parishes fixed the line between St. Mary, Assumption and Terrebonne as follows:

"Beginning at the middle of Lake Chitimaches, (Grand Lake) thence to the most Eastwardly or Northwardly as the case may be pass into Lake Plat, thence along the middle of said pass, to Lake Plat, thence in a straight line across said Lake Plat to the middle of the most Eastwardly or Northwardly as the case may be) pass connecting Lake Plat with Lake Palourdes, thence along the middle of said pass to Lake Palourde, thence in a straight line across Lake Palourde, to a point on its Southern or Eastern Shore, where a line drawn Forty Arpents, East of the Eastern Shore of the 'Coupe of Bayou Bouef' intersects thence on a line parallel with the Eastern or Southern Shore as the case may be of the Coupe of Bayou Bouef, Forty Arpents thence from to its junction with that Branch of the Atchafalaya, commonly called Bayou Chane and to the middle

It is pertinent to make a notation on the future parish of Iberia. A knowledge of the age of settlement of the area now constituting this parish leads to the query: Why did Iberia fail to appear as a separate parish until the year 1868, or, granted that there is knowledge of the proposal for its creation in 1850, why was it even that late! The answer is that the formal petition for the parish of Iberia actually was much earlier. The Senate Journal for 1848 which records a request for a new parish in that year also proves that a similar petition had been drawn up as early as 1832 or 1833 by the following words: "That from the representation or exhibit of petitioners it appears that a large number of citizens in the parishes of St. Martin and St. Mary, have long been subjected to much inconvenience and hardships by reason of the great distance they are obliged to go in attending courts; that it is now some sixteen years since they made their first appeal to the Legislature, asking to have the
thereof, thence along the middle of Bayou Chene to its junction with the main Branch of the Atchafalaya and Atchafalaya Bay to a pass connecting the same with the Gulph Stream, at a place commonly called Oyster Bay, thence through said pass to the Gulph and line of the State, so as to include Point Au fer and Island on which Point Au fer Light House stands and the Settlements on the Eastern and Southern Shores of the Coupe of the Bayou Boeuf within forty arpents therefrom within the Parish of St. Mary."

Ordinance No. 4084, Parish of St. Mary
Recorded April 7, 1836

This act of the police jury of St. Mary did not find complete favor with the people of Assumption and Terrebonne, for in 1837, an act of the Legislature made modifications, even though relatively slight, to the boundary as approved by the police jury of St. Mary:

"An act to fix the limits between the parishes of Points Coupee and West Baton Rouge, and the parishes of St. Mary and Assumption."

SEC. 2: "....that the boundary line between the parish of St. Mary and the parish of Assumption, be established according to the decision of the commissioners appointed by the act of 1835, approved March 20, in all respects, until said line reaches the Bayou Boeuf or at its intersection with Lake Foulard; and instead of the land extending to the depth of 40 arpents on the east bank of said bayou, the line shall be considered and established to run in the middle of said bayou until it reaches the pass leading from the Bayou Boeuf to the mouth of the Bayou Black, through the middle of said bayou to the mouth of the Bayou Black, thence down the Bayou Chene as laid down by the commissioners, as laid down under the law of 1833, providing for running the boundary lines between the parishes of this state."

Approved February 23, 1837

two contiguous extremities of said parishes formed into a new and central parish; and that they now further tender their prayer, again invoking legislative action in regard to this matter."
Pointe Coupee Delimited. Continuing the parish delimitations in the Atchafalaya Basin, this same act of 1837, which defined the boundaries between St. Mary and Assumption, also delimited Pointe Coupee:

"An Act to fix the limits between the parishes of Pointe Coupee and West Baton Rouge, and the parishes of St. Mary and Assumption.

"SEC. 1: "...that the limits of the parish of Pointe Coupee shall be as follows: beginning at the Mississippi River at the original lower bank of the lower mouth of False River, thence in a straight line to a point in Bayou Grosse Tete, where the line between townships six and seven of range nine, east, according to the U.S. survey, strikes the said bayou, thence along said dividing said townships due west to the River Atchafalaya, thence up the middle of said river Atchafalaya to the Mississippi, thence down the middle of the Mississippi River to a point opposite the beginning, thence to the place of beginning."

App: Feb. 23, 1837

In 1838, there was a further slight modification of Pointe Coupee:

"An Act to amend an act entitled 'An act to determine the boundaries of the parish of Pointe Coupee.'"

SEC. 1: ". . . . that the line of the parish of Pointe Coupee, between said parish and the parish of West Baton Rouge, will run as follows: starting for (from?) the lower mouth of False River, and running 35 acres along the lower channel of False River, thence following the back line of the plantations of West Baton Rouge, until said line reaches the line between townships 5 and 6; thence by a direct line to the lower corner of ranges 9 and 10, between townships 6 and 7; thence following the line of ranges 9 and 8 and 7, between townships 6 and 7, to the Atchafalaya; thence following up said river to its mouth on the Mississippi River."

La. Acts of 1838, 2nd S. of 13th L., p. 21
App: Feb. 12, 1938
The purpose of this act was to follow the boundaries of a few individual property owners. In effect, the change was so slight as to be undetectable on any map of feasible manuscript size. The first change noted for Point-Coupee was, however, quite important for this was the first time that there was a simple definite statement of the southern boundary of Point-Coupee which legally established a line all the way from the Mississippi to the Atchafalaya.

Creation of Carroll. The law creating Carroll is the initial one for this decade in the northern portion of the State, and presaged relatively great activity. Carroll marks the beginning of the contraction of huge Ouachita:

"An act to form a new parish called the parish of Carroll."

SEC. 1: "...there shall be a new parish formed out of the eastern part of the parish of Ouachita and the northern part of the parish of Concordia to be called and known by the parish of Carroll."

SEC. 2: "...that the following shall be the boundaries of the parish of Carroll, viz: beginning on the river Mississippi at its intersection with the line between the 16th and 17th townships, and running west with said line to a point due south from the common crossing place of the River Aux Boeufe between Dimpsey's settlement and the Prairie Jefferson; and from said point due north to the said crossing place, thence up the said river to a point due east from the most northern point of Prairie Jefferson, thence from the last mentioned point, a due north course to the 33° of north latitude; thence east on said line to the Mississippi River; thence down said river to the place of beginning."

La. Acts of 1832, 3rd S. of 10th L., p. 100
App: Mar. 14, 1832
This act has proved of great difficulty because diligent perusal of maps, and correspondence with parish officials and others failed to locate accurately Dimpsey's Settlement. There does seem to be confusion concerning its location even in the wording of the statutes. An act of 1861 refers to "between Dimpsey's settlement at the prairie Jefferson". This interpretation is used in this study. In addition to the statement of 1861, Catesby's Graham's map of 1838 - only six years after the act - apparently interprets it in the words of the act of 1861. The line is drawn southward from Point Jefferson which is a part of the Prairie Jefferson. North from Boeuf River, the line between Carroll and Ouachita is drawn from the point which is the eastward projection of the extreme northeastern part of the Prairie Jefferson.

Boundary Change Between Ouachita and Catahoula. There was a minor alteration in the boundary between these two parishes in 1834:

"An act to change the division line between the parishes of Ouachita and Catahoula."

"...that the division line between the parishes of Ouachita and Catahoula, running from west to east and meeting at the Ouachita River, instead of pursuing the course it now does, said line shall run down said river until it meets with the next township line, thence due east to the corner of the township, thence due north to the original line."

App: Mar. 10, 1834

Translated into specific location, the act provided that Ouachita should receive the part of Township 13, Range 4E. of the Ouachita River. This alteration had meaning for only four years because in 1838, the creation of Caldwell erased it.
Although the preceding act made only a short lived, minor change in Catahoula, the act of 1835 made a major extension to the west:

"An act establishing the western boundary of the parish of Catahoula, and for other purposes."

SEC. 1: "...that the division line of the parishes of Catahoula and Washitaw (Ouachita), running between townships 13 and 14, shall be extended west along said line to the western line of ranges 4 west, thence due south on said line, to Duckdemonia, down the same to Little River and thence down Little River agreeably to existing laws; and that said line shall be and remain the western boundary of the parish of Catahoula."

App: Mar. 28, 1835

Essentially, the act gave a large slice of what is now Winn to Catahoula and this remained in the possession of Catahoula until the creation of Winn in 1852.

Creation of Caldwell. The extension of Catahoula may be thought of as something of a prelude to the creation of Caldwell, for in 1838 this newest addition to the state's parochial divisions was created from portions of Catahoula and Ouachita:

"An act to form a new parish to be called the parish of Caldwell."

SEC. 1: "...that from and after the passage of this act there shall be a new parish formed from a portion of the south part of the parish of Ouachita and from a portion of the north part of the parish of Catahoula, to be called and known by the parish of Caldwell."

SEC. 2: "...that the following shall be the boundaries of the parish of Caldwell: beginning at the northwest corner of section 19 in township 15 of range 2 east, in the land district north of Red River, thence south on said range line, 24 miles to the southwest corner of section 18 of township 11 of said range 2 east, thence east with the section lines, 24 miles, to the southeast corner of section 13 of said township 11 in range 5 east, at the range line between ranges 5 and 6 east; thence with the said range line north 3 miles to the southwest corner of section 31, in township 12 of range 6 east, thence east with the township lines about 1
mile to Boeuf River; thence along the channel of
said river to a point due east of the place of
beginning, thence west to the range line between
ranges 3 and 4 east, thence south along said
line about 1 mile and one quarter to the land
owned by Timothy Flint, thence west with Flint's
line to the Ouachita River, thence up said river
to the northwest corner of section 21, township
15 range 3 east, thence due west to the place of
beginning."

App: Mar. 6, 1838

Creation of Madison. Madison Parish was created on the
same day as Caldwell:

"An act to divide the parish of Concordia and
for other purposes."

SEC. 1: "...that the parish of Concordia shall,
after the passage of this act, cease to extend
further up the Mississippi River than to Shipp's
bayou."

SEC. 2: "...that a new parish be ....established,
commencing at Shipp's bayou, on the Mississippi
river, thence running up said river to the line
dividing the parishes of Concordia and Carroll,
thence pursing said dividing line to Cooliva or
Big Creek, thence down the channel of said Big
Creek to the line separating the parishes of
Catahoula and Ouachita, thence east with said
line to Bayou Macon, thence down the said bayou
Macon to a certain point due west of the mouth of
bayou Durrossett, on River Tensaw, thence up said
bayou to Lake St. Joseph thence direct to the be-
ginning point."

From the long thin strip of Concordia - this is to be thought
of in terms of SETTLED area rather than mere extent of terri-
tory - was taken the area north of Bayou Durrossett. No
explanation is required other than that the words "the line
dividing the parishes of Concordia and Carroll" referred at
this time to the line dividing townships 16 and 17.

In 1839, the original area of Madison was modified as follows:
"An act to annex a portion of Carrol (sic.) parish to the parish of Madison, and for other purposes."

SEC. 1. "...that the boundary lines of the parish of Madison be as follows, to wit: said lines shall commence at Shipp's bayou on the Mississippi River, thence running up said river to the middle of township 18, thence due west to Bayou Macon, thence down said bayou to the now existing line, thence pursuing the said line to the beginning point, and this notwithstanding any law or part of law to the contrary."

La. Acts of 1839, 1st S. of 14th L., p. 68
App: Mar. 14, 1839

The results of this act were: (1) to move the boundary of Madison northward a distance of nine miles, and (2) to decrease the area of Madison on the west by surrendering all the territory between Bayou Macon and Big Creek in townships 15 and 16.

Creation of Union. One more parish was to be created from Ouachita in this decade:

"An act to form a new parish to be called the parish of Union."

SEC. 1. "...that the territory in the parish of Ouachita within the following boundaries, to wit: commencing on the dividing line between the parishes of Claiborne and Ouachita, at the point where the line between townships 17 and 18, crossing thence on said township line east, until it strikes the Bayou Chudrie, thence down the Chudrie to where it empties into the Bayou Darbone, from thence in a direct line to Parker's line; on the Ouachita River, thence up the river to the Arkansas line, from thence a west course down the state line, until it strikes the dividing line between Ouachita and Claiborne, and thence south on said line to the place of beginning, do form and constitute a new parish, to be called the parish of Union."

La. Acts of 1839, 1st S. of 14th L., p. 82
App: Mar. 13, 1839

The outstanding phase of parish building and alteration in this decade was the reduction in size of the ancient parish of Ouachita. In just a few years, Ouachita had given up Caldwell, the major part of Carroll, and Union. Yet with all of this, her northern

*57*"No one now living knows just where Parker's Landing is, but I
boundary still reached the Arkansas line, and on the southwest, was within less than 40 miles of the old town of Natchitoches. Highly irregular in form, it was almost inevitable that the marginal areas should soon be made into other new parishes.

**Creation of Caddo.** Although Ouachita was most affected by the acts of this decade, Natchitoches parish was also reduced by the creation of Caddo:

"An act to create and establish the parish of Caddo (sic.), and for other purposes."

SEC. 1: "...that the territory within the following boundaries, to wit: beginning at the southwest side of the Red River where the township line between townships 12 and 13 strikes the same due west, to the southwest bank of Bayou Pierre Lake, thence up said lake to the mouth of the Bayou La Bonne Chasse, thence up said bayou to the most western part of Messrs. Boudouge and Vascocu's plantations, thence by a due south line until it intersects a direct line running from said western line of Bayou Pierre Lake to the Sabine River, where the line between townships 9 and 10 strikes the same, thence pursuing the boundary line of the United States to Red River and down the same to the point of beginning, do form and constitute a new parish to be called the parish of Caddo (sic.)"

(This territory part of the parish of Natchitoches.)

Approved: January 16, 1838

have information to the extent that I can locate it within 50 feet of the old original landing. This information I obtained some 30 years ago from individuals who were quite old at that time."

Personal letter from Mr. Z. C. Rabun, Clerk Third District Court, Union Parish, February 18, 1838.

Mr. Rabun indicated the location of Parker's Landing as being at a point on the Ouachita River where the line between the NE\(\frac{1}{4}\) of Sec. 3 and the NW\(\frac{1}{4}\) of the SW\(\frac{1}{4}\) of Sec. 2, T. 19, R. 3 E. of the District North of Red River crosses it.
The creation of Caddo parish is, in large measure, the result of the improvement of Red River as an artery of transportation. An explanation of early conditions on Red River is an essential to an appreciation of the preceding statement.

For an indefinite period, the channel of Red River above the approximate location of Natchitoches had been of little or no value as a means of travel or movement of goods. When the French came to northern Louisiana, they were forced to leave Red River and proceed overland to Texas and Mexico because of Great log jams in the channel which were later referred to as "rafts". These rafts remained practically as they were found for more than a century.

In 1832, the Federal government began the removal of the great raft, and with the Red made navigable - even if intermittently - a new era opened in the alluvial and adjacent areas of northwest Louisiana. New settlers came rapidly to supplement those already established in the area of Caddo Parish, and as the date proves, it was only a few years until they demanded the creation of a separate parish. (The unsurveyed condition of Louisiana at this time was indicated by the description of the northwestern boundary of the parish: "thence pursuing the boundary line of the United States to Red River". At this time it was not known that Red River crossed the thirty-third parallel well to the east of the intersection of the western boundary of the state with the said parallel.)
Creation of Calcasieu. The last act of this decade changes the scene to the southern part of the state. At last vast St. Landry was to be divided, in fact the new parish was to be of greater extent than the remainder which still bears the older name:

"An act to create a new parish to be called the parish of Calcasieu."

SEC. 1: "...all that territory in the parish of St. Landry within the following boundaries to wit: commencing at the mouth of the river Mermentau, thence up said river to the mouth of the Bayou Nezpique, thence up said bayou to the mouth of Beaver Creek, thence due north to the dividing lines between the parishes of St. Landry and Rapides, thence along said line to the Sabine River, thence down the Sabine river to its mouth, thence along the sea coast to the place of beginning, shall form and constitute a new parish to be called the parish of Calcasieu."


In this description, it is necessary to make explanation of "Beaver Creek". On modern maps, the name Beaver Creek occurs as a tributary of the Nezpique system beginning in township 3 south, range 3 west, and having its mouth in the western part of township 3 south, range 1 west.

Beaver Creek as such is not the stream referred to, but the correct stream appears on the map as Bayou Castor whose mouth is in the western part of township 5 south, range 2 west.

The steadily mounting burden of special legislation for parish boundaries produced a law which attempted to shift some of this burden to the parishes. The first permissive or "blanket" parish creation law was the following:

$In French, "castor" means beaver.
"An act to provide for ascertaining and fixing the boundary of adjoining parishes."

SEC. I. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, in General Assembly convened, that, whenever the police jury of any parish shall pass an ordinance, for ascertaining and fixing the boundary lines of any parish adjoining thereto, and shall appoint a time and place for commencing the running thereof, and shall duly serve the parish judge, parish surveyor, or any other surveyor appointed for that purpose by the police jury of said parish, and president of the police jury of the said adjoining parish, with a copy of the said ordinance, with notice of the time and place for commencing the running thereof six month previous to the time so fixed; then the parish surveyors of the said parishes, shall proceed to the running and marking of said boundary line, or fixing on any water course as a boundary line; and in case the parish surveyor of either parish shall fail to attend at the time and place appointed, then the other parish surveyor, after waiting two entire days, shall proceed to the running and marking of the said adjoining boundary line, or determining on any water course in part or in whole of said boundary line.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, ... That whenever a boundary line shall have been run and marked as above prescribed, due returns thereof shall be made to the parish judges of both the said parishes, who shall carefully file and preserve the same.

SEC. 7. And be it further enacted, ... That in all cases where the line is not plainly defined between the parishes, said commissioners shall be authorized to fix said line, which shall be valid and established as the boundary line between adjoining parishes.

La. Acts 1835, 1st S. of 12th L., p. 144-146
App: March 20, 1835
The period of 1841 to 1850 is the climax decade in both the number of parish creations and alterations. No less than nine new parishes were added to the thirty-eight already in existence and all within a period of five years - 1843-1849. Thus in forty-three years Louisiana's original twelve COUNTIES had increased to forty-eight PARISHES. The alterations were almost legion. Of the nine creations, eight were in North Louisiana, essentially in the Upland Coastal Plain, and all were the result of the rush of settlers from the older portions of the South to the frontier section of the State during the preceding twenty-five to thirty years. Only one parish, Vermillion, was in the older Southern region, and it too was marginal in location and degree of economic development.

The records of the Senate and House journals for this period are most revealing of the demand for new parishes. No other decade even approaches it in the fullness of the recording of the sentiments of legislators and of the resolutions. Several of these will be given, for they emphasize and summarize the basic reasons for the creation of nearly all Louisiana parishes - at least after the original nineteen, although this does not imply that their origin was not bound up with like considerations.

The banner year 1843 recorded the creation of five parishes, all in the northern area. Beginning with Bossier, on February 24, Franklin, Sabine, Tensas, and DeSoto followed in quick succession, the entire group having entered the list of
Louisiana parishes in thirty-two days.

**Creation of Bossier.** A further division of the huge area which formerly constituted Natchitoches was foreshadowed by the creation of Claiborne in 1828. With the opening of navigation on Red River the orientation of the western part of Claiborne was strongly to the west. Of all the territory included in the original Claiborne, the area constituting Bossier was the only portion having a significant stretch of Red River alluvium, and it is noteworthy that the delimitation of Bossier was drawn so as to include most of this alluvium within its confines:

"An act to create a new parish in the parish of Claiborne to be called the parish of Bossier."

**SEC. 1:** "...that all that portion or tract of country in the parish of Claiborne bordering on Red River and bounded as follows, to wit: starting at the mouth of Logy Bayou, on the western bank of said bayou, thence following the shore of said bayou to Lake Bestineau, thence up along the shore of said lake to Bayou Dorcheat, thence up along the shore of said bayou to the line between the states of Arkansas and Louisiana, thence west on said line to the eastern bank of said river, thence down along said river, to the point of starting, shall form a separate parish to be called the parish of Bossier."

Approved: February 24, 1843

**Creation of Bienville.** Only five years later, Claiborne's remaining ten townships between BayouDauchite on the west and Union and newly created Jackson on the east were divided between the old name and a new one, Bienville:

"An act to divide the parish of Claiborne and create the parish of Bienville."

**SEC. 1:** "...that the parish of Claiborne shall be divided as follows, to wit: by a line to commence on the Bayou

59 As in other decades, the order of treatment of this group is regional rather than chronological, although time sequence is followed as far as is permitted by the regional organization.
Butcheets, at a point between townships 18 and 19 and of range 9, and to run east on the line between said townships to the eastern boundary of said parish of Claiborne."

SEC. 2: "...that the territory of the southern division of said parish of Claiborne shall be erected into a new parish to be called the parish of Bienville, with the same eastern, southern and western boundaries that formerly belonged to said territory when it constituted a part of the said parish of Claiborne."

La. Acts of 1848, 1st S. of 2nd L.
Act 183, p. 118, approved March 14, 1848.

This division of Claiborne was exactly half and half: the southern five townships going to Bienville, and the northern five to Claiborne. There was a lack of any prominent natural feature which might have suggested a different basis of delimitation, and in the consciousness and habits of the people of the hill sections of Louisiana, the system of townships and ranges and sections was fixed much more strongly than was true of the residents of the older settled alluvial sections of the southern portion of the State.

The great changes in this decade were not in the northwest however, because no less than four new parishes were created in the District North of Red River. The cotton kingdom had been expanding rapidly in this area as well as in the northwest and a direct concomitant of the growth of this kingdom was the creation of additional minor political subdivisions. Of these, four parishes, Franklin, Tensas, and Morehouse, were all at least partly bound up with the alluvial stretches of the Tensas Basin. Only Jackson was strictly a "hill" parish.
Creation of Franklin. The first of this group of four was Franklin:

"An act to create the parish of Franklin."

SEC. 1: "...there shall be a new parish formed of a portion of the parishes of Catahoula, Ouachita, and Madison, with the following boundaries, to wit: beginning at the mouth of Deer Creek; thence up said Deer Creek to the Bayou Cut-off; thence up said Cut-off Bayou to Bayou Mason; thence up the bayou Mason to the east and west line dividing townships 16 and 17, north; thence west on said line to bayou Lafourche; thence down said Bayou Lafourche to the western boundary of the parish of Caldwell; thence east on said boundary line to the Boeuf River; thence down the channel of said Boeuf River to the mouth of Deer Creek, thenplace of beginning; which said parish shall be called and known by the name of Franklin."

SEC. 5: Parish seat to be located "as near as possible to the center of said parish as designated on Jos. McCoy's map of said contemplated parish."

La. Acts of 1843, 1st S. of 16th L.
Act 41, p. 22. Approved: March 1, 1843

The creation of Franklin Parish reflected the settlement of lands removed from natural levees of the Mississippi, which, by this time, had been fairly well occupied and had increased in value. The area of Franklin was not only more completely frontier, but in a land form sense, the terrace backbone of the parish gave distinctiveness to a significant portion of the new political entity, and a very different orientation - not looking
outward to the river but inward to the ridge which was free
from overflow - from that found in the RECENT (geologically)
alluvial lands to the east.

The provisions of this act are followed without difficulty
although there was an important error in the description.
Reference was made to the "western" boundary of Caldwell when
it should have read "northern". This mistake was corrected in
an act of 1844:

"An act to amend an act entitled 'An act to create the
parish of Franklin', approved March 1, 1843, and for
other purposes."

SEC. 3: .....that the boundaries of the parish of
Franklin shall be as follows: commencing at the mouth
of Deer Creek, thence up Deer Creek to the Cut-off Bayou,
then up the Cut-off Bayou to Bayou Mason, thence up
Bayou Mason the east and west line dividing townships
16 and 17 north, thence west on said line to Bayou
Lafourche, thence down said Bayou Lafourche to the
northern boundary of the parish of Caldwell, thence
east on the northerly boundary line of the parish of
Caldwell to the middle of Bœuf river, thence down the
channel of said Bœuf river to the mouth of Deer Creek, (the
place of beginning.)

Approved: March 11, 1844

Even this amendment to the original act of creation did
not completely settle the matter of the northern boundary of
Franklin, for in 1848, the legislature reannexed to Ouachita
the area between Bayou Lafourche and Bœuf River and between
the middle of township 15 (the northern boundary of Franklin)
and the line between townships 16 and 17:

"An act to re-annex a portion of the parish of Ouachita."

"...all that portion of the parish of Franklin on the
northwest side of Bœuf River shall be re-annexed to the
parish of Ouachita; and that the Bœuf River shall hence-
forth be the boundary line between the parishes of Franklin
and Ouachita."

p. 8, Approved: February 24, 1848
These three acts within a few years of each other fixed the northern body of Franklin permanently.

Creation of Tensas. The tenuous parish of Concordia was next in order for further reduction. For a brief interval Concordia had extended from Turnbull Island - approximately the 31st parallel - to the Arkansas line. This elongated strip of approximately 150 miles obviously could not have served the needs of a population whose pattern of settlement was even much more ribbonlike than the foregoing description would imply. The attenuated form of Concordia was reduced, first by the short-lived Warren, next by Madison, and then another parish was proposed to the south of Madison.

The name of this parish was uncertain. From the wording below, it is seen that W ARREN was yet a name to be considered in parish creations even a generation after the demise of the original Warren Parish:

"Mr. Farmer, on behalf of the Special Committee to whom was referred an act entitled: An act to establish and create a new parish to be called Warren, and for other purposes, submitted a written report with the bill amended under the following title: An act to form a new parish to be called the Parish of __________;

The House took up said bill, which was read for the second time section by section, and adopted, after having filled up the blank with the name - "Tensas".

The rules having been dispensed with for a third reading, on motion ordered that said bill do pass under the following title: "An act to form a new Parish, to be called the Parish of Tensas."

House Journals, February 8, 1843, p. 39

A month later, the creation of Tensas was the law of the State:

"An act to form a new parish to be called the parish of Tensas."
SEC. 1: "...that a parish shall be erected and established within the north or upper part of the parish of Concordia to be called Tensas - the boundary lines to be as follows, to wit: commencing on the Mississippi River, at the line dividing townships 13 and 14, below the residence of John Perkins, thence running on said line west to where it crosses Bayou Durossett; thence down on said bayou to the line dividing the parishes of Madison and Concordia to the bayou Mason; thence down said Bayou Mason to its junction with the river Tensas; thence down the Tensas to the section line dividing township nine in the center by an east and west line; thence east on said line to lake St. John; thence along said lake to Bayou l'argent to the Mississippi; thence up the Mississippi to the place of beginning.

La. Acts of 1843, 1st S. of 16th L.
Act 61, p. 35, Approved: March 17, 1843

With the creation of Tensas, the parish pattern in the Tensas Basin was completed on the Mississippi River front, save for the acts of 1846 and 1847 which finally resulted in fixing the permanent boundary between Madison and Carroll:

"An act to extend the limits of the parish of Madison."

SEC. 1: "...that the north half of township 18, range 12 east, and the north half of township 18, range 13 east, district of lands north of Red River, now belonging to the parish of Carroll be, and the same is hereby attached to the parish of Madison."

La. Acts of 1846, 1st S. of 1st L.
Act 164, p. 151. Approved: May 29, 1846

"An act to fix the boundary line between the parishes of Carrol (sic.) and Madison."

SEC. 1: "...that the following boundary be established as the division line between the parishes of Carroll and Madison, beginning where the south line of lot No. 8, township No. 18, range 13, east, touches the Mississippi River; thence along said south line of lot 8 due west, to the northwest corner of lot 17, same township and range, thence along the back line of lots 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24, to a point where the former parish line intersected the back line of lot 24, thence due west along said line as it existed prior to the act of the 29th of May 1846, to the northwest corner of said parish of Madison."

La. Acts of 1847, 2nd S. of 1st L.
Act 98, p. 74. Approved: April 5, 1847
Creation of Morehouse. The next parish to be created in East Louisiana was Morehouse on March 15, 1844:

"An act to create a new parish in the parish of Ouachita to be called the parish of Morehouse."

SEC. 2: "...that all that portion of the parish of Ouachita bounded as follows, to wit: beginning on the east bank of the Ouachita river, at the point where it is intersected by the line between the States of Louisiana and Arkansas, thence down the middle of said river to the mouth of Bartholomew, thence up said bayou to the mouth of Bayou Bartholomew, thence up the said Bayou Bartholomew to the Bayou Lafourche, thence up the said Bayou Lafourche to the Buffa River, thence up said river to the line between Louisiana and Arkansas, thence along said line to the place of beginning, shall form a separate parish to be called the parish of Morehouse."

Act 118, p. 77. Approved: March 25, 1844

The act of creation established the boundaries in a permanent manner save on the south and east. At first, Bayou Lafourche from its junction with Bayou Boeuf to its junction with Boeuf River was designated as the southern boundary. In 1847, however, the boundary was changed as follows:

"An act to change the boundary line between the parish of Ouachita and Morehouse."

"....that instead of running up the Bayou Lafourche from the mouth of the Bayou Boeuf to the River Aux Boeufs, as heretofore, it (the boundary line) shall for the future, run down said Bayou Lafourche to the township line dividing townships 16 and 17 north, which point is the northwest corner of Franklin parish, and all that territory lying east of said bayou Lafourche, and north of the parish of Franklin, and west of the Parish of Carrol, heretofore belonging to the parish of Ouachita, shall be, and is hereby attached to, and shall form a part of the parish of Morehouse."

Act 124, p. 91. Approved: April 15, 1847

It should be noted that the words of the act referring to the northwest corner of Franklin parish are correct at the time they were written. The reannexation of territory to Ouachita parish in 1848, after the second Morehouse act shifted the
northwest corner of Franklin to the junction of Boeuf River and the line between townships 16 and 17 north.

**Creation of Jackson.** The next act in the parish evolution of northeast Louisiana involves a change of site from, in general, the alluvial section to the region entirely in the Upland Coastal Plain. On February 27, 1845, Ouachita was reduced again by the loss of her westernmost territory. The area that went to make Jackson parish had been left as a kind of embayment by the acts of the preceding decade. Study of the map indicates that its creation was almost inevitable, although there was argument over the exact extent of the new parish.

The following petition indicates the ardor of the desire for the prospective unit:

**Petition for creation of Jackson:**

To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana

"We the undersigned, citizens of the parishes of Union and Ouachita, in the State of Louisiana, with respect, represent unto your honorable body that we are desirous of having a new parish laid off included in the following bounds, viz: __________ the parish to be called Jackson; your petitioners are urged to this request from the fact that the citizens within the above boundaries are situated very remotely and inconveniently from either of the county's seats of Ouachita and Union, and those in Union Parish are almost entirely cut off from their county seat during the winter and spring of the Year in consequence of the overflow of the bayou Dearbone, frequently having to ferry from one to two miles, and those residing in Ouachita parish, reside from twenty to fifty miles from the county seat, and have in addition to cross the Ouachita River to get to it, all of which among many other grievances, your petitioners labor under and from which they pray to be relieved by your honorable

The use of "county" in petitions by groups living in North Louisiana was yet rather frequent and undoubtedly reflects the relatively recent arrival of people from the older, dominantly southeastern states.
bodies. Your petitioners respectfully submit it as their opinion, that by establishing a new parish within the above boundaries, the interest, happiness and convenience of those residing therein would be greatly promoted without injuring in the least the parishes of Ouachita or Union, and that it would facilitate the settlement of this part of the state, which is so devoutly wished for by all concerned. Wherefore your petitioners respectfully ask your honorable bodies to create a new parish herein prayed for."

August 1, 1844.

Signed Jeptha Colvin, T. B. Davis, and others.

Senate Journal 1845, 1st S., 17th L., p. 30

The delimitation of the new parish as finally created read:

"An act to create the parish of Jackson."

SEC. 1: "...there shall be formed out of the contiguous portions of the parishes of Ouachita, Union and Claiborne a new parish with the following boundaries, to wit: beginning on the extreme northwest corner of the parish of Caldwell, on the range line dividing ranges 1 and 2 east of the land district north of Red River, in the State of Louisiana, thence running due north on said range line to where it crosses the township line dividing townships 15 and 16; thence diagonally across township 16 to the most northwest corner of said township, where the township line dividing townships 16 and 17 cross the past Meridian line; thence due north on the past Meridian line to the middle of township 19; thence due south to the line dividing townships 13 and 14; thence due east to the western boundary of Caldwell parish, thence north along the western boundary of Caldwell parish to the place of beginning, which said parish shall be called and known by the name of the parish of Jackson."

La. Acts of 1845, 1st S. of 17th L.
Act 33, p. 16. Approved: February 27, 1845.

Prior to the creation of Jackson, an act was passed which gave part of Catahoula to Ouachita:

"An act to annex a certain district of country to the parish of Ouachita, and for other purposes."
"...that the district of country described and bounded on three sides by the following line, to wit: commencing at the northwest corner of the parish of Caldwell, thence running along the western boundary of said parish six miles to the line which divides townships 12 and 13, thence west along said line until it strikes the bayou Dugademona, thence up said bayou to the line dividing townships 17 and 18, thence east along said line to, where it divides the parishes of Ouachita and Union, be and the same is hereby annexed to, and is made part of the parish of Ouachita."

Act 13, p. 10. Approved: February 6, 1841

From the above description of Jackson, it is seen that once Jackson was created, two islands of Ouachita remained, legally, south and west of Jackson: 1) township 13 between Bayou Dugademona and the western boundary of Caldwell, and, 2) a little area north of the line dividing townships 13 and 14, and between Bayou Dugademona and the newly created Jackson. Eleven days after the creation of Jackson, the first was returned to Catahoula:

"An act to re-annex to the parish of Catahoula certain territory."

"...that all that portion of territory, lying adjoining the parish of Catahoula on the north, and bounded on the east by Caldwell parish, and north by the line dividing townships 13 and 14, and west by the parish of Natchitoches, being a range of townships, be and the same is hereby annexed to the parish of Catahoula, and shall thereafter constitute a portion of said parish,...."

La. Acts of 1845, 1st S. of 17th L.
Act 111, p. 68. Approved: March 10, 1845

In 1846, the second was added to Jackson:

"An act to fix the boundary lines between the parishes of Ouachita, Union and Jackson."

SEC. 3: "...that that portion of the parish of Ouachita now lying between Claiborne and Jackson, to wit: Commencing at the south-west corner of the parish of Jackson, and..."

The description makes it clear that the legislators must have meant "row" of townships, for obviously it could not have been a range.
running west on the line dividing township 13 and 14 to the Dugedemona; thence up said stream to the present western boundary line of the parish of Jackson, be, and the same is hereby attached to the parish of Jackson."

La. Acts of 1846, 1st S. of 1st L.
Act 179, p. 159. Approved: June 1, 1846

Two other changes involving Jackson were recorded in this same act which conveyed to Jackson the small island on the southwest. Both definitions were on the north:

SEC. 1: "...that all that portion of the parish of Union in the following boundaries, to wit: Commencing on the meridian line, where the township line dividing townships 18 and 19 crosses it; thence east on said township line to the Bayou Chudro; thence up said bayou to the meridian line; thence north on said line to the place of beginning."

SEC. 2: "..., that the boundary line between the parishes of Union and Jackson shall be established as follows, to wit: Commencing at the meridian line where the line dividing township 18 and 19 crosses it; thence due west on said line 4 miles; thence north on the line between sections 32 and 33 one mile; thence west on a section line three miles; thence north on another section line one mile; thence west on a section line three miles; thence north on another section line to Bayou Darbonne; thence up said stream to the middle of range 4 west; thence due south to the present north-western corner of the parish of Jackson."

La. Acts of 1846, 1st S. of 1st L.
Act 179, p. 159. Approved: June 1, 1846

The nuclear area of Natchitoches Parish had always been the alluvial area between the present Cane and Red Rivers. The areas to the north, east and west were regarded as having some political regional affiliation with the nuclear area for the simple reason of want of rival claimants. With the settlement of the alluvial area to the north, but above all with the infiltration into the Upland Coastal Plain on either side of the Red River alluvial bottoms, it was but natural that
they should develop a separate political regional consciousness. cultural
This feeling was heightened by virtue of/cleavage; the bottoms
with their preponderance of French inhabitants and institutions
contrasted strongly with the overwhelming "Anglo-Saxonism" of
the hills.

Creation of Sabine. The first reduction of Natchitoches parish
in this decade was that brought about by the new parish of Sabine:

"An act to create a new parish in the county of Natchitoches
to be called the parish of Sabine."

SEC. 1: "....that all that tract of country in the county
of Natchitoches, bordering on the Sabine river, and bounded
as follows, to wit: starting at the point with the line
running south from the most western part of Messrs. Baudridge
Bascoue's plantation, and Bayou Lebonnecashe, intersects
the line between the parish of Natchitoches and Caddo, thence
westwardly on said line to the western bank of Sabine River;
then southerly, following the line between the United
States and the Republic of Texas, to the point where the line
between the parishes of Natchitoches and Rapides intersects
the line between ranges 7 and 8; thence north on said line
to its intersection with the line between townships 4 and 5;
then west on said line to the line between ranges 8 and 9;
then north on said range line to its intersection with the
line between townships 6 and 7; thence west on said line to
the line between ranges 9 and 10; thence north on said range
line to its intersection with the line between townships
8 and 9; thence west on said line to the line between ranges
10 and 11; thence north on said range line to its intersection
with the line between townships 9 and 10; thence west on said
line to the line between ranges 11 and 12; thence north on
said range line to its intersection with the line between
township 10 and 11, and thence west on said line to the point
of starting - shall form a separate parish to be called the
parish of Sabine."

Approved: March 7, 1843.

Creation of De Soto. Less than one month later, came DeSoto:
(April 1, 1843)

"An act to create and establish the parish of DeSoto and
for other purposes."

SEC. 1: "....that all that tract of country bounded as
follows, to wit: beginning on the southwest bank of Red
River on the line dividing townships 13 and 14; thence
due west along said line to the range line between ranges
12 and 13; thence due north along said range line to the township line between township 14 and 15; thence due west along said township line to the Katchie Bayou; thence southwest up said bayou to the section line between sections 18 and 19, in range 15 township 14; thence due west along said section line to the line between the United States and the Republic of Texas; thence due south along said line line to the Sabine River; thence down said river to where the section line and the center of township 10 strikes the said river; thence due east along said section line to the range line between ranges 10 and 11; thence due north along said range line to the Bayou Wallace; thence down said Bayou Wallace until it empties into Madam Dooley's Bayou; thence down said bayou to the mouth of James river; thence up said river to the bayou Pierre River; thence up said river to Bayou Winsey; thence along said bayou to Red River; thence up said river to the place of beginning; do form and constitute a new parish under the name of Parish DeSoto.

SEC. 11: "....that the south half of township 10, range 11, and the south half of the fractional township 10, and ranges 14 and 15, be and the same are hereby annexed and shall constitute and form a part of the parish of Sabine."


On March 8, 1845, the boundary between De Soto and Caddo was altered (and it has remained in that form to the present):

"An act to alter the boundary line between the parishes of Caddo and De Soto, and for other purposes."

SEC. 1: "....that so much of the parish of Caddo as lies southwest of the bayou Pierre River and Cypress Bayou, be a annexed to an form part of the parish of DeSoto according to the following named boundary line, that is to say; the line dividing the two parishes shall begin in the Bayou Pierre River, where the boundary line of the two parishes new crosses it, thence it shall run up the said river to the mouth of Wallace Lake, thence up said lake to the mouth of Cypress Bayou, thence up said bayou to the mouth of Kechi Bayou, and thence up said bayou to the boundary line as now established."


In 1846, the legislature passed the following act to fix the boundary between Natchitoches and Rapides:

"An act changing and fixing definitely the boundary line between Natchitoches and Rapides."
"...that the boundary line between the parishes of Natchitoches and Rapides, on the north bank of the Red River shall commence at the mouth of Rigolets Bon Dieu, and pursuing the present line until it strikes the Salt Lake, thence along the eastern bank of said lake to the mouth of Bayou Salt, thence along said bayou to the township line, between ranges 2 and 3, North, to pursue said line to the Dugdemona; all included in range 2, to be embraced within the limits of the parish of Rapides, and all of range 3 to be in Natchitoches."

Approved: May 12, 1846

A study of its terms made with the aid of a large map indicates the impossibility of fulfilling the conditions outlined in the description. As an illustration, it is not possible to follow the Salt Lake and Bayou Salt (Saline Lake and Bayou) to the township line between ranges 2 and 3 for these water bodies are in range 5 west.

In 1847, the legislature recognized that an error had been made in the "enrollment" of act 61 of 1846, but in the act of 1847 they merely confirmed the Salt Lake and the Bayou Salt, and thus made it impossible to fulfill the range and township line conditions. Apparently, Rapides was strong enough to push her boundary westward.

The famous La Tourrette map of 1847 - whose accuracy was such that in some instances police juries and legislators were willing to accept it as the official designation of parish limits - delineates what undoubtedly was intended in the legislation of 1846, namely to follow Salt Lake and Bayou Iatt to the township line between ranges two and three, and thence north to Dugdemona. Because this is definitely not legal - it is likely that La Tourrette's map was at or off the press before the amending act of 1847 was passed - the map in this study will
Indicate the boundary between Rapides and Natchitoches as far as is possible in the description, namely up Saline Lake and Bayou.

In the struggle for possession of the land between the Saline and Iatt drainage systems, Rapides had won. To what extent this was fostered by the move to create a new parish east of the Saline system and Red River is not certain, but it does seem that there may have been a close connection, for in 1850, Dugdemonia parish was proposed, and, as will be shown later, this was the immediate parent of Winn whose birth took place in 1852. The uncertain Saline system boundary between Natchitoches and Rapides in 1847, then, is of no great concern since the whole matter was defined perfectly only five years later with the creation of Winn.

Part of Avoyelles Transferred to Catahoula. Since 1818, the boundary between Catahoula and Avoyelles had followed the Catahoula lake to the lower end and from there in a straight line to the mouth of the Crocodile. This line was rather unsatisfactory. One reason was that it crossed and recrossed two bends of Black River and this coupled with an apparent desire to increase the area of Catahoula resulted in the following boundary change in 1842:

"An act to annex to the parish of Catahoula a certain district of country now within the limits of the parish of Avoyelles."

SEC. 1: "...that all that district of country now within the limits of the parish of Avoyelles and bounded as follows, viz: commencing at the head of Saline Bayou where it leaves Catahoula Lake, thence down the said bayou to its junction with the Red River, thence down Red River to the mouth of Black River, thence up Black River to the present line of Catahoula Parish, thence up Black River to the present line of Catahoula Parish, be and the same is hereby annexed to the parish of Catahoula, and shall hereafter for all purposes constitute a part of the said parish of Catahoula."

Approved: February 10, 1842
The poor drainage of much of this area with its consequent low value for agriculture would suggest a meagre background for vigorous debate over ownership but the very reverse was true. The House Journal of 1843 makes it very clear that the partisans of Avoyelles tries to recover the area lost to Catahoula. The repeal bill was made the order of the day and as is shown by the following Catahoula retained her newly acquired area by the margin of the Speaker's vote:

The House resumed the consideration of the bill entitled:

An act to repeal an act entitled an act to annex to the parish of Catahoula a certain district of country now within the limits of the Parish of Avoyelles, approved February 10, 1842.

Which was under discussion, when the house adjourned on Friday last.

On the adoption of the first and only section of said bill which reannexes a certain part of the parish of Catahoula to Avoyelles, Mr. Phelps called for the yeas and nays.

When it appeared that......(names of legislators)......had voted in the affirmative, 21 ayes and that ...... had voted in the negative, 21 nays, the votes being equally divided, and the Speaker having voted in the negative; said section was consequently rejected.

House Journal, 1843. 1st S. of 16th L, p.35.

Another change in the northwestern boundary of Avoyelles was made in the year 1847:

"An act changing and fixing definitely the boundary line between Rapides and Avoyelles."

"......that the boundary line between the parishes of Rapides and Avoyelles, on the north bank of the Red River, shall commence at the point now fixed by law, thence due north until it strikes the principal branch of the Horse Pen Creek; thence down said Creek to where it enters the Bayou Saline; thence along said Bayou Saline to its mouth or entrance into the Catahoula Lake."

This act produced contention, and in 1848, the legislature passed a statute intended to restore the original boundaries designated by the act of 1818:

"An act to define and establish the boundaries of the parish of Avoyelles."

(Surveyor, one year after the passage of this act, to lay off the boundaries of the parish of Avoyelles, "in accordance with the requirements of the first section of an act passed on the 4th day of February 1818."

Approved: March 16, 1848

This was manifestly impossible since the act of 1842 giving a portion of Avoyelles to Catahoula had already become the law of the State. The boundary remained as defined in the act of 1847, and further confirmation of this was given in the act of 1895.

Changes in Ascension. This is the decade of exceedingly contradictory legislation, and the resultant is at best an attempt to indicate one or two exact boundaries out of the entire maze.

In 1841, the legislature passed an act which established some perfectly definite boundaries:

"An act for establishing the boundary lines of the parish of Ascension."

The limits to be as follows: "...beginning below on the east side of the Mississippi River at the lower line of Houma’s claim, and extending on that line to the Lake Maurepas; above on the same side of the river, beginning on the upper line of Dr. Taylor’s possession, and extending out to the Manchac; on the west of the Mississippi, beginning at the lower line of Leger Landry’s plantation and extending out until it intersects the South boundary of township No. 10 of the United States survey, thence with that line to Grand River, and below on the west side of the Mississippi, beginning on the lower line of Augustin Richard’s plantation and extending out until it intersects the south boundary of township No. 11 of the United States survey, thence with that line to the range line between
ranges Nos. 13 and 14, thence south 70° west to Grand River."

La. Acts of 1840, 1st S. of the 15th L.
Act 8, p. 7. Approved: February 3, 1841

Approximately one month later, however, the legislature passed the following act:

"An act supplementary to an act entitled, "An act to establish the boundary line of the parish of Ascension" approved Feb. 3, 1841."

PREAMBLE: "Whereas in enrolling a serious error has been committed in the 13th word from the end of above said act, the word "township" having been inserted instead of the word "ranges", therefore:

SEC. 1: "...that the 13th word from the end of the act to which this is supplementary, be considered as null and void, and that the word "ranges" be substituted therefor."

SEC. 2: "...that the dividing line between the parishes of Iberville and Ascension shall remain such as it was before the passage of the act to which this is a supplement, until it be determined whether the survey made by Aug. Bonnet, surveyor of the parish of Ascension on the 27th of September 1824, or that made in 1837 by Aus. S. Phelps, surveyor and Commissioner for the parish of Ascension, shall be maintained as the true and lawful boundary of the aforesaid parishes."


Apart from the correction of the word "ranges", there is nothing new, and section two of the act makes it clear that the entire matter rests as provided in the map of 1830.

In 1842, all contradictory laws were to be disregarded if they failed to conform to Catisby's Graham's map:

"An act to determine the limits and to designate the boundary line of Assumption."

SEC. 1: "...that the boundary line between the parishes of Assumption and Ascension be and remain as they are laid down in Catisby Graham's (sic. map of the State of Louisiana, any law to the contrary notwithstanding."

Act 168, p. 514. Approved: March 26, 1342
This decade was one which may be said to be "full of" Ascension legislation, and in 1847 there was yet another act:

SEC. 1: "...that the line surveyed and established by Augustus S. Phelps, in the year of 1837, be, and are hereby declared and made the dividing lines between the parishes of Iberville and Ascension."

Approved: April 15, 1847

The principal reference, that of A. S. Phelps survey of 1837, is not very revealing as is made clear in a letter from Gervais Lombard of the State Board of Engineers. In that letter, Mr. Lombard wrote:

"We have not, so far, found any copy of either the entire process verbal or of an accompanying map of the Phelps survey... ...That part of the Ascension-Iberville boundary situated east of the Mississippi as surveyed in 1837 by A. S. Phelps, was retraced and monumented in 1925."

The line as shown on survey plat of the State Board of Engineers extends from a point on the Mississippi River almost at the junction of the line between townships nine and ten south and ranges 1 and 2 east (Southeast district) and thence northeastward until it intersects Alligator Bayou near its confluence with Bayou Manchac (Township 8 S. R. 2 E., SE District).

In regard to the southern boundary of Ascension east of the Mississippi River, it seems that Phelps must have used the southern boundary of the claim of the Houmas, for it is so shown on Catesby Graham's map of 1838 and on La Tourrette's map of 1847, as well as township plat in State Land Office. This line begins on the line between townships 10 and 11 S., R. 3 E. and runs northeastward through township 10, ranges three, four, five and six East to Lake Maurepas.

"Copy of a letter submitted to the Board of State Engineers on December 7, 1937.
"No. A - 4809, May 25, 1925.
"T. 10. R. 3 E., SE District."
On the west of the Mississippi, the Board of State Engineers hold that the quadrangles of the Mississippi River Commission are thought to be conformable to the Phelps Survey of 1837 ("safe and logical to follow the boundary line west of the Mississippi as shown on the quadrangle sheets which very probably conforms to the Phelps Survey of 1837"). With all of this in mind, it is seen that the boundaries of Ascension may be thought of as having been established before 1850, and the maps of succeeding decades will show the same boundaries with one exception: the boundary of St. John the Baptist was run to Blind River approximately along the line between ranges 5 and 6 east, thus cutting off Ascension from Lake Maurepas.

This last act in the decade ending in 1850 affecting the boundary of Ascension was one which made a transfer to Livingston:

"An act to annex Maurepas Island, a portion of the parish of Ascension, to the parish of Livingston."

"...that that portion of the parish of Ascension bounded north by the River Amite from its junction with Lake Maurepas up to Bayou Pierre; on the west by Bayou Pierre, from its origin at the Amite River down to the petit Amite; from thence down the petit Amite to Blind River; from thence, on the south, by Blind River down to Lake Maurepas; from thence, on the east by Lake Maurepas at the place of beginning so as to include the Island of Maurepas, situated immediately west of Lake Maurepas and south of the River Amite, be, and the same is hereby annexed to the parish of Livingston."

Approved: March 12, 1850

"White Castle Quadrangle, War Department, Corps of Engineers, Edition of 1936."
Boundary defined between Iberville and St. Martin. Of great importance in this decade was the definition of the boundary between Iberville and St. Martin. The Atchafalaya swamp with its innumerable and unstable distributaries affords the maximum difficulty in delimitation by streams and yet there is no recourse to other features. The following act reads like a catalogue of the names on a post office map of a state:

Sec. 2: "....that the line between the parishes of Iberville and St. Martin shall begin at a point where the line between townships 11 and 12, strikes the Atchafalaya, commonly called the Grand River or Old River, on its western bank, west of and near Lake Natchez; thence running west along said township line until the same strikes the east branch of the bayou Pigeon; thence along the middle of said bayou and middle of Little Bayou Pigeon to the north of Gross Bayou; thence along the middle of Gross Bayou to its junction with Lake Long, commonly called Murphy's Lake; thence through said lake to a point on its western shore, three miles north of said township line, thence west parallel therewith to Lake Chicot; thence along the western border of said Lake Chicot to the most eastern navigable entrance into Bayou Sorel Bay; thence northwardly along the middle of said entrance or pass, and Bayou Sorel Bay to the upper Bayou Pigeon; thence along the middle thereof, northwardly to its junction with the Atchafalaya, called Grand River; thence along the middle of Grand River to Oski Bay; thence through the middle thereof to the eastern branch of Bayou Alabama; thence following the said branch including the inhabitants of both sides thereof, upwards to the township line between townships 6 and 7, or the south boundary of Pointe Coupee; the portion north and east of said line belonging to the parish of Iberville, and south and west to the parish of St. Martin."


Vagaries of language of the act, and sedimentation by the Atchafalaya are two important factors which have led to great difficulties of interpretation. In regard to the latter, the rapid sedimentation in the Atchafalaya Basin has so filled in Oski Bay that the Oaca Bay quadrangle sheet indicates the line which was formerly in the middle of the Bay as passing through land.
The words which refer to the inhabitants of both sides of Alabama Bayou are indeed ambiguous, and there is no way to be certain if the inhabitants were to be included in St. Martin or Iberville. Presumably if the point of departure were Iberville the line would follow the rear boundaries of the concessions on the west of the eastern branch of Bayou Alabama and if from St. Martin, the rear of the concessions to the east of the stream. If the terms of the act are impossible of interpretation, the determination of this boundary may well have to be decided on a basis of established legal principles which go beyond the mere vagaries of the wording of an act. (Additional reference to this boundary will be made later in this study.)

Boundary drawn between Plaquemines and St. Bernard. There had been no legislation affecting these two parishes for twenty-five years, but in 1842, a definite line was drawn between them all the way from the Mississippi River to the Gulf:

"An act to determine the limits between the parishes of Plaquemines and St. Bernard."

"...that the limits between the parishes of Plaquemines and St. Bernard shall be determined as follows, to wit: beginning at the already established limits between Morgan and Poydras plantation on the river and following the same one league from the river, thence running in a straight line to the junction of the Bayous Grove and Mandeville, thence following the middle of the Bayou Mandeville to the Lake Lerry, thence to the southeast part of Lake Lerry, thence running a line to the northeast part of Black Bay, and thence following the middle of Black Bay to the Chandeleur Bay."

Act 14, p. 22. Approved: January 12, 1842
Change in Orleans Parish Boundary. In 1847 the PARISH of Orleans was extended to the middle of Felicity Street:

"An act to extend the limits of the parish of Orleans."

SEC. 1: "...limits of the parish of Orleans shall extend to all that portion of Felicity Road from Levee Street to the rear of the city, lying between the center of said street and to the line of the 2nd Municipality of New Orleans, on the north side of the same, which ground is within the limits of the City of Lafayette, parish of Jefferson."

SEC. 2: "...that the said portion of Felicity Road is hereby incorporated within the limits of the 2nd Municipality of the City of New Orleans."

Three years later this Felicity street boundary was clarified further:

"An act to amend the act entitled 'An act to extend the limits of the parish of Orleans.'"

SEC. 1: "...that the act entitled 'An act to extend the limits of the parish of Orleans,' approved April 20, 1847, in the following words: 'that from and after the passage of this act the limits of the parish of Orleans shall extend to all that portion of Felicity Road from Levee Street to the rear of the city, lying between the center of said street from the line of the Second Municipality of New Orleans, on the north side of the same, which ground is within the limits of the city of Lafayette, parish of Jefferson.'"

SEC. 2: "Be it further enacted, etc., that the said portion of Felicity Road is hereby incorporated within the limits of the Second Municipality of New Orleans; 'be amended so as to read as follows; that from and after the passage of this act the limits of the parish of Orleans shall extend to all that portion of Felicity Road and to the properties and parts of properties in line therewith falling within the northern and middle line thereof, extending parallel through all properties and ground whatsoever from Levee Street to the rear of the city, which ground is within the city of Lafayette."

SEC. 3: "...that the said portion of Felicity Road and properties described within the parallel lines as aforesaid are hereby incorporated within the limits of the said municipality of the city of New Orleans."

Approved: March 21, 1850
This act made practically no change in the line as established by the law creating Jefferson in 1825. In that act reference was made to the lower line of the Nuns' Plantation, which, as had been indicated was at Felicity street. The acts of 1847 and 1850 made it more specific by actually referring to the street, and in addition clarified the boundary beyond the northern extent of Felicity Street.

Creation of Vermillion. The parish of Lafayette in its original extent had lasted twenty-one years, but now the southern portion was to be segregated in a new parish named Vermillion:

"An act to create a new parish in the county of Attakapas, to be called the parish of Vermillion (sic.)"

SEC. 1: "...that all that part of the parish of Lafayette on the south side of the following described line, to wit: starting at the point where the line dividing the parish of Lafayette and St. Martin crosses the Bayou Park Perdue, from said point in a direct line to the first woods on the Coulee known by the name of Dalby's Coulee, from thence down said Coulee to the Bayou Vermillion, (sic.) thence along said bayou, to the mouth of the Coulee Isle des Cannes, thence along said coulee to the mouth of Grange's coulee to the last timber therein, thence in a direct line to the first timber on the Indian Point Coulee, thence down said Coulee to the mouth of its junction with the Bayou Queue Tortue, thence down along the line now forming the boundary of the parish of Lafayette to the place of starting, and all the territory within said boundary line to be known by, and called the parish of Vermillion."

Act 81, p. 45. Approved: March 25, 1844

In general this act presents no difficulties. There is one feature that is noteworthy, however, and that is the reference to wooded conditions: "first woods on the Coulee known by the name of Dalby's Coulee", lines five and six, and "to the mouth of Grange's coulee to the last timber therein", lines eight and nine. The transition from the grassy interstream
areas to the wooded strips along the streams was so strikingly apparent that the timber becomes a means of parish delimitation.

**Boundary Established between Lafourche and Assumption.** Act 183 of 1847 definitely established the Northwest boundary between Lafourche and Assumption as follows:

"An act to clearly define the northern and western limits of the parish of Lafourche Interior."

"...the north and western limits of the parish of Lafourche be, and are hereby defined and established as follows, to wit: Commencing at the Bayou Lafourche and continuing the present boundary line between the parishes of Assumption and Lafourche Interior, until it intersects the south limits of section 128, in township 14, south, range 15, east; thence to the southeastern corner of section 127, in the same township and range; thence to the southeastern corner of section 69, in township 13, south, range 15, east; thence to the southeastern corner of section 25, in township 13, south, range 16, east, crossing Bayou Chevreuil, or Cabhanosse; thence to the southeast corner of section 24 in township 13, south, range 16, east; thence on the line dividing section 19 and 30, of township 13, south, range 17, east; until said line intersects Bayou Chevreuil; this as established by existing laws.

Approved: April 28, 1847

**Definition of boundary between Lafourche Interior and Terrebonne.**

This act attempted to clarify the original act creating Terrebonne in 1822:

"An act to fix and establish the boundaries between Lafourche Interior and Terrebonne."

"..., the boundaries between the parish of Lafourche Interior and Terrebonne shall be as follows, to wit: Beginning at the point where the line between the parishes of Lafourche Interior and Assumption intersects the northern boundary of township 16, range 14, east, thence along said northern boundary to the northeast corner of said township, thence east along the northern boundary of township 16, range 15, 6 miles to the northeast corner of said township, thence north along the east boundary of township 15, range 15, east two miles, thence east according to the section line of the public surveys, three miles to the back line of the land of Mrs. Lemuel
Tanner, at a distance of 80 arpents from the Bayou Terrebonne, this said boundary to be continued according to the line established by an act entitled, "An act to create a new parish in the county of Lafourche to be called the parish of Terrebonne," approved March 22, 1822. The whole of said above line being in conformity to boundaries of the parish of Terrebonne, as laid down by Latourette's map of the State of Louisiana."

Approved: March 13, 1850

Much of the northern boundary of Terrebonne was successfully stated with greater exactness, but there was still great confusion on the east. The law stated a fundamentally impossible condition by first confirming the boundaries of 1822 and then making them identical with Latourette's map of 1847. They were not the same for La Tourrette placed the northern part of the eastern boundary of Terrebonne east of Bayou Blue, and then to the south he followed Bayou Chene. In effect, this law merely added to the confused background of the disputes of later decades.

The story of this climax decade which had brought about creation of nine new parishes and many minor changes in parish lines was not yet complete. Two specific proposals for new parishes achieved the status of law, subject to ratification by the voters, and another was considered so serious that it brought forth what was perhaps the most interesting and illuminating report ever written by a legislative committee on the subject of proposed parishes.

Eastern Ascension and Iberville to constitute a New Parish.

The last proposal referred to above and which portrays the Mississippi River as a barrier served a full recording.

The inhabitants of the portions of Ascension and Iberville
parishes east of the Mississippi had hoped to form a parish separate from the portions on the west bank. The full and analytical report of the legislative committee as reported in the House Journal for 1843 read as follows:

"Mr. Robertson, on behalf of the Select Committee to whom was referred the petition of sundry citizens of the parishes of Iberville and Ascension, praying for the formation of a new parish, submitted the following report, which, on motion was adopted:

"The Select Committee appointed to take under consideration and report upon the petition of that portion of the inhabitants residing on the East side of the River Mississippi, in the Parishes of Ascension and Iberville, praying that they may be separated from their respective Parishes, and erected into a new Parish, bounded on the north by the Manchac River, on the west by the River Mississippi, on the east by the Lake Maurepas and the Amite River, and on the south by the parish of St. James, beg leave respectfully to submit the following report:

"Upon examination of the map of the State, it will be seen that the greatest portion of the territory of the Parish of Ascension lies on the east side of the River Mississippi, and would consequently be included in the new Parish petitioned for, thereby reducing her territory to narrow and contracted limits, taking off nearly one-half of her population and leaving her so insignificant in both these respects as to be scarcely worth of being dignified by an independent existence as a parish.

"It will be further seen, that by cutting off that portion of the parish of Iberville lying east of the river Mississippi, the inhabitants of the upper part of the new parish proposed to be established, would be placed in a position quite as inconvenient, for the purposes of justice, as that of which the inhabitants on New River and the lower portion of the parish of Iberville now complain, whilst the population of Iberville west of the Mississippi, is so scattered, and portions of it at so great a distance from the seat of justice, that two full juries could not be had with any assurance of punctual attendance during the session of the Court; besides were the prayer of the petitioners granted, in this instance, it would give rise to a like and quite a great a claim upon the part of the inhabitants of Bayou Grosse Tete, upon the same grounds, and thus Iberville would run the risk of being so reduced in population and extent of territory, as to be compelled to attach herself to one of the new parishes,
which would in the end amount only to a change of name and of
the relative positions of the different portions of the population,
with respect to convenience or distance from the seat of
justice.

"But your committee, upon giving the prayer of the petitioner-
ers that consideration which the number and respectability of
the signers are fully entitled to, find other and, in their
opinion, insuperable objections to the granting of the same.

"The senatorial districts of this State must, under the
present Constitution, remain indivisible and unchanged; the
county of Iberville, composed of the parishes of Iberville and
West Baton Rouge, forming one of three senatorial districts;
and the county of Acadia, composed of the parishes of Ascension
and St. James, forming another, by erecting a new parish to be
taken from the parishes of Ascension and Iberville - the anomaly
would be presented of a portion of the inhabitants of the new
parish voting for a set of candidates for the Senate, different
from that of the other portion; this would give rise to serious
embarrassment and confusion, through which a great many improper
and illegal votes might be received at the polls, owing to the
difficulty of ascertaining and preserving the ancient limits
of the two counties which might be measurably or entirely
obliterated by time, in consequence of incorporating portions
of the two counties into one parish; and the same difficulty
would (until a new apportionment shall be made) present itself
in the elections held for representatives; but there would be
a still greater anomaly exhibited, of different portions of the
same parish, having common and united interests, being represent-
ed by different senators and representatives; or under the
present apportionment of the same parish being represented by
two senators and two representatives, which in the humble opinion
of your Commissioners, would be contrary to the very spirit of
the Constitution, which requires that representation should be
equal and uniform in this State, and would be giving to this
new parish, erected to-day, more weight and influence upon
the floor of the legislative halls, than has ever been possessed
by any parish, since the formation of the Constitution.

"Your Commissioners, however, are aware of the inconvenience
and expense to which most of the signers of this petition are
subjected, in order to reach the seat of justice; but this is
the result of natural causes and the position of that portion
of the parishes of Ascension and Iberville, lying beyond the
eastern bank of the Mississippi, but they consider that the
grievances complained of are no greater than those which may
be found in almost every parish in the State, resulting from
similar or different causes; and although they are of opinion
that justice should be brought as near the door of every
individual in the community, as the nature of the case will
admit of; yet they believe in this instance, the erection
of a new parish as prayed for, so far from proving beneficial,
would inflict injury, which would more than counterbalance
the inconvenience to be corrected; they therefore beg leave
to report unfavorably to the prayer of the petitioners; and
and in order to remedy in some measure the principal grievance complained, offer the following bill."

W. B. Robertson, Chairman
House Journal, 1843, p. 46-47

Following the above in the House Journal there was a very short statement which the committee members apparently hoped would appease the citizens of eastern Iberville and Ascension. This rich compensation is stated:

"An act to exempt certain jurors of the parish of Ascension and Iberville from paying ferriages;
Which was read for the first time and ordered for a second reading on tomorrow."

There was no reference to it either on the sixteenth or on any day following, so apparently it did not receive legislative action.

Dugdemonia Parish Proposed.

The first of the two proposals which attained the stage of legislative approval was that of Dugdemonia, the ancestor of Winn. The statement of the boundaries proposed for it read:

"An act directing a census to be taken of portions of the parishes of Natchitoches, Catahoula and Rapides, with a view to the formation of a new parish."

PREAMBLE: "Whereas the people of the parish of Natchitoches residing east of the Bon Dieu, and those of a small portion of the parishes of Catahoula and Rapides, are desirous of forming a new parish to be called Dugdemonia: and whereas there are no certain data by which the number of electors in said district can be ascertained with a view of the establishment of said parish: "....Therefore,

SEC. 1: "Governor authorized to appoint a competent person to take census of all free white citizens above 21 years, residing within the following district limits:"Beginning at the foot of the Bon Dieu at the lower line of the parish

House Journal, 1843, February 15, 1st S., 15th L., p. 46-47
of Rapides, thence up the Bon Dieu to the entrance of the Saline Bayou, thence up said Bayou Saline to the Black Lake Bayou, thence up Black Lake and Bayou to the Bienville line thence due east on said line to the southeast corner of township 14, north, range 1, east, thence due south with the line dividing ranges 1 and 2, east to the southeast corner of township 7, north, range 1, east thence due west with said line to the beginning. [Dugdemonia as thus conceived is created as the parish of Winn; see page 138].


The people of Dugdemonia were forced to wait only two years, and thus realized their desires much more speedily than those of Iberia which was the last proposal in this busy decade.

Iberia Parish Proposed. The proposal for Iberia was as follows:

RESOLUTION: "Authorizing State Engineer to ascertain from actual surveys made by United States Surveyors or otherwise, the territory of land contained within the proposed parish of Iberia, according to the limits prescribed in a resolution reported to the Senate by the Hon. C.G.W. Scranton on March 15, 1848, per journal pp. 147-148, indicating area therein and the area there will remain in each of the parishes of St. Mary and St. Martin, after deducting quantity contained in contemplated parish of Iberia, and to report result together with a map of all to enable the General Assembly to decide whether or not a new parish can be created in conformity to Article 8 of the Constitution at its next regular session. Assessors of St. Mary and St. Martin to make correct lists of respective parish residents within limits of contemplated parish of Ib- ria."

Approved: March 1, 1850

The report of the committee on this proposal made a lengthy and instructive analysis of the proposals bringing out procedure, historical background, and concern with constitutional limitations. It read as follows:

Mr. S. Scranton made the following report, which was read:

"In relation to the memorial, signed by numerous and respectable citizens living in the parishes of St. Mary and St. Martin and addressed to this body, praying for
the creation of a new parish under the name of Iberville" obviously Iberia) - "the same to be taken from the aforesaid parishes - which memorial was referred to the undersigned, in order to examine and ascertain whether there be good reasons, as well as sufficient territory and an adequate number of electors to justify the making of a new parish - your committee beg leave to report, the subject having been had under due consideration, that from the representation or exhibit of the petitioners it appears that a large number of citizens in the parishes of St. Martin and St. Mary, have long been subjected to much inconvenience and hardships by reason of the great distance they are obliged to go in attending courts; that it is now some sixteen years since they made their first appeal to the Legislature, asking to have the two contiguous extremities of said parishes, formed into a new and central parish; and that they now further tender their prayer, again invoking legislative action in regard to this matter.

"After the most mature reflection, on our attentive and impartial examination of the premises, your committee are of opinion, that the reasons contained in the memorial are sufficient to warrant the granting of its prayer, provided that by so doing we should not conflict with the Constitution; or, rather your commissioners are of opinion that it is a principle admitted by all, as being in consonance with equity, justice, common sense and right, that where the creation of a new parish (it being called for by the great body of those to be included in it) goes to subserve the mutual accommodations and interest of all, tends to equalize the benefits and burdens, or to divide proportionally the inconveniences and disadvantages to be borne, among all, the legislature is justified in creating the same: Provided, each parish concerned shall have an area of 625 square miles, with the representative number of voters which has been fixed at 375.

"As to the territory, it appears from an estimate made by the State Engineer, as the request of your committee, that the area of the parish of St. Martin is 864 square miles; that of the parish of St. Mary, 1098 square miles, making in the two, a total of 1962, without including any of the Gulf.

"From the calculation made also by the State Engineer, excluding Vermillion bay, your commissioners are further enabled to report, that by a division which probably would unite and conciliate all, a new parish might be created out of the parishes of St. Mary and St. Martin, which giving all north of it to St. Martin, and all south of it to St. Mary, would leave the former with sufficient electors also, and an area of 582 square miles, itself having an area of 652 square miles.

"As to electors your commissioners, although induced to believe from what light they have been enabled here to obtain, in the probability of the fact, they have not had before them sufficient evidence to prove that there would be 375 voters within the territory out of which it is proposed to constitute a new parish - therefore, in order to determine this constitutional point, setting it beyond debate, they would recommend the passage of the following preamble and resolution.

G. W. Scranton, Chairman of the Committee.

Whereas a large number of the citizens of the parishes of St. Martin and St. Mary, have petitioned the Legislature for
the creation of a new parish, the territory to be taken from that of the aforesaid parishes; and, whereas it appears from an estimate hereunto appended, made by the State Engineer, that the aforesaid parishes contain a sufficient area to allow a new one to be created; and, whereas, the hereinafter described limits approximate near the division that has been indicated by the petitioners themselves, and will leave all the parishes with the requisite territory, or at least 627 square miles each; in order to ascertain whether there would be 275 voters residing with this contemplated new parish;

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana in General Assembly convened, That the assessors for the parishes of St. Mary and St. Martin be, and are required, at the time of making the next assessment, to take the census of the number of electors residing within the hereinafter described lines of boundaries; the assessor for the Parish of St. Martin taking it for that part of said parish that will be included within said limits, and the assessor for the parish of St. Mary, taking it for that part of said Parish that will be included within said limits; and it shall be the duty of said assessors to make immediate returns, after taking such census of said enumeration of voters, to the Secretary of State; the lines or limits above alluded to, shall include all the territory within the following boundaries, to wit:

Senate Journal, 1848, pp. 146-148, 1st S., 2nd L.

Constitutional Limitations on Parish Creations. The Constitution of 1845 registered a great many changes in the life and circumstances of the people of Louisiana, and this was true even in the matter of creation of political subdivisions. From 1812 to 1845, special and particularized legislation was the order of the day. Legislators and others realized the necessity for general provisions which would at once ease this burden and at the same time be adequately regulatory.

There can be little doubt but that the numerous parish creations and alterations pointed directly to the constitutional provisions. The proposal to reduce the areas of Ascension and The boundaries are not defined here. They are practically identical with those of the parish as actually created in 1868, and are given under that act. See p.
Iberville in 1843 must have had especial force in impressing legislators with the necessity of preventing the diminution in size and population of parishes. Because the views of the period were so well set forth in the report of the Select Committee, it is rather pointless to comment further.

The provision of the Constitution of 1845 relating to the creation of new parishes was as follows:

"Representation in the House of Representation shall be equal and uniform, and shall be regulated and ascertained by the number of qualified electors. Each parish shall have at least one representative; no new parish shall be created with a territory less than 625 square miles, nor with a number of electors less than the full number entitling it to a representative, nor when the creation of such new parish would leave any other parish without the said extent of territory and number of electors."

State Constitution, adopted 1845, Article 8. Approved: May 14, 1845
Creation of Winn Parish.

In contrast to the numerous creations of the preceding two decades, the period of 1851 to 1860 was marked by the lone appearance of Winn. Although Winn was not created until 1852, its birth was foreshadowed by the proposal to take a census of the area later included in it in the year 1850. Winn was the last parish to be created prior to the great American internecine strife and at the outbreak of the war Louisiana had 48 of her present 64 parishes.

Relatively few parishes were preceded by comment recorded in the Journals of the Senate or House, or by recommendations of the Legislative Committee on Parochial Affairs. Winn was an exception. Because of the analysis of the conditions justifying the creation of the proposed new parish, the Committee's report is given in full:

"The Committee on Parochial Affairs, to whom was referred the act to create the parish of Winn, report the same back without amendment, and assign the following reasons why, in their opinion, the same should be passed:

"A large portion of the citizens included within the proposed parish reside at a distance of from 50 to 80 miles from the seats of justice of the parishes to which they at present belong, and are separated therefrom during a considerable portion of the year by overflowed swamps, which renders their attendance on courts at all times very inconvenient, and often almost impossible, and the services of legal process equally inconvenient and difficult. Wise considerations induced the citizens residing within the limits of the proposed parish to urge their right to a separate organization at the last session of the legislature,"
but inasmuch as some uncertainty existed as to the number of voters within those limits, an act was passed for making an accurate enumeration thereof; by the census thus made, it appears that there were at the time the enumeration was taken, 410 qualified voters residing within the limits set forth in the act, and your committee are assured that at least 100 more have settled therein since that time. The proposed parish contains an area of more than 900 square miles, and therefore there exists no constitutional objection to its formation. The committee are also of opinion, that it would be manifestly unjust to disregard the wishes of so large a number of citizens, by denying them reasonable requests, when not only their own convenience, but the interests of the State generally, would be promoted thereby, by inviting immigration, by which means the rich and uncultivated lands of that portion of the State would be reclaimed, good roads constructed, and its general resources more fully developed."

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Auguste Provosty
(Chairman Committee on Parochial Affairs)

Senate Journal, 1852, 4th Legislature, signed Jan. 19, p. 49.

Approximately one month after the Committee's report, Winn became a parish:

"An act to create the parish of Winn."

SEC. 1: "The parishes of Natchitoches, Catahoula and Rapides shall be divided as follows, to wit: Beginning at the line dividing townships 6 and 7 where said line crosses the Rigolets Bon Dieu, thence up the Bon Dieu to the Saline Bayou, thence up said Bayou to the Saline Lake, thence up the Saline Lake and Bayou to the Bienville line, thence due east on said line to the southeast corner of township 14, north, range 1 east; thence due south on the line dividing ranges 1 and 2 east, to the Bayou Castor; thence down the said Castor to the line dividing townships 9 and 10; thence due west on said line to the southeast corner of township 10, range 3, west; thence south on the line dividing ranges 2 and 3 west to the southeast corner of township 7, range 3 west; thence due west on the line dividing township 6 and 7 to the place of beginning."
SEC. 2: "...that the territory within the
limits defined in the first section of this act,
shall be erected into a new parish to be called
the parish of Winn."

Act 85, p. 67, approved Feb. 24, 1852

Its creation involved no difficulties in boundaries,
and it definitely cleared up the confusion and struggle of
the preceding decade between Rapides and Natchitoches over
Salt Lake and Bayou Salt.

Natchitoches Parish Restricted to Area West of Red River.

Less than two weeks following the creation of Winn, the
legislature passed an act which confined Natchitoches Parish
to the west of Red River - at this time referred to as the
Rigolets du Bon Dieu - for all time.

"An act attaching a portion of the parish of
Natchitoches to the parish of Rapides."

"...that all that portion of the parish of
Natchitoches, lying on and east of the Rigolets
du Bon Dieu, and south of the line dividing town­
ships 6 and 7 north, be attached to, and be made
a part of the parish of Rapides."

Act 106, p. 85, approved March 4, 1852

Minor Alterations between Natchitoches, Sabine, and Bienville.

Two other minor acts apply to Natchitoches during this
decade. The first, in 1854, defined and confirmed the boun­
dary between Sabine and DeSoto. There had been some misunder­
standing about the ownership of the southern half of township
10 of the range line between ranges 10 and 11. This act
settled the boundary permanently as follows:
"An act defining the boundary lines of Sabine parish and legalizing certain acts resulting from the uncertainty of said boundary."

PREAMBLE: "Whereas the south half of township 10, range 11, north, south of Red River in the northwestern land district has heretofore been recognized as belonging to and within the jurisdiction of the parish of Sabine, and whereas it has lately been ascertained that said half of township forms a part of the parish of Natchitoches," therefore

SEC. 2: "...that the boundary line of the parish of Sabine shall be, and is hereby changed so as to include within her jurisdiction the said half township of land; and all laws inconsistent therewith are hereby repealed, and that this act takes effect from and after its passage."

La. Acts of 1854, 1st A. of 2nd L.  
Act 203, p. 141, approved March 16, 1854

The second related to a small area known as Coushatta Island which formerly had been in southwestern Bienville and was in this act transferred to Natchitoches:

"An act altering the line between the parishes of Bienville and Natchitoches."

SEC. 1: "..... that the parish line dividing the parishes of Bienville and Natchitoches, be, and the same is hereby altered in the following manner, to wit: Commencing at the point where the line dividing the two parishes crosses the Coushatta Chute to where it leaves Loggy Bayou, thence down the said bayou and Red River until it strikes the line dividing said parishes on Red River."

SEC. 2: "..... that that portion of the territory belonging to the parish of Bienville embraced within the old line and the one designated and fixed in the first section of this act, and known as Coushatta Island, be and the same is hereby attached to and made a portion of the territory of the parish of Natchitoches."

Act 57, p. 47, approved March 2, 1857
Boundary Drawn between St. Landry and Rapides. The act of 1852 which established the line between St. Landry and Rapides is of great importance beyond the mere bounding of St. Landry and Rapides for several reasons, and these will be seen after perusal of the act:

"An act to fix the boundary between the parish of Rapides and the parishes of St. Landry and Calcasieu."

SEC. 1: "....that the boundary line between the parish of Rapides and the parish of St. Landry and Calcasieu be fixed as follows: Beginning at the upper mouth of the Elm Bayou where it connects with the Bayou Cocodrie; thence up the said Bayou Cocodrie, to the point where the old road leading from Natchitoches to Opelousas crosses it; thence westward to the Cherawinche crossing on the river Calcasieu; thence in a right line to the mouth of the Anna-Coco Creek where it empties into the river Sabine; thence up the Sabine to the Natchitoches line."


The chief significance of this act, apart from the specific purpose stated in the title, was the designation of a perfectly definite east-west line in the shadowy zone around the 31st parallel, for it should be noted that it had taken nearly a half century to produce this. The words "Thence westward to the Cherawinche crossing on the River Calcasieu; thence in a right line to the mouth of the Anacoco Creek where it empties into the River Sabine" are
specific beyond doubt and they do not refer to another parish which in itself has no definite boundaries. (When Calcasieu was created in 1840 the act referred to the boundary between St. Landry and Rapides as extending to the Sabine River, but such a boundary had never had any definition.)

**Boundaries Defined between Pointe Coupee and West Baton Rouge.**

The generation - and more - old struggle between West Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee had not ended and in 1852 the boundary between the two was again defined as follows:

"An act fixing the line dividing the parishes of Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge and Iberville."

...that the boundary line between the parishes of Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge and Iberville shall be as follows: Beginning at the lower mouth of the Fausse River, thence along the lower bank of Fausse River to the back line of the tract of land known as the Baudin tract, thence with said line to the back lines of the tracts of land that front on the channel of Fausse River, thence along the back lines of said tracts to the Bayou Poydras, thence down said Bayou Poydras to the line dividing sections 18 and 19 in township 6, thence west with the sectional line to corners dividing sections 13, 14, and 23 and 24 in township six, thence south to corners between sections 25, 26, 35 and 36, thence west to corners between sections 29, 30 and 31 and 32, thence south to south boundary of township six, and turning thence west on said south boundary and township 6 in ranges 10, 9, 8 and 7 to the Atchafalaya River."


**The Attempt to End the Boundary Dispute in the Grosse Tete-Maringouin-Alabama Bayou Region.** The contest between West Baton Rouge and Iberville over the area defined by the bayous Grosse-Tete, Maringouin and Alabama was becoming wearisome to the inhabitants of the region, and in 1859 it was agreed that
an effort should be made to end the uncertainty of boundaries in this region:

"An act to define and permanently settle and fix the boundaries between the parishes of Iberville and West Baton Rouge."

PREAMBLE: "Whereas, a dispute has existed for many years between the parishes of Iberville and West Baton Rouge in relation to their boundaries, there being a portion of territory known as the Grosse-Tete, Maringouin and Alabama Bayou country, which is now under the jurisdiction of the parish of Iberville, and which is claimed by the parish of West Baton Rouge; and whereas, it is the wish of the legal voters who reside in said disputed territory, that an election be held at which a majority of said voters shall determine where said disputed territory shall remain in the parish of Iberville, or be annexed to the parish of West Baton Rouge, and thereby permanently define the boundaries of the two parishes and forever settle this vexed question — Therefore:

SEC. 1: Surveyor to be appointed to set forth on the map herewith annexed, marked A, and made a part of this act, to wit: "Beginning at the present point of division between the two said parishes on the Mississippi River, running thence along the present line of division in a northwestern direction in the immediate rear of all plantations on the Bayou Jacob to the Bayou Grosse-Tete, thence up said bayou to the lower line of Henry Hooper's land on said Grosse-Tete, thence across said Bayou Grosse-Tete due west to the boundary line of the parish of St. Martin."

Act 14, p. 16, approved March 11, 1859

Thus, this entry did not establish the line on the basis indicated on the map, but merely proposed that a vote be taken to ascertain whether it should be run as described.

The close of the decade for this part of Louisiana was marked by the passage of a law which was designed specifically to affect the lands of one Willis Barrow:

"An act to change the boundaries of the parishes of Iberville and Pointe Coupée."
"...., that from and after the passage of this act, all the plantations of Willis Barrow shall be in the parish of Iberville, and that the dividing line between the said parishes, which now cuts off a small portion of said plantation, shall be placed and permanently fixed on the upper line of said plantation."


The only effect of this act was to push the boundary of Iberville a short distance farther north in township 6, range 9, Southeastern District. As will be shown, it apparently was highly personal legislation, and had a life of only two years.

City of Lafayette Merged with City and Parish of Orleans. By the middle of the nineteenth century, New Orleans and its suburbs of Lafayette had coalesced both physically and commercially and there was a demand that, with the merger of the cities, parish unity should follow. On February 23, 1852, the city of Lafayette was made a part of the city of Orleans, but not a part of Orleans Parish:

"[Supplementary to an Act to consolidate the City of New Orleans and providing for the incorporation of the City of Lafayette with the City of New Orleans.]

"Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, in General Assembly convened, That the City of Lafayette be, and the same is hereby incorporated with the City of New Orleans for municipal purposes only; that said city of Lafayette shall form part of the City of New Orleans, and as such shall be governed by all the laws relative to said City of New Orleans and shall be entitled to all the rights, privileges, and immunities enjoyed by said City of New Orleans, under existing laws.

"Section 2. Be it further enacted, etc., That the part now added to the City of New Orleans shall constitute the fourth district of said city and be
entitled to elect one alderman; and said district shall be divided into wards, viz:

"One ward, which shall be the tenth ward of New Orleans, shall extend from the upper line of the parish of Orleans to the middle of First street, and shall elect two assistant aldermen: and

"Another ward, which shall comprise the remainder of the present city of Lafayette, shall be the eleventh ward of the City of New Orleans, and shall be entitled to one assistant alderman; Provided...

Section 8. "Be it further enacted, ..., That nothing contained in the act shall be construed as changing the line dividing the parishes of Jefferson and Orleans; and all that portion of the City of New Orleans added to said City by the provisions of this act shall continue to form a part of the parish of Jefferson."

Approved: February 23, 1852.

In drawing the upper line of Orleans parish for this decade, it is, of course, necessary to delimit the city of Lafayette. This was defined as the area between Felicity Street and Louisiana Avenue. At this point it is well to note that the growth of the city of New Orleans was pushing the upper boundary of Orleans parish farther and farther up the River.

In her study of the city of Lafayette, Miss Kathryn C. Briede states: "Those plantations that are of interest to us are the ones belonging to D'Hautrive, Broutin, Darby, Carriere, and Livaudais. It is these plantations, situated approximately between Felicity Street and Louisiana Avenue, which later were made into faubourgs, which, at an even later date, in 1833, were incorporated into the City of Lafayette."

Apart from the constitutional provisions, there were four other acts of this decade which must be recorded:

**Creation of Richland Proposed.** Although Richland was not created until 1869, it was proposed in 1852:

"An act to take a census of portions of the parishes of Ouachita, Morehouse, Carroll and Franklin, with a view of the formation of a new parish to be called the Parish of Richland."

Proposed parish to be within the following limits:

"beginning at the mouth of Big Creek, thence up Big Creek to the middle of township 18, thence due west to Boeuf River, thence due west to Bayou Big Bonie Dee, thence down the Big Bonie Dee to Boeuf River, thence down Boeuf River to the head of Lake Lafourche, thence down Lake Lafourche to the boundary line between the parishes of Calcasieu and Ouachita, thence east along said line to Boeuf River on the south side of its entrance into Boeuf River, thence down Boeuf River to the mouth of Big Creek, the place of beginning."


**Definition of Line between Carroll and Morehouse.** This act is something of a "mystery" one for although it is included in the statutes, it bears no date of approval.

"An act to fix and define a dividing line between the parishes of Morehouse and Carroll."

"... that hereafter the dividing line between the parishes of Morehouse and Carroll shall be and remain as follows: Commencing at the State line between Louisiana and Arkansas, where said line crosses Boeuf River, and following the channel of Boeuf River in a southern direction, making the channel of Boeuf River the line, down to the place where said river crosses the section line, between sections twenty and twenty-one, Township Nineteen, Range Eighth East, thence a due south course to the south boundary line of Township Seventeenth, Range Eighth East, of the land district lying north of Red River, and that this act shall have effect from and after its passage."

**La. Acts of 1858, 1st S. of 4th L. 185**
The purpose of the act seems to have been that of making clear the original act of 1832 which created Carroll. If the interpretation of Dimpsey's Settlement given earlier in this study is correct, there is really no need for this act. The fact that the line is the same as the one arrived at by deduction lends strength to the original conclusion.

General Act to Establish Parish Boundaries. In 1855, the legislature again enacted a general statute to enable the police juries to mark boundaries:

"An act to provide for ascertaining the Boundaries of Parishes."

SEC. 1: "...that whenever the Police Jury of any parish shall pass an ordinance for ascertaining and fixing the boundary lines of any parish adjoining thereto, and shall appoint a time and place for commencing the running thereof, and shall duly serve the President of the Police Jury of said adjoining parish with a copy of the ordinance, with notice of the time and place for commencing the running thereof six months previous to the time so fixed, then the Parish Surveyors of said parishes, or such Surveyors as may be appointed for that purpose, shall proceed to the running and marking of said boundary lines, and in case the Parish Surveyor or either parish shall fail to attend at the time and place appointed then the other Parish Surveyor, after waiting two entire days, shall proceed to the running and marking of the said adjoining boundary line."

SEC. 2: "...that whenever a boundary line shall have been run and marked as above prescribed, due returns shall be made thereof to the President of the Police Juries of both parishes, who shall cause them to be carefully filed and preserved in the office of the Recorder."

SEC. 3: "...that each of the Surveyors shall receive, as full compensation for the running and marking of said lines, $5.00 per day, and shall be paid for all reasonable expenses, by the Treasurer of the parish interested."
SEC. 4: "...that if any Parish Surveyor shall neglect to perform any of the duties herein prescribed, he shall, on conviction thereof, suffer a fine not exceeding $50.00 and imprisonment not exceeding 50 days."

SEC. 5: "...that all laws contrary to the provisions of this act and all laws in the subject matter, except what is contained in the Civil Code of Practice, be repealed."

La. Acts of 1855, 2nd S. of 2nd L.
Act 40, p. 35, approved March 9, 1855

This act differed little from the one of 1835. One feature provided for serving notice on the president of the police jury rather than the parish judge.

Name of Lafourche Interior Changed to Lafourche. Although of no map or boundary significance, a law of 1852 authorized the abandonment of the name Lafourche Interior:

"An act to change the name of Lafourche Interior."

"...that the name of the parish of Lafourche Interior be, and is hereby changed to that of Lafourche under which title it shall henceforth be known and designated."

Act 66, p. 42, approved March 23, 1852

The final regulatory provision for the creation of parishes in this decade is found in the Constitution of 1852:

"Art. 8: .... No new parish shall be created with a territory less than six hundred and twenty-five square miles, nor with a population less than the full number entitling it to a Representative, nor when the creation of such new parish would leave any other parish without the said extent of territory and amount of population."

A comparison with the Constitution of 1845 reveals the following:

1. The minimum area required for a new parish remains the same.
2. A change from the words "number of ELECTORS less than the full number entitling it to a Representative" to "with a POPULATION less than the full number entitling it to a Representative".

Apparently there is a desire to give a larger measure of importance to mere number of inhabitants. It is quite likely that this was sponsored by those who wished to avoid the time requirement for citizenship. The great immigration of this period would be transferred more quickly into political influence if the areas which were receiving these newcomers could be organized on the basis of NUMBERS rather than ELECTORS.
It might be assumed that the war for Southern Independence would seriously interfere with parish creations and alterations. Although there was a decided hiatus during the war period, there was a definite renewal of activity within a short time after the declaration of peace. The period of 1851 to 1860 recorded something of a lull from the numerous creations of the preceding decade. The fact that no parishes were created from 1852 (Winn) to 1868 (Richland) helped to prepare the way, then, for the creation of five new parishes - Richland, Iberia, Grant, Tangipahoa, and Cameron - in the brief period from September 29, 1868 to March 15, 1870.

In addition to the creations, there were several boundary alterations. The first of these returned to Point Coupee from Iberville the plantation of Willis Barrow:

"An act to repeal an act entitled 'An act to change the boundaries of the parishes of Iberville and Pointe Coupee.'"

SEC. 1: Repeals above mentioned act.

SEC. 2: "That the plantation of Willis Barrow be, and the same is hereby declared to be within the parish of Pointe Coupee."

Act 24, p. 19, approved February 21, 1861

This minor transfer is the last of the long series of State acts of legislature relating to the Iberville-Pointe Coupee-West Baton Rouge-St. Martin controversy. There is no record of a vote on the act of 1859 or of local police jury acts. The swamp region between the rear of the western natural levee of
Bayou Maringouin and the rear of the east natural levee of the eastern branch of Alabama Bayou went to Iberville because of lack of further contest by, primarily, West Baton Rouge. Many of the recent acts had given tacit recognition of the primacy of Iberville's claim because of her possession of the bayous' front lands, and finally the two acts relating to the Willis Barrow tract which lay on the northern margin of the disputed area "gave" it to Iberville beyond further contest. It is possible that, with the passage of the first Willis Barrow act of 1859, the map for 1860 should indicate the area as belonging to Iberville, but since the uncertainty was admitted in the prior act of the same year, it is well to defer the indication of Iberville ownership until the map of 1870.

Minor Changes in Boundaries of Madison, Tensas, Carroll, and Morehouse. The areal political pattern in northeast Louisiana is not yet complete, and in 1861, Madison lost territory to Tensas:

"An act or acts to annex a portion of the parish of Madison to the parish of Tensas."

SEC. 1: ".... that all that portion of the parish of Madison lying and being south of the so directed line or boundary, to wit: Beginning at a point in the Mississippi River where Bayou Vidal connects with the same near new Carthage, thence running westwardly along said Bayou Vidal to Mill Bayou, thence down said Mill Bayou to the Tensas River, being, and the same is hereby declared to be annexed to the parish of Tensas, ...."

SEC. 2: "...., the governor to cause to be set the quantity of land and portion of Madison, and to issue a proclamation declaring the line between Madison and Tensas to be fixed."

La. Acts of 1861, 2nd S. of 5th L.
Act 207, p. 161, approved March 20, 1861
Another act on this same date fixed the line between Carroll and Morehouse:

"An act to fix and define the dividing line between the parishes of Morehouse and Carroll."

"...that hereafter the dividing line between the parishes of Morehouse and Carroll shall be and remain as follows: Commencing at a point between township 16 and 17, which point is due south from the common crossing place on the River Boeuf, between Deinpey's settlement at the prairie Jefferson, and from the said point due north to Boeuf River, thence up the channel of said Boeuf River to the line at which divides this state from the state of Arkansas, ..."

However, the line does not become a part of the map at the end of this decade because the creation of Richland made it unnecessary.

Creation of Richland. The creation of Richland had been conceived in 1852, although the territory involved was different from that indicated in the act of 1868:

"An act to create the parish of Richland, and to provide for the organization thereof."

SEC. 1: "...that a new parish be and is hereby created, composed of the contiguous portion of the parishes of Ouachita, Franklin, Carroll and Morehouse, and embraced within the following boundaries, to wit: Commencing at a point on Boeuf River, where the bayou Lafourche empties out of it, at or near Point Jefferson, thence down the main channel of the bayou Lafourche to the line dividing the parishes of Ouachita and Caldwell; thence eastward on said dividing line to the Boeuf River; thence down Boeuf River to the mouth of Bayou Big Creek; thence up the main channel of Big Creek to the line dividing the parishes of Franklin and Carroll; thence east on such dividing line to the Bayou Macon; thence up Bayou Macon to the line dividing townships eighteen and nineteen; thence west on said township line to the range line dividing ranges 8 and 9 east; thence north on said range line to the line dividing townships nineteen and twenty; thence west on said township line to Boeuf River; thence down Boeuf River to the point of beginning, which said parish shall be called and known by the name of the parish of Richland."

La. Acts of 1868, 1st S. of 1st. L.
Act 115, p. 131, Approved: September 29, 1868
The final act in North Louisiana in this decade was the one which gave Franklin that portion of Tensas roughly between Bayou Macon and the Tensas River-Bayou Corney line up to the Madison-Tensas boundary.

"An act annexing a portion of the parish of Tensas to Franklin Parish."

".... that the following described portions of the parish of Tensas, be and the same is hereby detached from the parish of Tensas and annexed to the parish of Franklin, and made a part of Franklin parish, commencing at the Bayou Macon, where the dividing line between Madison and Tensas parishes strikes the said Bayou Macon, and from thence along said dividing line east to the range line between range nine and ten, east, and from thence south, on said range line to Big Lake and thence down Big Lake to Corning Bayou to Tensas River, thence down Tensas River to the mouth of Bayou Macon, from thence up (to) (the) Bayou Macon to the place of beginning."


Transfer from Claiborne to Union. In this area, the decade involved the exchange of a mere half section of land from Claiborne to Union. The reason is unavailable but probably represents one of the local personal struggles such as occurred in other parishes.

"An act to change the boundary line between the parishes of Claiborne and Union."

".... that the boundary line between the parishes of Claiborne and Union be changed so as to include the east half of section No. 13, township No. 21, north, of range No. 4, east, within the parish of Union."


Proposed Parish from Rapides. The first proposal for a new parish in this decade was for a nameless one to be taken from Rapides:
"An act requiring a sense to be taken with the view of a formation of a new parish to be taken from the parish of Rapides."

SEC. 1: "Governor to appoint some suitable person to take a sense with a view to the formation of a new parish, from the parish of Rapides within the following limits: "Commencing at the Sabine River at the point where the line dividing the parish of Rapides and Calcasieu strikes the river thence eastward on said line to where said line strikes the Calcasieu River, thence up said river to the mouth of Bayou Cipu, thence up said stream to the parish line dividing the parishes of Rapides and Sabine, thence on said line to the Sabine River and thence down said river to the place of beginning."

La. Acts of 1861, 2nd S. of 5th L,
Act 258, p. 198, approved March 21, 1861

In a sense, this might be taken as the original nucleus for Vernon which was to come only nine years later.

In 1869 Rapides - as well as Winn - was to be reduced still further by the creation of Grant:

"An act to create the parish of Grant, and provide for the organization thereof."

SEC. 1: "....that from and after the passage of this act, there shall be a new parish formed from a portion of the south part of Winn Parish and from a portion of the north part of Rapides Parish, to be called and known by the name of the parish of Grant."

SEC. 2: "....that the following shall be the boundaries of the parish of Grant, viz: Commencing at a point on Red River where the Daro empties into said river, and thence running east to the point where Little River empties into Catahoula Lake; thence up Little River to the junction of the Castor and Dugdemonia, thence west on the southern boundaries of the parish of Winn to the range line between ranges numbers two and three west, thence south on said range line to the township line between townships numbers eight and nine north, thence west on said township line to where said line crosses the Rigolet de Bon Dieu; thence down said Rigolet de Bon Dieu to the mouth of Cane River, thence down Red River to the point of starting, the mouth of the Daro."

La. Acts of 1869, 2nd S. of 1st L,
Act 82, p. 79, approved March 4, 1869
Boundaries Defined Between Orleans and Jefferson. The lower boundary between Orleans and Jefferson was still unsatisfactory, and in 1867, the legislature directed the State Engineer to define and mark the line:

"An act directing the State Engineer to define the boundaries of the lands attached to the New Canal and to define the boundaries between the parishes of Orleans and Jefferson."

"State Engineer to establish certain boundaries mentioned in title of act, and to place stone landmarks; plat to be submitted for approval of Governor."

La. Acts of 1867, 2nd S. of 2nd L. Act 123, p. 239, approved March 27, 1867

On September 22, 1870, M. Jeff Thompson, Chief Engineer, Board of Public Works and Acting State Engineer, reported that he had marked the line. Thus the boundary between Orleans and Jefferson on the right bank of the Mississippi was finally legally surveyed and fixed. It cannot be said, however, that this was the first time the line had been established as the boundary between Orleans and Jefferson Parishes, for Bourmoudy's Canal, mentioned in the constitution of 1812 in connection with a definition of a senatorial district, had been the boundary forever since the creation of Jefferson in 1825. Jefferson had been laid out in terms of the third senatorial district which definitely used this canal in the delimitation.

(This boundary appears on all decade maps beginning with 1830.

The description of this line is in great detail, and may be found in the Orleans Folio, Board of State Engineers, New Orleans. It is shown on manuscript map in as great detail as is permitted by the scale of the map.)
Awaiting the official confirmation, the small gap from the Canal to the rear of Desalles plantation was filled in for those earlier decades by inference.

The last act of this decade was that of March 1870, and it gave further refinement and conciseness to the extent of Orleans:

"An act to estimate the limits of the parish of Orleans, and to change the boundaries of the parish of Orleans and Jefferson, and to consolidate the cities of New Orleans and Jefferson, and to provide for the government of the city of New Orleans and the administration of affairs thereof, and to repeal an act entitled 'An act to incorporate the city of New Orleans', approved Feb. 23, 1852; and to repeal all acts amendatory thereto, and to repeal an act entitled 'An act to incorporate the city of Jefferson', approved March 9, 1850, and to repeal all acts amendatory thereto, and to provide for the funding of the floating indebtedness of the corporations as consolidated by this Act."

SEC. 1: "....., that the following shall constitute the boundaries of the parish of Orleans, on the left bank of the Mississippi River, viz: Commencing on the Mississippi River, at the Fisher's Canal, thence along the left bank of the Mississippi River to the boundary line of the present city of Carrollton; thence along said boundary line to a point where it intersects the boundary line of the city of New Orleans; thence along said boundary line to Lake Pontchartrain, thence along the lake shore to the lower boundary line of the city of New Orleans; thence along said boundary line to the point of commencement on the Mississippi River; and that so much of the present parish of Jefferson as is contained within the aforesaid boundary is hereby detached from the parish of Jefferson and annexed to the parish of Orleans."


The upper boundary of the parish is of especial interest because it marks one more step in the up-river movement of the Orleans parish line. In the last decade the boundary was Louisiana Avenue, and by 1870 it was moved to Carrollton Avenue.
Creation of Iberia. Although Iberia was proposed in 1850, it required 18 years to bring about the creation of a unit which drew its territory from the older St. Martin and St. Mary. Its boundaries were drawn with great care, and there have been no alterations since its creation. The parish as created in 1868 is as follows:

"An act to form a new parish to be called the parish of Iberia."

SEC. 1: "....., that from and after the passage of this act there shall be a new parish formed from a portion of the south part of the parish of St. Martin and from a portion of the north part of the parish of St. Mary, to be called and known by the name of the parish of Iberia."

SEC. 2: "....., that the following shall be the boundaries of the parish of Iberia, viz: Beginning at the Gulf of Mexico at the entrance of the Southwest, or Vermilion Pass; thence along the middle of the main channel of said pass to the entrance into Vermilion Bay; thence in a direct line to the mouth of Petite Anse Bayou, thence in a direct line to the western shore of Lake Peigneur; thence along the western shore of said lake, and along the line dividing the parishes of St. Martin, Vermilion, and Lafayette to a point intersected by a line running east and west 2½ miles north of the township line between townships eleven and twelve south, in range five east, thence due east to the range line between ranges five and six east, thence southeast to the upper line of lands now belonging to S. M. Darby (originally confirmed to J. Fontenette, commonly reported number 59), thence northeastwardly along said upper line to Lake Tasse, thence southeastwardly through the middle of said lake in a true line to the upper line of lands now owned by John F. Wyche, thence along said upper line to the Bayou Teche, thence across said bayou to the upper line of lands belonging to J. F. Wyche; following said upper line to the depth of 40 arpents from said bayou to the south line of Onezephore Delahoussaye, thence crossing the lands of said Onezephore Delahoussaye to Coulie Portage, following said Coulie to Bayou Portage, thence along the middle of said Bayou to Lake Fausse Point, and through the middle of said lake to a point intersected by the township line between townships eleven and twelve south; thence east along said line to the eastern limits of the parish of St. Martin, on Grand River;
thence southwardly with said limits to the line between townships twelve and thirteen south; thence westwardly in a direct line to the northwest corner of the lands of Charles Greverberg; thence southeastwardly across the Bayou Teche along the upper line of said lands of Charles Greverberg and in a true line to the sea marsh; thence through said sea marsh midway between the Islands of Cyremort and Grand Cote to Vermilion Bay, thence through said Bay to the southeast pass of Cote Blanche Bay, and thence along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico to the point of beginning, including Petite Anse Island.

La. Acts of 1868, 1st S. of 1st L.  
Act 208, p. 272, approved October 30, 1868

The creation of Iberia is of more than passing interest; in fact, there is nothing on the political map of Louisiana that is quite so arresting as the relation of Iberia to St. Martin. The extension of the eastern boundary of the new parish to Grand River resulted in the creation of an "island" of St. Martin which, from the point of view of map logic, apparently should have been assigned either to St. Mary or Assumption or to both of them. Just why Iberia was given its particular form and extent will probably have to remain largely in the realm of speculation. One observation seems pertinent: the value of these lower Atchafalaya swamp lands in 1868 was indeed low, and when taken in conjunction with the almost unsurveyed condition of the area there was no reason for any parish unit to register any especial concern for the political affiliation of the land in this region. (The potential mineral wealth of this section as revealed by recent seismic exploration of southern Louisiana affords the basis for a further interesting speculation as to what would have been the concern had Iberia been created in 1938 instead of 1868.)
Creation of Tangipahoa. After the flurry incidental to the inclusion of the Florida Parishes within the limits of Louisiana, the relative parish stability of the boundaries is in rather marked contrast to many other parts of the state. Until the addition of Tangipahoa in 1869, there had been no new parishes since Livingston was created in 1832. The act creating Tangipahoa read:

"An act to create the parish of Tangipahoa, and to provide for the complete organization thereof."

SEC. 1: ".... that a new parish in the state of Louisiana be and the same is hereby created out of the contiguous portions of the parishes of Washington, St. Tammany, St. Helena and Livingston, to be called or known as the parish of Tangipahoa."

SEC. 2: ".... that said parish of Tangipahoa shall be completed of all the territory of said four parishes comprised within the following boundaries, to wit: Beginning at the point of the State line dividing the States of Louisiana and Mississippi where it is intersected by the meridian section line, one mile west of the meridian line dividing ranges six and seven (east), thence directly south of said section line to the point where it intersects the western prong of the Natalbany creek, thence along the eastern bank of said western prong to the confluence of said prong with the Natalbany river; thence along the eastern bank of said Natalbany River to the point where it empties into the River Tickfaw; thence along the upper bank of the Tickfaw River to where it empties into Lake Maurepas; thence along the upper shore of Lake Maurepas to Pass Manchac; thence eastward along the upper bank of Pass Manchac to Lake Pontchartrain; thence eastward along the upper shore of Lake Pontchartrain to the point where it is north on said line to the point where it intersects the main stream of the River Tochefuncta; thence up along the western bank of said River to the head waters thereof in township two, south of range nine east, in Washington parish; thence in a northwest line to the meridian line dividing ranges eight and nine (east); thence north on said line to the dividing state line; thence west on the State line to the point of beginning."

La. Acts of 1869, 2nd S. of 1st L., Act 85, p. 85, approved March 6, 1869
Upon an examination of the political map the elongated form of Tangipahoa from north to south as compared with other Florida parishes is perhaps its most striking aspect. The population distribution - especially as revealed on the ward map of 1930 - is so strikingly linear that an explanation is sought at once. From the population point of view, Tangipahoa parish is, in a very real sense, essentially a line of settlements along the Illinois Central Railroad, and it is not too much to hold that Tangipahoa is in large part the child of the Illinois Central and its predecessors - namely, horse and stagecoach. The origin of a few of the settlements goes back much farther than the Illinois Central, and it is true that in recent decades there has been a development of new industries such as sawmills and the strawberry industry, but it was this road which intensified settlement along an older north-south trail between New Orleans and Jackson, Mississippi, and beyond.

Creation of Cameron. The decade ends with the creation of Cameron, which was designated as follows:

"An act to create the parish of Cameron and provide for the organization thereof."

SEC. 1: "...., that a new parish of the State of Louisiana be and the same is hereby created out of the southern portion of the parish of Calcasieu and southwestern portion of the parish of Vermilion, to be called and known by the name of the parish of Cameron."

SEC. 2: "...., that the following shall be the boundaries of the parish of Cameron, viz: Commencing at a point on the Sabine River, on the township line dividing townships eleven and twelve south, thence east on said township line to the range line between ranges numbers two and three west, thence south on said range line to the Gulf of Mexico, thence on the coast to the mouth of the Sabine River, thence up the Sabine River to the point of starting."

La. Acts of 1870, 3rd S. of 1st L.
Act 102, p. 168, approved March 15, 1870
Perhaps some of the reasons for the creation of this parish at this time are obscure. It is not unlikely that there was a demand for a judicial and administrative center which would be closer to the Chenier settlements near the coast, but it was apparent that the dominating motive was the procurement of additional help in the Warmoth legislature. Governor Warmoth himself throws much light on the creation of Cameron:

"At the time the Republican Party began to organize for the General Election of 1870, Colonel Carter came to me and said that he thought he would like to be a member of the new State Legislature and asked me to use my influence to secure his nomination for a seat in the House of Representatives from his ward. I told him that I should be much pleased to have him in the Legislature as he seemed especially gifted for such a position."

"I suggested his name to the leaders of his ward and district, but they had already made arrangements to name some one else; and I confess to much disappointment and some chagrin that I had not been able to get him a place on the ticket, for I felt sure that he would make an able member of the House and be of great service to the administration in carrying through measures for the good of the State."

"The Legislature during its late session had passed an act to create the Parish of Cameron, taking a part of the large Parish of Calcasieu. I had not as yet signed the bill and had the right, under the Constitution, to hold it up until the first day of the next session of the Legislature. My recollection is that I did not regard the territory composing this proposed Parish as having sufficient population to warrant its organization into a Parish. But I was so anxious to get my friend, Colonel Carter, into the Legislature to help me carry on the government, that I conceived the idea of signing this bill and so communicated my views to Colonel Carter, who entered into the spirit of the move at once."

I signed the bill creating the Parish of Cameron on March 16, 1870, and sent Colonel Carter down there as Parish Judge with a salary of $2,000 per annum. I gave him blank commissions for the Sheriff, Justices of the Peace, Police Jurors, Registers of Voters,
"The reader will not be surprised that with all of this power Colonel Carter was able to fulfill his ambition by being elected a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives from Cameron Parish. He was unanimously elected, and when he returned to the city he boasted that "he had been elected to the Legislature as a Republican on his Confederate record."


Provisions of Constitution of 1864. The Constitution of 1864 expressed a distrust of the change from "electors" to "population" which had been made in the Constitution of 1852. The net result was a return to the language of the Constitution of 1845.
THE PARISHES FROM 1871 TO 1880.

In the previous decade, it was noted that there had been a lapse of parish building during the War period but that it started with renewed vigor within three years of Appomattox. If, to the five parishes created in 1868 to 1870, are added the four created from 1871 to 1873, the total of nine equals that of the period from 1845 to 1848, and, as a matter of comparison, the nine following the War required about seven months less time than the nine created during the "forties." These two periods establish maxima in the number-time curve of parish creations.

Creation of Webster. The first creation of this decade was Webster. This produced the last reduction of old Claiborne and almost a similar reduction for newer Bossier. Bayou Dauchite was the axis and nucleus of the new parish which was delimited as follows:

"An act to create the parish of Webster and to provide for the complete organization thereof."

SEC. 1: "....that a new parish in the State of Louisiana be and the same is hereby created out of the contiguous portions of the parishes of Bossier, Claiborne and Bienville to be called and known by the parish of Webster."

SEC. 2: "....that the said parish of Webster shall be composed of all the territory of said three parishes comprised within the following boundaries, to wit: Beginning at a point on the State line dividing the State of Louisiana and Arkansas, where the stream known as Bayou Bodeau intersects or crosses said state line; thence running southwardly along the eastern bank of said Bayou Bodeau to where it intersects township line between townships 20 and 21; thence east on said township line until it intersects range line between 10 and 11; thence south on said range line until it intersects township line between 16 and 17; thence east, crossing Lake Blsteneau and running on said township line till it intersects range line between 8 and 9; thence north three miles; thence east until it intersects Black Lake;
thence northwardly along the western bank of said stream Black Lake to the confluence of the most eastern and western prongs of said Black Lake stream; thence northerly and up said most western prong known as Crow's Creek, to where said stream intersects the township line dividing townships 19 and 20; thence west along said township line to the halfway point between range line dividing ranges 7 and 8 and the line dividing ranges 8 and 9; thence due north three miles; thence due west to the range line dividing ranges 8 and 9; thence due north on said range line to a point where said range line intersects the State line dividing the States of Louisiana and Arkansas; thence west along said State line to the point of beginning."

La. Acts of 1871, 1st S. of 2nd L.  
Act 26, p. 59. Approved, Feb. 27, 1871

Creation of Red River Parish. Red River Parish was created from Natchitoches, De Soto and Caddo, although Natchitoches was the principal contributor. The name Red River was appropriate because the alluvial bottoms provided the core for this latest parish unit. As an emphasis of this, the new parish took practically all of the alluvial strip west of Red river which had formerly been included in De Soto.

"An act to form a new parish to be called the parish of Red River."

SEC. 1: ".... that from and after the passage of this act there shall be a new parish formed from a portion of the parishes of Bienville, Bossier, De Soto, Caddo and Natchitoches...."

SEC. 2: "....that the following shall be the boundaries of the parish of Red River: Beginning on the west bank of Bayou Black Lake, at its intersection with the township line between township 14 and 15, range 8 west, running south with the western bank of said bayou to Black Lake; thence along the western margin of said lake to the township line between townships 12 and 11 north, range 7 west; thence west with said township line to the range line between ranges 8 and 9; thence down said line to the west bank of Red River; thence up Red River to outlet of James River, up James River to Delat's Bayou, up Delat's Bayou to Bayou Pierre; thence along said bayou in northwestern direction to Bayou Pierre Lake; thence up said bank to Bayou Pierre; thence along said Bayou to Lake Canminia; thence with eastern bank of Lake to Bayou Pierre; thence along on said Bayou, on east bank, to its intersection
with township line between townships 14 and 15 north, range 12 west; thence east with township line to the place of beginning."

La. Acts of 1871, 1st S. of 2nd L.
Act 39, p. 86. Approved, March 2, 1871

Change in Boundary of Red River Parish. In the following year a slight alteration was made in the boundary of Red River:

"An act to amend and re-enact Section 2 of an act entitled, 'An act to form a new parish to be called the parish of Red River,' approved March 2, 1871."

"...that section 2 of said act, in lines 9, 10, and 11 in said section as printed in the official volume of the Acts of 1871, which read after the words Red River in line 9, as follows: 'thence up Red River to outlet of James River, up James River to Delat's Bayou, up Delat's Bayou to Bayou Pierre,' be, and the same is hereby amended and re-enacted so as to read as follows: 'thence up Red River to the outlet of Bayou Lumbra, thence up Bayou Lumbra to Delat's Bayou to Bayou Pierre."

Act 92, p. 147. Approved, July 1, 1872

The matter of the correct designation of Red River parish boundaries was, apparently, a difficult matter, for in 1878, the amendment to the original act was repealed, and the original act again amended as follows:

"An act to repeal an act entitled 'An act to amend and re-enact Section 2 of an act entitled, an act to form a new parish to be called the parish of Red River, approved July 1, 1872; and to amend and re-enact Section 2 of an act, entitled 'An act to form a new parish to be called the parish of Red River,' approved March 2, 1870."

SEC. 1: Section 2 of an act of 1871 amended and re-enacted so as to read as follows: "That the following shall be the boundary of the parish of Red River: beginning on the west bank of the Bayou Black Lake at its intersection with township line between township 14 and 15, range 8 west, running south with the west bank of said bayou to Black Lake, thence along the western margin of said lake to the township line between townships 11 and 12 north, range 7 west; thence west with said township line to range line between ranges 8 and 9; thence down said line to the west bank of said river; thence up Red River to the outlet of
Bayou Lumbra; thence along said bayou in a western direction to its intersection with Bayou Pierre; thence along said bayou in a northwestern direction to Bayou Pierre Lake; thence along the western bank of Bayou Pierre Lake to Bayou Pierre; thence along said bayou to Lake Caninimiou; thence with the eastern bank of said Lake to Lake Pierre; thence along said bayou, on the eastern bank, to the eastern intersection with township line between township 14 and 15, north, range 12 west; thence east with township line to the place of beginning."

La. Acts of 1878, 2nd S. of 5th L.  
Act 70, p. 109. Approved March 11, 1878

As a result of this adjustment, the northern boundaries of Natchitoches Parish were in final form. This was not true elsewhere, however, and on the south there was to be a substantial contribution to yet another parish—Vernon.

Creation of Vernon. The creation of Vernon in 1871 was foreshadowed by the proposal for an unnamed parish just ten years earlier. Because of the great lumber industry which at one time characterized Vernon, it might be assumed that this parish was one of the lumber parishes—to be compared, by way of example, with Beauregard. Not only the gap in time—Vernon, 1871; Beauregard, 1912—but the fact that the first lumber industry was started in Vernon about 1895 reveals the fallacy of this grouping.

Vernon was bounded as follows:

"An act to create the parish of Vernon and to provide for the organization thereof."

SEC. 1: "...that a new parish in the State of Louisiana be, and same is hereby created, out of the western portion of the parish of Rapides, and the southern portion of Sabine and Natchitoches, to be called and known by the name of the parish of Vernon."

"See map of proposed parishes."
SEC. 2: "...that the following shall be the boundaries of the parish of Vernon, viz: Commencing at the mouth of Bayou Toro upon the Sabine River, thence up said Toro to the township line between 3 and 4; thence east on said township line to the road known as the Devil's (now Hardin's) and Natchitoches Road; thence along said road in the northward direction to the township line between 4 and 5 north; thence east on said township line to Devil Creek; thence down said creek to the range line between 4 and 5 west; thence south on said range line to the parish line of Calcasieu; thence west on said parish line to the Sabine River; thence up the Sabine River to the point of beginning."

Act 71, p. 175. Approved March 30, 1871

The reasons for the creation of Vernon Parish are revealed in an interesting letter from Mr. A. J. Hadnot, Deputy Clerk of Court of the Eleventh Judicial District Court:

"In regard to the reasons for the creation of Vernon Parish, I will try to give you the general idea of the creation of this Parish. I am a lifelong resident of the Parish and all of my people have lived here for over one hundred years and I have often heard the older ones discuss this section of the State before Vernon Parish was created. As best I can gather, Alexandria and Natchitoches, along with Lake Charles, were the principal towns in this section at this time. There were three main settlements in Vernon Parish at that time. They were Anacoco, Walnut Hill and what was known as Petersburg. Part of the Parish was in Natchitoches and during Court time, this part had to make the trip to Natchitoches. Part was in Rapides Parish, and this part had to go to Alexandria. The other part was in Calcasieu and they had to go to Lake Charles. As you know, transportation was a problem in those days and it meant being gone from home for weeks at a time. The country was beginning to fill up and the people all decided that if they could get a new Parish created out of these three districts that they would have a central place to hold court and of course that meant a new trading point. Therefore they had the Parish created to cover these three main communities and established Leesville as the Parish seat. There was no town at Leesville at that time. Only a store operated by Dr. E. E. Smart was located here at that time. Being a relative of Dr. Smart and knowing him to be a big politician in his day, I have no doubt but what he had

7a "You show this as HARDIN'S Road, but I think that this should show Hadden's Road as the road you refer to is the Old Natchitoches-Hadden's Ferry Road." Personal letter from Mr. A. J. Hadnot, Deputy Clerk of Eleventh Judicial District Court, Vernon Parish."
Leesville made the Parish Seat so that he would be able to sell quite a bit of land on which the Town of Leesville is presently located."

A significant comment on the reason for the location of the boundary between Vernon and Sabine is revealed in another of Mr. Hadnot's letters:

"In reference to the boundary line between Vernon and Sabine Parishes, I have been told by some of the old timers that remember when the Parish was created, that the reason that this line was run the way it is that there was a party living North of this line that was very powerful in a political way, so they had the line run to leave him in Sabine Parish. I cannot of course vouch for this."

Creation of Lincoln: With the exception of La Salle which came 45 years later, Lincoln was the last parish to be created in the area north of the Red and west of the Ouachita Rivers, or, for that matter, in the additional area between the Red and the Sabine.

It may be termed another of the "Reconstruction" parishes and was created in 1875:

"An act to create the parish of Lincoln and provide for the organization thereof."

SEC. 1: "...that a new parish in the State of Louisiana be, and the same is hereby created, out of the northern portion of the parish of Jackson, a portion of the eastern parts of the parishes of Bienville and Claiborne, and a portion of the southwestern part of Union Parish, to be called and known by the name of the parish of Lincoln."

SEC. 2: "...that the following shall be the boundaries of the parish of Lincoln, viz: Commencing on the meridian line at the middle of township 17, thence west along the middle line of township 17, to the middle of range 5, thence north along said middle line of range 5 to where said line strikes Sugar Creek, thence down said stream to the Bayou d'Arbonne, thence down said bayou to where the range line between 4 and 5 crosses said stream, thence north along said range line between 4 and 5 to where said line crosses the township line between 20 and 21, thence east along said township line to where said line crosses Middle Form, thence down said stream through all its meanderings to where it empties into the Bayou d'Arbonne, thence down said bayou to where the range line between 1 and 2 crosses said stream, thence south along the range.
line between 1 and 2 to the township line between 19 and 20, thence east along the line between township 19 and 20, to the Meridian line, thence south along the Meridian Line to the place of beginning."

La. Acts of 1873, 1st S. of 3rd L.
Act 32, p. 67. Approved Feb. 27, 1873.

The original limitation of Lincoln was practically final, there being but one simple alteration in 1877:

"An act to annex certain territory of Lincoln parish to the parish of Jackson, with proviso; to provide for the re-division of Jackson parish into police jury wards; to dispose of certain units pending in the courts of Lincoln parish and to permit certain persons to select the parish of their domicile."

SEC. 1: "....that the following district territory, now forming part of the parish of Lincoln, be and the same is hereby annexed to and made part of the parish of Jackson, to wit: the north half of township 17, north of ranges 11, 2, west; provided, that the citizens of the territory thus annexed to Jackson parish shall pay their pro rata of any existing debt created by the police jury of Lincoln parish, and shall be exempt from any taxation by Jackson parish for one year."

SEC. 2: "....when the northern boundary line of Jackson parish, as formed by the annexation of the above district territory, divides the residence lands of any person, said person may select the parish of his permanent domicile, by filing in the Recorder's Office of said parish, a declaration of that intention."

La. Acts of 1877, 1st S. of 5th L.
Act 29, p. 31. Approved, March 5, 1877

Carroll Parish Divided into East and West Carroll. The parish of Carroll which came into being in 1832 resisted dissection for nearly a half century, but finally it too was placed under the parish knife:

"An act to abolish the parish of Carroll (sic.) and to create and establish in lieu thereof the two parishes of East Carroll (sic.) and West Carroll (sic.); providing for the organization of said two parishes, and fixing their representation in the House of Representatives."

SEC. 1: "....that the territory hitherto known by the
name of the parish of Carroll... is hereby created into two distinct and separate parishes, one to be called the parish of East Carroll, and the other... the parish of West Carroll; that the parish of East Carroll shall be composed of all that portion of territory hitherto constituting the parish of Carroll which lies east of a line designated and described, as follows, to wit:

Commencing at a point on Bayou Mason where said bayou intersects or crosses the boundary line between the States of Louisiana and Arkansas, and running south along said bayou to the township line between townships 19 and 20, thence along said township line to Bayou Tensas, thence south along said Bayou Tensas to a point where said bayou intersects the extreme southerly boundary line of the parish of Carroll, which point is in township 18, range 11 east; that the parish of West Carroll shall be composed of all that territory heretofore forming the parish of Carroll, which lies west of the line designated and described as aforesaid.


The original act was not final, however, and two additional acts were passed before the end of the legislative session in which the creation took place:

"An act to amend and re-enact Section 5 of Act 24, 'An act to abolish the parish of Carroll (sic.) and to create and establish... the two parishes of East Carroll (sic.) and West Carroll (sic.);...""

Makes no changes in boundaries; concerns appointment of parish officials by Governor.

Act 25, p. 43. Approved, March 28, 1877.

"An act entitled 'An act to amend the Act 25 (should be Act 24), abolishing the parish of Carroll (sic.) and creating the parishes of East Carroll (sic.) and West Carroll (sic.), so as to fix the Bayou Macon as the boundary line between the parishes of East Carroll and West Carroll."

"... that the act abolishing the parish of Carroll and creating the parishes of East Carroll and West Carroll, be, and the same is hereby amended, so as to transfer to East Carroll that part of the territory of West Carroll lying east of the bayou Macon, the boundary line between the two parishes."

The creation of the Carrolls is interesting in a number of ways. In a very real sense, Bayou Macon is a profound boundary. It not only marks a break in land forms—it lies to the east of Macon ridge which is a terrace several feet higher than the surrounding bottom lands—but also serves as a convenient marker of cultural changes. The lands along the Mississippi River fronts were settled at an earlier date, the holdings were larger, the colored population proportionately greater, and in general there was a synthesis of natural and cultural conditions which made the separation a meaningful act.

The location of the parish seat on the natural levee of the Mississippi front was a serious hardship to those on the terrace lands to the west of the intervening great swamps. It is indeed worthy of note that a modern gravelled highway from east to west in this area was a product of the end of the second decade of the 20th century.

With the exception of La Salle which was to come in 1908, the creation of the Carrolls marks the end of parish creations in all of Louisiana north of the 31st parallel—north of Avoyelles, Rapides and Vernon parishes. For the state as a whole only six parishes are yet to be created and all of these are west of the Atchafalaya and south of the zone mentioned above.

Portion of Catahoula Attached to Franklin. The last change in North Louisiana for this decade was a minor one which involved
transfer of a portion of Catahoula to Franklin:

"An act to attach a portion of the territory of the parish of Catahoula to the parish of Franklin, and to provide for the collection of taxes and the transfer of suits."

SEC. 1: "....that all that portion of the territory of the parish of Catahoula, described in the following boundaries, to wit: Commencing at Cut-off Bayou, on Bayou Macon, thence down Bayou Macon to its junction with Tensas River; thence down said river to the mouth of Fool River; thence up said Fool River to range line between 8 and 9 east; thence north on said range line to the township line between townships 11 and 12 north; thence west on sail line to Deer Creek; thence up Deer Creek to the Cut-off Bayou; thence up said Bayou to the Bayou Macon, to the place of beginning, be, and the same is hereby attached to the parish of Franklin."

La. Acts of 1878, 2nd S. of 5th L.
Act 39, p. 64. Approved February 26, 1878.

City of Carrollton Annexed to Parish and City of Orleans.

The year 1874 marked one more step in the movement of the boundary of Orleans Parish northwestward. The terms of the act were:

"(To annex the City of Carrollton to the City of New Orleans; to provide for the transfer of certain transcripts from the office of the recorder; the transfer of books, papers, documents and property of the City of Carrollton, and also the public schools to the city of New Orleans; to provide for the debt of Carrollton, creating the seventh district of the City of New Orleans, and a municipal court; a sanitary district, and repealing the act incorporating the city of Carrollton.)"

SEC. 1: "Be it enacted, etc., That all that portion of the parish of Jefferson being and lying below the centre of Upperline street of the City of Carrollton, commencing at the Mississippi river and extending northwardly along the centre of said street to its terminus, and thence along the center of the line of the New Orleans and Carrollton Railroad to Lake Pontchartrain, shall be and constitute the upper boundary line of the parish of Orleans and the City of New Orleans, and all that portion of the City of Carrollton thus detached from the parish of Jefferson and added to the City
of New Orleans and parish of Orleans, shall be governed by the Mayor and Administrators of the City of New Orleans in accordance with existing laws, except so far as not inconsistent with this act.

La. Acts of 1874
Act 71, p. 119, approved March 23, 1874

There is little comment on this act that can be meaningful beyond what is obviously the result of the growth of the city of New Orleans and the consequent legislation which sought to give greater governmental unity to the city proper and its suburbs.

Boundary Drawn between Orleans and St. Bernard. In 1875, a slight change was made in the boundary of St. Bernard which affected the older boundary with Orleans:

"An act to change the boundary of the parish of St. Bernard."

SEC. 1: ".... that hereafter the boundary of the parish of St. Bernard shall be from the left bank of the Mississippi River along the lower line of the property known and used as the United States Parks, on the prolongation of said line until it intersects the prolongation of the line of the south side of Florida Walk, one of the avenues of the City of New Orleans, thence in an easterly direction to the point where the Canal des Parchurs, or Fishermen's Canal, intersects the Bayou Bienvenue, thence along the south side of said bayou to the Lake Borgne, and thence along the boundaries of said parish as now established to the left bank of said Mississippi River, where the parish of Plaquemines beings."

La. Acts of 1875, 1st S. of 4th L.
Act 23, p. 54, approved April 5, 1875

Probably the most significant feature of this act is the fixation of a line between Orleans and Jefferson all the way from the Mississippi to the Gulf (Lake Borgne). From the earliest definition until this act of 1875, it had been
thought sufficient to delimit the parishes only on the natural levee front - thus all of the low-lying back country had been without legal political affiliation.

State Prescribes Procedure for Changing Parish Boundary Lines by Police Juries. Just as the legislature had sought to transfer some of the burden of parochial legislation to the parish bodies in 1835 and 1855, so also in 1880 was enacted additional "blanket" legislation:

"An act prescribing the manner of changing parish lines and parish seats."

SEC. 1: "...that whenever one third of the property taxpayers of any parish in this State shall petition the police jury to change the parish lines, or remove the parish seat, the police jury shall order a special election for that purpose, after 30 days official notice. Said election shall be conducted under the General Election laws of the State, at the polling places at which the last preceding election was held."

SEC. 2: "That the Police Jury shall made an accurate estimate of the expenses consequent upon said change, and said estimate shall be included in the official notice of the election to be held."

SEC. 3: "That it shall require a majority of all the votes cast at said election to change the parish seat, and the places receiving said majority shall be declared the parish seat. In the event of no one place receiving the majority of the votes cast at said election, then the Policy Jury shall order a second election, after 30 days official notice, at which election the two places receiving the greatest number of votes at the first election shall be voted for, and the one receiving the higher vote shall be the parish seat."

SEC. 4: "That where the parish lines are sought to be changed, the petition, as well as the ordinance of the police jury, shall designate the new boundary lines, and the same shall be so established; provided, a majority of the votes cast in each parish affected thereby shall be in favor of said change."

SEC. 5: "That the police jury shall make an official promulgation of the result of all elections held under this Act within 10 days after said election, and provide
for the carrying into effect any changes that may result from said election as soon as practicable."

Act 31, p. 32, approved March 10, 1880

Constitutional Provisions. The decade 1871-1880 is notable for the provisions of the Constitution of 1879 regulating parish creations and alterations of boundaries. The significant provisions are given below:

**Article 249.** "The General Assembly may establish and organize new parishes which shall be bodies corporate, with such powers as may be prescribed by law, but no new parish shall contain less than 625 square miles, nor less than 7,000 inhabitants, nor shall any parish be reduced below that area, or number of inhabitants."

**Article 250.** "All laws changing parish lines or removing parish seats, shall, before taking effect be submitted to the electors of the parish or parishes to be affected thereby, at a special election held for that purpose, and the lines or parish seats, shall remain unchanged unless two-thirds of the qualified electors of the parish or parishes affected thereby vote in favor thereof at such election."

**Article 251.** "Any parish may be dissolved or merged by the General Assembly into contiguous parish or parishes, two-thirds qualified electors of the parish proposed to be dissolved voting in favor thereof at an election held for that purpose; provided, that the parish or parishes into which dissolved parish proposed to be incorporated consents thereto by the majority of qualified electors voting therefor."

**Article 252.** "Whenever a parish shall be enlarged or created from territory contiguous thereto it shall be entitled to a just proportion of the property and assets, to be liable to a just proportion of the existing debts or liabilities of the parish or parishes from which territory shall have been taken."

State Constitution, Adopted 1879 (July 23)
Articles 249, 250, 251, and 252
In the creations of some parishes, there had been real abuse of the requirement for a given minimum population. Perhaps outstanding in this regard was the parish of Cameron which, in 1870 had only 1,591, and even in 1880 only 2,416. At the turn of the century Cameron had only 3,952, and even in 1930, two generations after its formation, Cameron lacked nearly 1,000 of having the minimum prescribed by the constitution of 1879. Earlier constitutions had given minimum population requirements in regard to representation in the legislature. The constitution of 1879 was the first to make the requirements a simple matter of minimum number of people with qualifications in terms of representation.

The Constitution of 1879 is a landmark in the control of parish formation and alteration; it is really a climax. The Constitution of 1812 made no reference to the creation or change in the form or number of parishes. The Constitution of 1845 recognized the possible abuses inherent in creating new political subdivisions, and the necessity for control of their increase. With modifications, these limitations were incorporated in all subsequent constitutions but it was not until 1879 that provision was actually made for the dissolution of parishes. (see article 251, p. 176)

In the preceding 76 years, the thought has been overwhelmingly concerned with additions to the number of parishes, and this was but natural in view of the expansion of settlement over the State. In a sense, the entire history of parish creation was that of reducing the size of parishes but with the outstanding
exception of Warren, no parish had actually had even a few years of separate existence with subsequent absorption by contiguous parishes. In 1879, Louisiana had only 53 of her 64 parishes but the constitutional provision is the best proof that legislators were beginning to question the wisdom of the increase in number of governmental regions. The provision permitting dissolution has appeared in all constitutions since the one of 1879.

**Authorization of an Official State Map.** The legislation of this period would not be complete without mention of the authorization of an official map of Louisiana:

"To authorize the compilation of a new and official map of the State."

SEC. 1: "Be it enacted .... That the governor is hereby authorized to appoint a special engineer, whose duty it shall be, under his direction, to compile a geographical, historical, and statistical map of the State; said map not to be less than 5' x 3' in size, to contain such information as the governor in his judgement may direct, and before publication to receive his sanction and autographic approval.

La. Acts of 1868, 1st S., 1st L., No. 156

This map compiled and drawn by T. S. Hardee was the official map of the state, but the fact that the act required the approval of the governor did not make him liable for the correctness of all details shown on the map. The maker of the map was careful to state that it was made from the most reliable and authentic material available. This map served as the official map of Louisiana until replaced by one of the son, W. H. Hardee, of 1895.
THE PARISHES FROM 1881 to 1890

By this time, Louisiana parishes had reached a status of relative stability that was in marked contrast to the condition of preceding decades. The creation of Acadia and the proposal of Troy are the only statutes which refer to parishes as wholes. The creation of Acadia from St. Landry in 1886 gives the only new parish in the long period from 1877 to 1908. Truly, the parish pattern was almost complete.

Creation of Acadia. The description of Acadia read:

"An act to create the parish of Acadia and to provide for the organization thereof."

SEC. 1: ". . . . . that a new parish, in the State of La., be and the same is hereby created out of the southwestern portion of the parish of St. Landry, to be called and known as the parish of Acadia; that said parish of Acadia shall be composed of all that territory in the said parish of St. Landry comprised within the following boundaries, to wit: All that portion of territory lying and being south and west of a line beginning on the west boundary of St. Landry Parish, at its intersection with the township line between townships 6 and 7 south; thence in an easterly direction on township lines between townships 6 and 7 to the northeast corner of section 3, in townships 6 and 7 south, range 2 east; thence in a southerly direction on section lines about three miles to the corner common to sections 14, 15, 22, and 23; thence in an easterly direction about four miles to a point in section 79, in township 7 south, range 3 east, when the section lines have run (?) would make the corner common to sections 16, 17, 20 and 21; thence in a southerly direction across section 79 and following section lines about six miles to the corner common to sections 16, 17, 20 and 21, in township 8 south, range 3 east; thence in an easterly direction between sections 16 and 21; one mile; thence two miles in a southerly direction on section lines between sections 21 and 22, and between sections 27 and 28; thence one mile in an easterly direction to the corner common to sections 26, 27, 34 and 35; thence about two miles in a southerly direction to the division line between the parishes.
of Lafayette and St. Landry; thence following the
division lines, as now established between the parishes
of St. Landry and Lafayette, and St. Landry and Vermilion, to the existing boundary between the parishes of St. Landry and Calcasieu; thence on existing west boundary of St. Landry Parish to the starting point aforesaid."

App: June 30, 1886

Acadia is preeminently the rice parish, and the relatively
dense settlement of the area has been largely an outgrowth of
rice cultivation. In the decade 1861 to 1870, the population
of St. Landry - during this period, Acadia was a part of it,
and there was no change in the area of St. Landry - increased
by only 2,441, while from 1871 to 1880, the increase was
14,441, and in the decade to follow, the area which constituted
St. Landry in 1880 increased by 13,231. Thus the creation of
Acadia took place during the rush for rice lands. It is signifi-
cant that Acadia embraces the area in which the stream net-
work attains the maximum density in the entire prairie region;
in fact, a glance at the map almost makes it appear as if the
boundaries of Acadia had been drawn with the idea of enclos-
ing the major number of rather sizeable streams which might
be used for irrigation.72

Proposal to Create Parish of Troy. At the very end of this
decade, there was a proposal to divide Catahoula and create
the parish of Troy out of the southern portion. The proposed
parish had the following delimitation:

"An act to create the parish of Troy and to provide
for the organization thereof. Due notice having been
given as required by Article 48 of the Constitution,

72It is recognized that streams are not the only factor in rice
production - e.g., the nature of the subsurface clays is of ex-
treme importance - but other conditions being comparable, they
as shown by affidavit hereto attached.

SEC. 1: "...that a new parish, in the State of Louisiana be and the same is hereby created out of the southern portion of the parish of Catahoula, to be called and known as the parish of Troy; that the said parish of Troy shall be composed of all that territory of the said parish of Catahoula comprised within the following boundaries, to-wit: Commencing where Little River empties into Catahoula Lake, thence along the western boundaries of said lake to the mouth of Hamphills Creek where the township line T. 7, R. 3 and 4 E., crosses Catahoula Lake, thence up said line to lower Alexandria Road, thence in a northerly direction along line dividing swamp and Hill lands as shown by township map in the land office of the State to a point where Earls Creek crosses the southern line of T. 8, R. 4 E., thence along said township line in an easterly direction to range between T. 8 R. 4 and T. 8 R. 5 E., thence up said range line to the lower Alexandria Road and eastern border of Catahoula prairie in a northerly direction to the northwest corner of Sec. 16, thence east of section line to Mill Creek, thence up said creek to section line between sections 4 and 9, thence along said line due east to Bushley Creek where sections 2, 3, 10 and 11 corner, thence up said line between sections 2 and 3 to township line between T. 8, R. 5, E., and T. 9, R. 5 E., thence due east along said township line to where township 9, R. 5 E., and T. 9, R. 6, and T. 5, R. 6 E. corners. Thence along said township line easterly intersecting the west prong of the Bushley at or near what is known as Fish Lake on the Hawthorne Road, thence up said west prong to the Bushley proper, thence up said Bushley to Ouachita River, thence up said river to line of Caldwell Parish north of said river, thence up said line to Boeuf River, thence down said river to mouth of Dear Creek, thence up said creek to the township and range line dividing the parish of Franklin and Catahoula, thence down said range line to Fool River (?) to Tensas River thence down Tensas River to its mouth or injunction with Black River, thence down Black River to Red River, thence up Red River to Saline Bayou, or dividing line of Catahoula and Avoyelles Parishes, thence up said bayou to the place of beginning."

indicate something of an optimum complex for production.
"This description is intended to include all swamp and table lands lying south of Catahoula Lake and Bushey as described above and all east of Ouachita River, and south of Franklin Parish and containing 705 square miles more or less, total area of square miles in the parish of Catahoula is 1,350 square miles."

App: July 10, 1890

A study of topographic maps makes it clear that this proposal was essentially an attempt to separate the alluvial bottom part of Catahoula from the upland Coastal Plains.

The act was declared unconstitutional because it increased the representation beyond the constitutional limit:

"The Constitution of the State has not given the Legislature unlimited discretion in the matter of creating new parishes, or changing the boundaries of existing parishes, but has imposed important limitations on the legislative power in these respects, and on the methods of exercising the same. Thus, the enumeration of inhabitants and return thereof to the Secretary of State, as provided by special act for the new parish of Troy (see entry 140), were not considered matters of legislative discretion and control; and preliminary proceedings thereunder could properly be restrained by injunction. (State ex rel. V. Judge of the 7th Judicial District Court, 42 La. Ann. 1104, 8 So. 305)."

"Act 1890 purporting to establish a new parish called Troy (see entry 170) was held unconstitutional because it increased the representation beyond the constitutional limit. (Adams v. Forsyth, 44 La. Ann. 130, 10 So. 622.)"

Delimitation of Orleans Parish. The legislature defined the limits of Orleans Parish under the title, "To Incorporate the City of New Orleans ... and to repeal all acts inconsistent and in conflict with its provisions". On the left bank the Parish of Orleans included:
"The Mississippi river from the lower line of the United States Barracks to Upperline street, upper side of Carrollton and along the centre of Upperline street to Upperline Canal and thence along the centre of Upperline Canal to Lake Pontchartrain, and thence along the shores of Lake Pontchartrain to the Rigolets, and thence along the Rigolets to Lake Borgne, to Fishermen's Canal, and thence along Fishermen's Canal to the line of the south side of Florida Walk, and thence along said line of Florida Walk to the lower line of the United States Barracks, and thence along the line of the United States Barracks to the Mississippi river, the point of departure."  

On the right bank it included:

"a line established by the State Engineers beginning at a point near the river bank opposite Ptolemy street, thence running as follows."  

From this location to the beginning of the rear point of the Desalles plantation, the boundaries are stated in surveyors terms and in great detail. They may be obtained from the act itself. Beginning after this detail, the description read

"to line of Jean Lassales and thence up the Mississippi River to the point of departure."  

Boundaries Surveyed between St. John the Baptist and St. James. Mention has been made of the indeterminate nature of the boundaries between parishes in the alluvial portion of the Lower Mississippi. In 1886 the police juries of the parishes of St. John the Baptist and St. James hired G. H. Grandjean and Reinier Swart to make an accurate survey of the line bounding the two

77 H. L. Zander, Ass't. Engineer in Charge of Levees, in a letter to the Chief Engineer of the Orleans Levee Board comments on this detail as follows: "The charter for the first time describes the rear lines and measurements dividing Jefferson and Plaquemines Parish from New Orleans".
parishes. The survey was completed on December 23, 1886. This is one of the few boundary lines in the general region referred to which is the result of something more definite than understanding among assessors.

Because much of the survey traverses an area which has been settled for a long period, the boundary had to be run with great accuracy. With all of this, it is uncertain how much of it is ascertainable today for there are innumerable references to cypress, tupelo, ash, and other trees. The description includes several hundred items.\footnote{The boundary is correctly shown on the LAC DES ALLEMANDS, LUTCHER, and PETITE AMITE RIVER quadrangle sheets.}

Terrebonne-Lafourche Boundary Fixed by Louisiana Supreme Court.\footnote{It may be consulted in the files of St. John the Baptist or St. James Parishes, Board of State Engineers, New Orleans.}

In 1882, the dispute over the boundary between Terrebonne and Lafourche reached the Supreme Court of Louisiana, and at this time, the court handed down a decision which upheld the lower court and thus fixed the boundary along the Bayou Blue and Bayou Pointe au Chien line - the inexplicable "cross-over" between the two being included.

\footnote{For complete details, see Supreme Court, 34th Louisiana Annual, p. 1230}
THE PARISHES AT THE END OF THE CENTURY

Ninety-seven years of Louisiana history both as Territory and State resulted in an increase in the number of parishes (counties) from 12 to 59. The curve of increase had been uneven but none the less ever upward. The work of bringing forth new units was almost complete. Although portions of Louisiana had few people, the State as a whole had recorded a great increase in numbers; the curve of the RATE of population increase was levelling off, and in general the frontier aspect was becoming a condition of the past.

Alteration of Boundary between Acadia and Lafayette. The last decade in the first century of Louisiana parishes recorded the minimum in both creations and alterations. In 1898, the legislature redefined a portion of the line of Acadia - its lone creation in the preceding decade. The alteration of the boundary between Acadia and Lafayette read:

"An act to locate the boundary line between the parishes of Acadia and Lafayette."

"Whereas, due notice, in accordance with the requirement of Article 50 of the Constitution of the State, of intention to apply for the passage of this act has been published."

SEC. 1: "...., that the boundary line between the parishes of Acadia and Lafayette shall be and is defined and located as follows: Beginning at the corners common to sections 2, 3, 10 and 11, township 9, South Range 3 East, La. meridian at the intersection of the dividing lines of Acadia and St. Landry parishes, thence running in a westerly direction about one mile following section lines between sections 3 and 10 to corners common to sections 3, 4, 9 and 10, thence in a southerly direction about one mile following section lines between sections 9 and 10, to corners common to sections 9 and 10, 15 and 16, thence in a westerly direction about one mile following section lines between sections 9 and 16 to section corners common to sections 9, 16 and 17, thence in a southerly direction about two miles following section lines between sections 16,
17, 20 and 21 to corner common to sections 20 and 21
to corner common to sections 20, 21, 28 and 29,
therein in a westerly direction about two miles follow­
ing section lines between sections 19, 20, 29 and 30
to corners common to sections 19 and 30 on township 9,
South Range 3 East and sections 24 and 25 Township 9,
South Range 2 East, therein in a southerly direction
following the township line to Bayou Que de Tortue,
therein following the center of said bayou to the
intersection of the dividing lines between Lafayette
and Vermilion parishes with the said Bayou Que de
Tortue."

La. Acts, Reg. S. of 1898
Act 157, p. 294, approved July 14, 1898

Orleans Parish Boundaries Restated. In 1896, an act was
passed which reincorporated the City of New Orleans, and the
boundaries of Orleans Parish were restated. With the excep­
tion of minor changes in the detailed section mentioned in 1882,
they remained as indicated in that year.

Avoyelles Boundaries Resurveyed. In 1895, the police juries of
Avoyelles and Rapides authorized a survey of the parish bound­
daries. The surveys were based on the original act creating
Avoyelles in 1818 and the act of April 24, 1847. The surveyors
merely gave precise definition to the requirements of the acts.

Their work was completed and reports filed on February 13, 1895.8

Redefinition of Eastern Boundary of Calcasieu Parish.

Modern maps of southwestern Louisiana - e. g., the map of
Southern Louisiana drawn under the direction of the Army
Engineers - lead, through no fault in their construction or
preparation, to a misinterpretation of the eastern boundary
of Allen Parish. (Allen was created from Calcasieu in 1912 so


78 These surveys are very detailed and lengthy. They may be examined in the Avoyelles Parish police jury records, entries
numbers 5120, 5121, 5123.
that in 1895 the matter of interpretation really involved Calcasieu. The old definition of Calcasieu had directed that the line run up Bayou Nezpique to the mouth of Beaver Creek and thence run north to the boundary line between St. Landry and Rapides Parishes.

At the present time, the mouth of "Beaver Creek" as such is located in township 3 south, range 1 west. It was not the stream referred to in the act. That stream was Bayou Castor, the mouth of which is found in township 5 south, range 3 west. Until 1895 not even its mouth was used as the starting point for the delimitation of the eastern boundary of Calcasieu:

"In the year 1895 the Police Juries of Calcasieu and St. Landry Parishes instructed their respective Parish Surveyors to go out and definitely locate this line. Thomas Kleinpeter, of Calcasieu, and L. E. Littell, of St. Landry, Parish Surveyors, made the survey and reported that they proceeded to the mouth of Beaver Creek, on Bayou Nez Pique, which is on east line of Section 30, Township 5 south, Range 2 west, and ran the line due north to the Rapides Parish line. This line was located one mile and about 15 chains east of the range line above mentioned, and is now the accepted parish line."

"I saw this report and plat in the Court House at Lake Charles, prior to the fire of 1910 which burned the Court House."

Revival of Dispute between Terrebonne and Lafourche. The years 1894 to 1897 witnessed a continuation of court procedure over the lower boundary between Lafourche and Terrebonne. In this

"The stream is sometimes called 'Bayou Castor,' which is the French name for Beaver Creek; it is known locally as Beaver Creek and also frequently called 'Castor,' as most of the inhabitants along its course are Creole."

8 Personal letter from Mr. John W. Rhorer, Allen Land & Title Co., March 10, 1938.

9 Letter from Mr. Rhorer, February 18, 1938.
instance, the background was to be found in the question of oyster beds in Timbalier Bay. The court reaffirmed its decision of 1882.  


New Official Map of Louisiana. In 1894 the governor was authorized to sign a contract with W. T. Hardee to provide a new official map of Louisiana. Section 1 of the act provided that Hardee was:

"to furnish the State of Louisiana with 600 copies (mounted) of a new and improved official map of the State of Louisiana."

Section 2 provided for submission of the map to the governor of the State of Louisiana, who shall thereupon approve the same and endorse thereon his approval as being the official map of the commonwealth."

Act 143, p. 180-182, approved July 12, 1894

^Supreme Court, 34th La. Annual, No. 12,468.
THE PARISHES FROM 1900 to 1910

Attempted transfer from Jackson to Lincoln. The first act of the legislature in this decade involved the transfer of part of Jackson to Lincoln:

"An act to change the parish line between Jackson and Lincoln Parishes by taking territory from Jackson Parish and annexing it to Lincoln Parish; to provide for holding a said election on said proposition and to promulgate the result thereof - also to provide for the apportionment of the police jury of Lincoln Parish of said annexed territory between the existing wards in Lincoln Parish and for the transfer of pending suits where defendant resides in the annexed territory.

SEC. 1: "..... that the parish line between Jackson and Lincoln Parishes be, and the same is hereby changed so as to annex and to make part of Lincoln Parish the following described territory now forming part of Jackson Parish, viz: The north half of township, 17 north, range 1 and 2 west; provided, that two-thirds of the qualified voters of the said parishes of Jackson and Lincoln consent thereto by voting in favor thereof at a special election to be held for that purpose."

App: July 4, 1904

This act was not approved by the voters and the line remained as fixed by the act of 1877.

Part of Catahoula to be attached to Caldwell. Also, in this same year of 1904 an act was passed transferring a part of Catahoula to Caldwell:

"An act to change the parish line between Caldwell and Catahoula Parishes by taking the territory from Catahoula Parish and annexing it to Caldwell parish; to provide for holding a special election on said proposition and to promulgate the result thereof.

SEC. 1: "..... that the parish line between Caldwell and Catahoula Parishes be, and the same is hereby changed so as to annex to and make part of Caldwell Parish the following territory now forming part of
Catahoula Parish, viz: The south one-half of township 11, north, ranges 2, 3, 4, 5, and all that portion of range 6 lying west of Ouachita River...

Approved: July 5, 1904

Even though this act was approved and promulgated on July 16, 1904, it did not take effect. Under the constitutional provisions it required the approval of two-thirds of the electors which it did not secure.

Beauregard parish proposed. In 1906, the legislature proposed the creation of a new parish which was to include approximately the western half of Catahoula.

"An act to establish and organize the Parish of Beauregard, to fix its boundaries, and to provide for temporary government and administration thereof, in accordance with Article 277 of the Constitution of this State and to provide for the submission to the voters of the parish of Catahoula at an election to be held on the third Tuesday in Jan. 1906 of the question 'whether or not the said parish of Beauregard shall be established and organized' and to provide for the holding and conduct of said election, and to give effect to the same.

SEC. 1: "That a new parish, in the State of La. be and the same is hereby created out of the western portion of the parish of Catahoula, to be called and known as the parish of Beauregard, that the parish of Beauregard shall be composed of all that territory of the said parish of Catahoula combined within the following boundary, to-wit: All that portion of Catahoula Parish lying west of range line 4; east La. meridian. The boundaries of said territory being as follows to-wit: The south line of Caldwell Parish on the north; range, line 4 east La. meridian on the east; the east line of Grant and Winn Parishes on the west and on the south, bounded by Avoyelles and Rapides Parishes, and containing 650 square miles more or less, and 8,000 inhabitants.

SEC. 2: "... that the seat of justice of the said parish of Beauregard shall be and remain in the town of Jena, until qualified voters of the said parish of Beauregard shall have an opportunity to vote on the
location of the parish seat....that the said parish of Beauregard shall form a part of the 5th Congressional District, that the said parish of Beauregard shall form a part of the 2nd Supreme Court District, ....a part of the 8th Judicial District until otherwise provided by law....a part of the 30th Senatorial District as created by the Constitution of 1898, and Act 151 of 1902."

App: June 27, 1906

No new parishes had been created since Acadia in 1886, although this lapse of 20 years had been threatened in 1890, and, germane to the present proposal, it should be noted that the act of 1890 also related to the division of Catahoula. Thus, it is apparent that the demand for division of Catahoula was well-rooted and insistent, no matter if the proposed name was changed from Troy in 1890 to Beauregard in 1906.

Troy had been declared unconstitutional because it increased the representation beyond the constitutional limits.

The legislative creation of Beauregard in 1906 was not fulfilled in fact, and it was not until 1908 that the area designated in the act of 1906 became a distinct parish. Further, the name had been changed from Beauregard to La Salle:

"An act to create, establish and organize the parish of La Salle; to fix and define its boundaries; to adjust the rights of parishes of Catahoula and La Salle in the public buildings, property and improvements; to fix the liability of the two parishes of Catahoula and La Salle, for the public debt due by the present parish of Catahoula on Jan. 1, 1910; to provide for the submission of this act to the voters of Catahoula at a special election to be held on the first Tuesday next following the first Monday in Oct. 1908, for its ratification or rejection."

84 "There were not enough votes as provided in said act for the creation of same." Letter from Mr. Q. R. Hudson, Clerk, 8th Judicial Court, La Salle Parish.
SEC. 1: ".... that a new parish in the State of La., be and the same is hereby created out of the western portion of the territory of the parish of Catahoula, to be called and known as the parish of LaSalle; that the said parish of LaSalle shall be composed of all that territory of the present parish of Catahoula lying west of the following described line: commencing at the northeast corner of section 24 in township 11 north of range 4 east, La. meridian, and running south on range line between ranges 4 and 5 east, to Saline Bayou; the said Parish of LaSalle being bounded as follows: The south line of Caldwell Parish on the north, the said range line 4 east, La. meridian on the east; the east line of Grant and Winn Parishes on the west and the line of Avoyelles and Rapides Parishes on the south, and containing more than 625 square miles and more than 7,000 inhabitants, leaving the Parish of Catahoula, bounded as follows: On the west by said range line 4 east, La. meridian, and with the other boundaries as now fixed by law, containing more than 625 square miles and more than 7,000 inhabitants."

La. Acts, Reg. S. of 1908
Act 177, p. 244, approved July 3, 1908

The year 1908 regarded the proposal for another parish - Evangeline. St. Landry was to be reduced still further.

Creation of Evangeline. "An act to create the parish of Evangeline and to provide for the organization thereof. Due notice having been given as required by Article 50 of the Constitution as shown by Affidavit hereto attached."

SEC. 1: ".... that a new parish in the state of La., be, and the same is hereby created out of the western portion of St. Landry, to be called and known as the parish of Evangeline; which said parish of Evangeline shall be composed of all that territory of the parish of St. Landry lying west of a line beginning at a point on the line between the parishes of Acadia and St. Landry and the township line between range 2, range 3 east La. meridian following said line due north to a point where same intersects Bayou Grand Louis; thence following said Bayou to its junction with Bayou Petite
Pass; thence running due north to a point on Bayou Cocodrie; thence following said Bayou Cocodrie to a point on the township line between ranges 2 and 3 east; thence due north on said township line to a point on the line between the parishes of Avoyelles and St. Landry."

App: June 22, 1908

This creation was declared invalid because:

"Where the Legislature attempts to create a new parish, it must either fix a division of the assets and liabilities as between the old and new parishes, or providing method by which such question is to be determined. Hence the Acts of 1908, No. 53 attempting to create the parish of Evangeline, was invalid for failure to so provide. (Sandoz v. Sanders, 125 La. 396, 51 So. 436)."

Anent Constitution of 1879, Article 252; 1898, Article 280; 1913, Article 280;

The parish creations - actual or attempted - of this first decade of the twentieth century were interesting in that whereas each represents an attempt to bring about a unit which will better serve local needs, they are quite different in the occupational background. The hill area of La Salle was feeling the full swing of the pine lumber industry, and thus had little in common with the major portion of what is now Catahoula. The area that was to have been made Evangeline, on the other hand, had no especial surge of occupational change beyond a certain increase in rice culture in the southern part of the parish. This was not comparable to that of the prairie area farther to the south, however, and the larger factor was the distance from the old city of Opelousas. The creation of Acadia had left the area that is now Evangeline as an embayment which suggested occlusion by a political line.
This decade wrote "finis" to the story of Louisiana parish creations. In the preceding thirty years, the declaration in rate of creation was very marked. The last "burst" of creations was recorded in the period 1871 to 1877 when four new parishes came into existence and one old unit yielded two additional. The next decade brought forth Acadia, the next none at all, and in the first ten years of the new century, La Salle was added to make a total of sixty.

The parish creations of 1910 to 1912 represent, in a very real sense, the breaking down of the last frontier - at least in its ECONOMIC aspects. The years which marked the turn of the century witnessed an enormous growth in the Louisiana lumber industry. The magnificent long leaf pine forests of southwest Louisiana had been exploited in a minor way for many years but the great operations typical of modern industry did not become established there until approximately 1900.

The result of the coming of the large sawmills had a great influence in the creation of both Beauregard and Allen. The former was almost entirely a matter of what might be termed a lumber episode and in general the same applied to all that part of Allen Parish north and west of the Calcasieu River - a portion of the remainder of Allen had an additional reason for a rapid rise in economic development because it was involved in the newer extension of rice culture.
Jefferson Davis, next to Acadia, was most distinctively the creature of the extension of rice culture. It is one of the four Louisiana parishes - Acadia, Jefferson Davis, Vermillion, and Calcasieu - which collectively produce more rice than all of the other parishes combined. The transformation of the vast prairies of southwest Louisiana from what was essentially the status of grazing to that of crop culture, with its resulting increase in population, could scarcely fail to have political repercussions. The tradition of creating new political regions in response to movement and increase of population was not more to be resisted in southwestern Louisiana than in any other portion of the state. Lumber and rice! These two products more than any other forces contributed to the breaking of huge Calcasieu, or, viewed another way, the final partitionment of the ancient county of the Opelousas - (Imperial St. Landry) - and at the same time wrote the last chapter in the history of Louisiana parish creations.

The forces operating in the creation of Evangeline have already been related in connection with its proposal in the last decade. To the influences there suggested should undoubtedly be added those of a local, highly individualized desire for an immediate sphere of political activity. The human being in Louisiana could no more escape this force - in all parishes - than could his brother in any other American commonwealth.

Creation of Evangeline. The second act creating Evangeline was final and the description read as follows:
An act to create the parish of Evangeline and to provide for the organization thereof. Due notice having been given as required by Article 50 of the Constitution as shown by the affidavit hereto attached.

SEC. 1: "...that a new parish in the State of Louisiana be and the same is hereby created out of the western portion of the parish of St. Landry, to be called and known as the parish of Evangeline; which said parish of Evangeline shall be composed of all that territory of the parish of St. Landry, lying west of a line beginning on Bayou des Canne at a point on dividing line between the parishes of Acadia and St. Landry, thence up the center of said bayou to a point where said bayou is intersected by the section line between sections 12 and 13 township 6 south range one west, thence east on prolongation of said section line through T. 6 S. R. 1 east and as far as the dividing line on the east half and the west half of T. 6 S. R. 2 east; thence north on said line to where it intersects the township line between townships 5 and 6 south range 2 east; thence east on said township line to the southeast corner of township 5 south range 2 east; thence north on township line between range 2 and 3 east Louisiana meridian, following said line due north to a point where the same intersects Bayou Grand Louis; thence following said bayou to its junction with Bayou Petite Pass; thence running due north to a point on Bayou Cocodrie, thence following said Bayou Cocodrie to a point on the township line between range 2 and 3 east, thence due north on said township line to a point on the line between the parishes of Avoyelles and St. Landry and containing more than 625 square miles and 7000 inhabitants and leaving more than 625 square miles and 7000 inhabitants to the parish of St. Landry.

Approved: June 15, 1910

Proposal and creation of Allen, Beauregard, and Jefferson Davis. All three of these parishes were proposed on June 28 and 29, 1910. The proposals failed because of lack of ratification by the electors. Bills to create these parishes were reintroduced in June, 1912, and this time they were accepted:
The descriptions of the parishes read:

"An act to create, establish, and organize the parish of Allen; to provide for a representative therefor; to provide for the adjustment of assets and liabilities of the parish of Calcasieu with the said parish of Allen; and to assign the parish to a senatorial, judicial, and other districts."

SEC. 1: "....that a new parish in the State of La., to be called and known as the parish of Allen, is hereby created out of that portion of the present parish of Calcasieu comprised and embraced within the following boundaries, to-wit: Commencing on the Vernon Parish line at a point where the line between sections 15 and 16 in township 2 south range 6 west; intersects said parish line; thence south along section line to the southwest corner of section 22 in township 5 south, range 6 west, thence west along section line to the southwest corner of section 19 in township 5 south range 7 west; thence south along range line to southwest corner of section 19, in township 7 south, range 7 west, thence east along section line to the southeast corner of section 22, in township 7 south, range section 7 west, thence north along section line to the northeast corner of section 22, in township 7 south, range 7 west, thence east along section line to the southeast corner of section 16 in township 7 south, range 4 west, thence north along section line to quarter corner one-fourth between sections 33 and 34, in township 6 south, range 4 west, thence east to the middle of Bayou Nespique, thence in a northerly direction along the middle of Bayou Nespique, to the point where the north boundary of section 30, in township 5 south, range 3 west, intersects said Bayou, thence north on the line between Evangeline and Calcasieu parishes to the Rapides Parish line, thence west along Rapides Parish line to beginning."

Act 6, p. 8, approved June 12, 1912

"An act to create, establish, and organize the parish of Beauregard; to fix and define the boundaries thereof; to provide for a representative therefor; to provide for the adjustment of assets and liabilities of the parish of Calcasieu with the said parish of Beauregard; and to assign the parish to a senatorial, judicial, and other districts."

SEC. 1: "....that a new parish in the State of La., to be called and known as the parish of Beauregard, is hereby created out of that portion of the present Parish of Calcasieu comprised and embraced within the following boundaries, to-wit: Commencing at the
middle of the Sabine River, at the point where the line between township 7 south, Range 13 West, and 8 South, Range 13 West, intersects the said river, thence east along said township line to the Southeast corner of section 33, in township 7 South, Range 11 West, thence north along section line to the Southeast corner of section 33, in township 6 South, range 11 West, thence East along township line to the Southeast corner of section 33, in township 6 South, range 10 West, thence south along section line to the Southeast corner of section 33, in township line to the southeast corner of section 36, in township 7 South, Range 8 west, thence North along range line to the southwest corner of section 19, in township 5 South, Range 7 west, thence East along section line to the southwest corner of section 21, in township 5 South, range 6 West, thence north along section line to the line between Vernon and Calcasieu Parishes, thence west along said parish line to the middle of the Sabine River, thence meandering along the middle of the Sabine River to the point of beginning.

Act 8, p. 3, approved June 12, 1912

"An act to create, establish, and organize the parish of Jefferson Davis; to fix and define the boundaries thereof; to provide a representative therefor; to provide for the adjustment of the assets and liabilities of the parish of Calcasieu with the said parish of Jefferson Davis; and to assign the parish to a senatorial, judicial and other districts."

SEC. 1: "...that a new parish in the State of La., to be called and known as the parish of Jefferson Davis, is hereby created out of that portion of the present parish of Calcasieu comprised and embraced within the following boundaries, to-wit: Commencing on the North boundary of the Parish of Cameron at the Southwest corner of section 33, in township 11 south, range 6 west, thence north along section line to the northwest corner of section 21, in township 11 south, range 6 west, thence east to the middle of Lacassine Bayou, thence in a northerly direction along the middle of Lacassine Bayou to the point where the line between sections 20 and 29, in township 10 south, range 5 west, intersects said Bayou, thence west along section line to the southwest corner of section 21, in township 10 south, range 6 west, thence north along section line to the northwest corner of section 21, in township 9 south, range 6 west, thence west along section line to the southwest corner of section 18, in township 9 south, range 6 west, thence north along range line to the northeast corner of section 12, in
township 8 south, range 7 west, thence west along section line to the southwest corner of section 6, in township 8 South, range 7 West, thence north along range line to the northwest corner of section 30, in township 7 South, range 7 West, thence east along section line to the northwest corner of section 26, in township 7 south, range 7 west, thence north along section line to the northwest corner of section 23, in township 7 South, Range 7 west, thence east along section line to the northeast corner of section 21, in township 7 south, range 4 West thence north along section line to the quarter corner (¼) between sections 33 and 34, in township 6 south, Range 4 West, thence east along half section line to the middle of Bayou Nezpique, thence in a southerly direction along the middle of Bayou Nezpique and the Mermentau River to the Cameron Parish line, thence west along the Cameron Parish line, thence west along the Cameron Parish line to the point of beginning."

Act 7, p. 10, approved June 12, 1912

**Line Dividing St. Tammany and Washington.** An act of 1912 reaffirmed a portion of the original description of the boundary between these two parishes as follows:

"An act to repeal an act passed by the General Assembly of the State of La. in the year of 1826, which was approved Feb. 22, 1826, which relates to the boundary lines between the parishes of Washington and St. Tammany, and establishing a dividing line between said parishes in section 57, township 4 south, range 12 east."

SEC. 1: 
"...that act (p. 38, 2nd S. of 7th L.) of the General Assembly of the State of La. passed in the year 1826 and approved Feb. 22, 1826, which is an act relative to the dividing line between the parishes of Washington and St. Tammany through the Richard Chappel Headright #57, township 4, south range 12 east St. Helena meridian, be and the same is hereby repealed, and the line, as described in act (p. 80, 1st S. of 4th L.) of the General Assembly passed in the year 1819 and approved March 6, 1819, which act establishes the parish of Washington, shall be the dividing line between the parishes of Washington and St. Tammany in the said Richard Chappel Headright #57 township #4 south, range 12 east St. Helena meridian."

Act 124, p. 146, approved July 9, 1912
Section Boundaries between Natchitoches, Rapides, and Vernon.
The jagged lines between Natchitoches and Rapides and Vernon constitute one of the oddities of Louisiana parish delimitations. All of these lines are the result of agreements among the police juries. The Natchitoches-Rapides line was approved on October 7, 1910. This was upon recommendation of Mr. R. W. Bringhurst, Jr., and Mr. J. C. Henry, parish surveyors of Rapides and of Natchitoches.

The reason for these saw-toothed lines may be illustrated by the condition set up by Devil's Creek, which was designated as the boundary between Vernon and Rapides and Natchitoches. This small creek was at best a weak natural feature. A man owning a section of land which was partly in Natchitoches and partly in Vernon found difficulties in assessment and tax payments in two parishes. After fifty years, the land in even the remote timbered area of the Kisatchie Wold was almost entirely in the hands either of lumbermen or farmers, and both groups wished to be able to assess lands in Natchitoches or Rapides or Vernon by sections or parts thereof. The line between Vernon and Rapides was changed by agreement of the police juries on October 3, 1910; the line between Vernon and Natchitoches in April 2, 1912.

A full description is recorded in the Rapides Parish Courthouse, Conveyance Book 54, p. 618. A copy of the governing map was filed in Plat book 2, pages 35 and 36.

Detailed descriptions may be found in the Conveyance and Plat Books of both parishes. They are shown approximately correctly on the Department of Interior Map, Edition of 1935.
Orleans Parish Again Delimited. The exact definition of the boundaries of Orleans Parish in 1912 was the result of an act "To incorporate the City of New Orleans; to provide a Commission form of Government", etc. The left bank definition was as follows:

SEC. 1: "Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana; That all the inhabitants of the Parish of Orleans, situated on the left bank of the Mississippi River, as now included within the following boundaries: Commencing at a point in the middle of the Mississippi River on the projected division line between the Parish of Orleans and the Parish of Jefferson, in the vicinity of Carrollton and thence along the said projected line to the left bank of said river, and thence along the division line between the Parish of Orleans and the Parish of Jefferson to the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain, and thence to a point in the middle of Lake Pontchartrain on the projected said parish division line, and thence along the center of Lake Pontchartrain to the center of the Rigolets, and thence along the center of the Rigolets to Lake Borgne, and thence along the main shore of Lake Borgne, including all islands within one marine league distance thereof, to the center of Fisherman's Canal, and thence along the center of Fisherman's Canal to the line of the south side of Florida Walk and thence along the said line of Florida Walk to the lower line of the United States Barracks, and thence along the said United States Barracks to the left bank of the Mississippi River, and thence to a point in the middle of the Mississippi River on the projected line of the said United States Barracks, and thence along the middle of the Mississippi River to the point of commencement; and "."

"Commencing at a point in the middle of the Mississippi River abreast of a point on the right bank of the said river established by the Board of State Engineers, opposite Ptolemy Street, and thence to said point, and thence running as follows, viz: ...."

(From this point to the rear of the Desalles plantation the boundaries are stated in great detail - the minutiae may be obtained from the act itself.) After reaching the line of

Lassalles, the statement was:

"...and thence to a point in the middle of the Mississippi River on a projection of the said line, and thence through the center of the Mississippi River to the point of commencement; are hereby created a body corporate and established as a political corporation by the name of 'The City of New Orleans.'"

It is possible that the most salient feature of the act of 1912 was the extension of the Orleans boundary to the middle of Lake Pontchartrain. The present rapid oil development eventually might extend to this water body. It is not unlikely that other parishes bordering the lake may extend their boundaries into its shallow waters.

St. Martin Surveyor Defines Boundary Line with Iberville in Alabama Bayou Area. The Police Jury of St. Martin parish adopted an ordinance "for ascertaining and fixing the boundary and dividing line between Iberville and St. Martin parishes" on March 3, 1919. This portion of the line was in the difficult Alabama Bayou region which had been in question ever since the critical and ambiguous law of 1847. The Parish of St. Martin took the initiative and redefined a line which probably could not be upheld in court.

Mr. Charles Gutekunst was appointed surveyor for St. Martin. He was to proceed, under the law, to make a joint survey with the appointee of Iberville. Notice was served on Iberville and the surveyors were to begin to survey the line on September 8, 1919. The surveyor for Iberville was not appointed or at least did not appear, and Mr. Gutekunst proceeded to run his line.

On the map which he submitted to the Police Jury of St. Martin he stated:

"This map is made from approved maps and filed notes of the United States Government and actual surveys made by me starting from lot or section 36, northern line township 7 south, range 8 east, being the southern boundary line of Point Coupee Parish on the west side down of Main Bayou Alabama to lot or section 48 thence cross Main Bayou to a point, lot or section 53 whence the east Fork leaves the Main Bayou Alabama, down; at section or lot 71 meandered northward on west bank of east Fork Bayou Alabama to lot or section 59 to locate Island, retraced to lot or section 71 to locate township line between township 7 and 8 by meandering down in front of lot 32, 33 and 34 to township line crossed a dry channel to an Island crossing Island to west bank of east fork Bayou Alabama, meandered west bank from Range line retraced to township line on west side of dry Bayou and meandered down to East Fork and down East Fork of Bayou Alabama on west bank to lot or section 51 where Baton Rouge Lafayette Railroad crosses the East Fork, thence down to Lot 53, down Bayou to Oaca Bay whence East Fork of Bayou Alabama runs in the Bay. Having found no change of the Bayou only as noted above, surveyed and retraced old lines from September 8th to September 19th and October 8th to October 21st, 1919, according to approved notes by

Charles Gutekunst, Surveyor and Civil Engineer." 

This survey failed to settle the disputed line between Iberville and St. Martin for the simple reason that it did nothing to solve the ambiguity of the language of the act of 1847.

Provisions of the Constitution of 1913. They are the same as those of 1898.

"Blue Print in St. Martin Folder, Board of State Engineers, New Orleans."
THE PARISHES in 1930

The decade from 1921 to 1930 produced no new parishes. There was not a single statute passed by the legislature save the general act of 1928.

In that year the legislature passed another of its general acts regulating the procedure in changing parish boundaries. It was in furtherance of the Constitution of 1921. It provided for special elections, rights of contests, etc. In general, it was a restatement of most of the principles involved in earlier, general acts.

Constitutional Provisions. The Constitution of 1921 restated most of the provisions of earlier basic charters of the State; the same minima for area and population, the necessity of two-thirds of the electors to effect a change in the parish boundaries; the power to dissolve parishes, etc.

In 1930 it could be written that it was eighteen years since the last parish creation; looking forward to 1938, there was a total elapsed period of 26 years in which the parish pattern remained unchanged. Many factors indicate that it will remain so - at least the number is unlikely to INCREASE.

The unsatisfactory condition of many parish boundaries in Louisiana is a familiar story to those who have had occasion to work with the subject in those fields which are directly concerned—highways, conservation of wild life, minerals, and others. This is true whether it be from the standpoint of legal definition or of marking. From many points of view, it is highly desirable that the State undertake the work which will correct this unsatisfactory condition, and that at the earliest moment.

Summary of Boundaries with Doubtful Origin

Several boundaries seem to have "just grown." The following comment indicates this condition:

Assumption. "There are no direct acts of the Legislature that defined either the Assumption-St. James, the Assumption-Ascension, the Assumption-Iberville boundary, or the Assumption-St. Martin boundary lines; and we are forced to the conclusion that these several boundaries were respectively fixed by agreements between the Police Juries of the parishes concerned, in conformity with one of the several 'blanket' acts prescribing procedure in cases where it was desired to definitely establish the line or to change its location; namely, the Act approved March 20th, 1835, Act 39 of 1880, or Act 31 of 1928—depending upon which one prevailed when the agreements were entered into."

In further reference to the boundaries, the following statement is undoubtedly true of them:

"...since they no doubt conform to the locations that the parish assessors now regard as the true boundaries, although most of the said assessors may now be oblivious of the exact legal authority that so established them."?

??From Letter of Dec. 10, 1937, in Ascension Folder (folio) by G. Lombard to Board of State Engineers.
A boundary which seems to have emerged as the result of a complex of possible acts, mutual agreement between assessors, and inference is the boundary between Jefferson and Plaquemines. Some differences of opinion have existed, in the past, as to the correctness of the location of certain portions of the Plaquemines-Jefferson boundary line. The recognized line seems to be:

"The common corner of Orleans, Jefferson and Plaquemines parish boundaries is now unanimously accepted as being located at the point "A" shown on the Board of State Engineers' map A-5011, date Sept. 26, 1932. This point "A" is located at the S.W. corner of Section 29 that is coincident with the N. W. corner of Section 71 of Township 14 S., R. 24 E., and was officially located by the late State Engineer, W. Jeff Thompson, in 1870, under authority of Acts 80 and 123 of 1867. It was recognized by the late H. L. Zander when he made his survey of the boundary line between Orleans, Jefferson and Plaquemines parishes for the Board of Commissioners of Orleans Levee District in 1929."

"That part of the Plaquemines-Jefferson Boundary, extending in a straight line from A to B, on the aforementioned map A-5011, conforms to all old maps, including those of the State by Latourette in 1841, and of Catesby Graham in 1838. Said line A-B intersects the center of Bayou Barataria at the said point "B", which is located at the S.W. corner of Section 69, Township 14 South, Range 24 East; and, the Plaquemines-Jefferson boundary line then follows the center of said Bayou Barataria to the westernmost corner of Section 55 of Township 15 South, Range 24 East (which point is not far above the place on the right bank of Bayou Barataria known as Crown Point); thence the boundary line departs from Bayou Barataria in a southerly direction following the rear limits of the concessions that front on the Mississippi River as far southward as the S.W. corner of Section 16 that is coincident with the S. E. corner of Section 49 of Township 16 South, Range 24 East; thence the boundary line extends in a straight line, on a prolongation of the line between said Sections 16 and 49 of Township 16 South, Range 24 East, in a southeasterly direction to the center of Bayou Dupont, within the N. E. part of Section 37 of Township 17 South, Range 24 East; thence along
the center of Bayou Dupont in an easterly and southerly direction to and through Round Lake, whence it resumes its route along the center of Bayou Dupont south of Round Lake, in Township 18 South, Range 24 East, to the intersection of the center of Bayou Dupont with the range-line between Ranges 24 and 25 East as shown on the Hermitage Quadrangle sheet of the United States Geological Survey; thence south along said range-line to a point opposite the mouth of Bayou St. Dennis, as shown on the Wilkinson Bay quadrangle sheet of the United States Geological Survey in 1935, in Section 12, Township 19 South, Range 24 East; thence in an easterly and southerly direction through Section 7 of Township 19 South, Range 25 East, in Barataria Bay, through said Barataria Bay in a southeasterly direction into the west entrance of Cat Bay, as shown on the Barataria Pass Quadrangle sheet, thence through Cat Bay, Bay Ronquille, and Quatre Bayou Pass, reaching the Gulf of Mexico in the N. E. corner of Section 17, Township 21 South, Range 26 East, all as shown on the Bay Ronquille Quadrangle sheet of the United States Geological Survey in 1935."

Notes: "Above conforms to Hardee map of 1895 from upper end at Gretna to the point on the range line between ranges 24 and 25 east, opposite the mouth of Bayou St. Dennis." Thence to the Gulf, however, Hardee showed a different location, as did Latourette on his map of 1841. There at the head of Barataria Bay, the boundary line forked, leaving Barataria Bay in between, and in neither parish. Hardee's map of 1895, however, showed that the Jefferson parish boundary along the west shore of Barataria Bay was deflected across the lower, or southern shore of Barataria Bay so as to place the Grand Terre Islands within the limits of Jefferson Parish, but failed to take in the marshy mud flat, or island that lies north and east of Grand Bank Bayou."

"Zander's map of Jefferson Parish also places the boundary line between Plaquemines and Jefferson parishes through the center of Grand Bank Pass. Under the circumstances, the question has naturally arisen to which parish the Queen Bess and Independence Islands were in. They are islands located well out in Barataria Bay, which is a large body of sovereign water, the title to which is vested in the State of Louisiana. Therefore, the location of the Plaquemines-Jefferson boundary line, placed on the quadrangle sheets of the United States Geological Survey, indicating that the boundary line passes through the center of Barataria Bay, Cat Bay, and"
Bay Ronquille and Quatre Bayou Pass respectively, seems quite logical and appropriate and should be recognized in the future as the correct location of this part of the Plaquemines-Jefferson parish boundary line.

Brief on Jefferson Parish, Jefferson Folio Board of State Engineers, New Orleans

Other Uncertain Lines. What has been written of Assumption boundaries may also be stated for at least the greater portions of the following: Jefferson-St. Charles; St. Charles-St. John; and St. John and Ascension in the vicinity of Blind River and Lake Maurepas.

Boundaries Requiring Judicial or Other Adjudications

St. Martin and Iberville. One of the boundaries requiring a decision is that between St. Martin and Iberville in the region of the East Fork of Alabama Bayou. The language of the act of 1847 in this area admits of no certain or logical interpretation, and perhaps it will have to be settled by mutual concession and agreement.

Terrebonne-Lafourche. The other outstanding boundary requiring review is that of Terrebonne-Lafourche. Even though the decision was taken to the Supreme Court, all the evidence points to a conclusion reached on the basis of inadequate information. Refusal to review the case on the basis of res adjudicata seems inadmissible when seen in the light of incontrovertible physiographic evidence.

Lafourche-Jefferson. Perhaps another in the list is the lower part of the line between Lafourche and Jefferson. This seems rather doubtful, however, for the reason that, barring hitherto undiscovered local ordinances, the law of 1824 is yet
in effect. The fact that the Hardee map of 1895 used the line between ranges 23 and 24 rather than the drainage features to the east of it cannot justify its adoption. (If it were to be adopted, it would have to be on a basis other than legislative definition.)

Suggested Delimitations

Boundary of Iberia to Be Checked. The law of 1868 creating Iberia referred to a portion of the line as "to Vermillion Bay, thence through said bay to the southeast pass of Cote Blanche Bay, and thence along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico to the beginning." There seems to be reason to doubt the course of the line shown by many of the published maps. Just what is Southeast Pass of Cote Blanche Bay? The act would seem to call for the fixation of the line between Rabbitt Island and Point Chevreuil. This may be only apparent, but in any event an attempt should be made to ascertain the location of "Southeast Pass" as used in the period preceding the creation of Iberia.

Extension of Boundary between Plaquemines and St. Bernard. The interpretation of the law of 1842 defining the boundary between Plaquemines and St. Bernard presents difficulties in itself, for it is difficult to delimit the exact extent of Chandeleur Sound. Granted that the line follows Bayou Terre aux Boeuf to Mozambique Point, how shall it be drawn thereafter?

The wording of the act referred to "the northeast part of Black Bay, and thence following a line to the northeast part of Black Bay, and thence following the middle of Black Bay to the Chandeleur Bay." The projected axis of Black Bay nearly
passes through Mozambique Point, and fortunately, the line between townships 16 and 17, Southeastern District, is almost coincident therewith. It would not seem to be illogical to follow this township line from the point where the line projected from the center of the mouth of Bayou Terre aux Boeuf intersects it to, or even beyond Errol Island.

Miscellaneous Adjustments. It is quite clear that the parish boundary troubles of Louisiana are bound up with the alluvial area in the southeastern part of the State. In marked contrast with the simple township and range referents in so many of the northern parishes, those in the region of the more recent delta present enormous difficulties. The phenomena of sedimentation in the area inland from the coast have presented difficulties, but it is in the narrower littoral zone of conflict between streams and sea that the problem is so very complicated. The seaward extension of lines from their termini on the coast proper - here defined as the inner margins of the major coastal indentations - should be undertaken at the earliest possible moment. All of the southeastern coastal parishes are areas of great potential mineral wealth. Unless the boundaries are defined, it is almost certain that the landowners, the State, and producers of petroleum and other minerals may become involved in tortuous and costly litigation.

In those instances where the boundary line between two coastal parishes reaches the inner margin of an island-studded bay, it would seem logical to extend the line southward along
a range line if possible, or, in any event, parallel to it. Boundaries such as the one between Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes really demand immediate attention.

The time is long past when Louisiana can afford to be casual about her parish boundaries. Whatever the form, size, or present economic development of the parishes, their boundaries should be defined and marked in all doubtful areas.

**Aspects of Population, Size, and Form**

The future of Louisiana parishes is not the province of this study but surely the forces which explain their existence are the most meaningful commentaries on their **present raison d'etre**, and hence on their contemporary validity. It must be borne in mind that just as "parish" is yet a unique political term in all the United States, so, too, is the general background and evolution without duplication in any other state. The change from county to parish, the early close relationship between ecclesiastical and civil divisions, and the struggle for a **modus operandi** between two different cultures during the formative period of the State's history - all of these have left a deep imprint on the character of parish units and their method of operation.

The recognition of all these forces, however, should not obscure the fact that the existing parishes are definitely comparable to the county units in the other States and that they share their common problems. In Louisiana, as in other states, there is justification for the assertion that many minor political units are not in harmony either with the
demands of economy or the shifts in what might be termed centers of gravity of economic activity.

In the present study it has been necessary to be thorough in the search for, and recording of materials which made it possible to trace the evolution of the parishes, but if this almost endless minutiae were to have no other value it would afford the most forceful testimony that there is nothing sacrosanct in the PRESENT delimitation of the POLITICAL regions of Louisiana. If the 133 year old subject of revision could be divorced from emotion and vested interest, it might be possible to evolve regional units of varying sized and forms which would better suit the needs of our present society.

In the broader quantitative aspects of population distribution by geomorphic provinces, the RELATIVE numbers of people have not changed as greatly as might be imagined. Now, as well as a century ago, there were great differences among the land form regions. Although the parishes which were created in the Upland Coastal Plain were practically uninhabited at the time of the Louisiana Purchase and their population has increased greatly, it is yet true that they are sparsely peopled as compared with many parishes in the Recent alluvial bottoms or even in certain terrace areas. If the parishes along the Lower Mississippi, Bayou Lafourche, or the Teche and the adjacent terrace lands to the west are compared with many "hill" parishes, the contrasts are indeed striking. Any possible parish reorganization would have to recognize that as the great fundamental.
An outstanding aspect of the parish-population problem is found in the significant change in trends of the population curves. It is a fallacy to assume that there has been a general uptrend in the population of all parishes even if there were temporary recessions. It may not be so meaningful to point out that 18 parishes decreased in population from 1920 to 1930 and at least one, Beauregard, lost almost one-third of its population in that brief period, but it is of the greatest moment to note that 20 parishes have passed their peak populations more than a decade ago - one of them as long ago as 1880. The following is a tabulation of parishes which show declines in population from their peak decades:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parishes with Maximum Population in:</th>
<th>1880</th>
<th>1910</th>
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<td>Concordia</td>
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<td>Vernon</td>
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It is clear that the increase in number of parishes in Louisiana has been the result of growth in number and wider distribution of people. Naturally, these population changes are not to be thought of as isolated abstractions, but dynamic
forces expressing themselves through the media of size, drainage, transportation, and other natural and cultural factors. In the middle of last century the people of Louisiana expressed their desire for more serviceable governmental units in unequivocal language. Within the units, they wishes to have established governmental centers which would be convenient to local groups for general administrative and judicial purposes. To these strictly governmental activities they added those of market, education, religion, and other social functions.

The conditions which may have justified the creation and continued existence of probably one-third of the parishes and administrative centers in the decades of the past do not obtain today. There seems to be not the slightest doubt but that the number of parishes could, and, from the standpoint of economy, should be reduced. Many cannot be justified from any one of a number of points of view. Comparable transport ease and convenience between the middle of last century and 1938 would certainly indicate a quadrupling of the distance between the individual resident and his parish seat. Other factors such as declining assessment bases and a general tendency toward integration of many social functions point to the same conclusion. The present REGIONAL aspect of Louisiana parishes leaves much to be desired.
APPENDIX

1. List of Louisiana Parishes: Chronological Order of Creation: Number Having Census Returns at the End of Each Decade

2. Population of Louisiana in 1803

LIST OF LOUISIANA PARISHES: CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF CREATION; NUMBER HAVING CENSUS RETURNS AT THE END OF EACH DECADE

1807 - 1810

Original 19 parishes of 1807:
1. Ascension
2. Assumption
3. Avoyelles
4. Baton Rouge
5. Concordia
6. Iberville
7. Lafourche
8. Natchitoches
9. Orleans
10. Ouachita
11. Plaquemines
12. Pointe Coupee
13. Rapides
14. St. Bernard
15. St. Charles
16. St. James
17. St. John the Baptist
18. St. Landry
19. St. Martin
20. Catahoula - 1866

1810 - 1820

21. East Baton Rouge - 1810
22. Feliciana - 1810
23. St. Helena - 1810
24. St. Tammany - 1810
25. St. Mary - 1811
26. Washington - 1819

1821 - 1830

27. Terrebonne - 1822
28. Lafayette - 1823
29. East Feliciana - 1824
    West Feliciana - 1824
30. Jefferson - 1825
31. Claiborne - 1828
1831-1840

32. Carroll - 1832
33. Livingston - 1832
34. Madison - 1832
35. Caddo - 1838
36. Caldwell - 1839
37. Union - 1839
38. Calcasieu - 1840

1841-1850

39. Bossier - 1843
40. DeSoto - 1843
41. Franklin - 1843
42. Sabine - 1843
43. Tensas - 1843
44. Morehouse - 1844
45. Vermillion - 1844
46. Jackson - 1845
47. Bienville - 1848

1851-1860

48. Winn - 1852

1861-1870

49. Richland - 1869
50. Iberia - 1869
51. Grant - 1869
52. Tangipahoa - 1869
53. Cameron - 1870

1871-1880

54. Red River - 1871
55. Vernon - 1871
56. Webster - 1871
57. Lincoln - 1873
58. East Carroll - 1877
   West Carroll - 1877

1881-1890

59. Acadia - 1886

1891-1900

No new parishes created.
1901-1910

60. LaSalle - 1908

1911-1920

61. Evangeline - 1910
62. Allen - 1912
63. Beauregard - 1912
64. Jefferson Davis - 1912
Census of the Districts or Posts of
Louisiana and West-Florida, 1803

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<tr>
<th>Names and Situation of</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Balize to New Orleans,</td>
<td>2,388</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. San Bernado or Terre aux beoufs on a creek running from the English turn East to the sea and Lake Borgne,</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. City of New Orleans and suburbs as per detail No. 1.</td>
<td>8,056</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Bayou St. Jean and Chantilly between the City and Lake Pontchartrain,</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Coast of Chapitoulas, or along the Banks of the Mississippi 6 leagues upwards,</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. First German Coast, from 6 to 10 leagues upwards on both banks,</td>
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<td>7. Second German Coast, from 10 leagues and ending at 16 leagues upwards on both banks,</td>
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<td>8. Catahanose, or first Acadian Coast, commencing at 16 leagues above the City and ending 23 on both banks,</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Fourche or second Acadian Coast, from 23 to 30 leagues above town,</td>
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<td>10. Valenzuela or settlements on the Bayou de la Fouche running from the West side of the Mississippi to the sea, and called in old maps the Fourche or Riviere des Chitimachas,</td>
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<td>11. Iberville Parish, commencing at about 30 leagues from Orleans and ending at the river of the same name,</td>
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<td>12. Galveztown, situated on the river Iberville, between the Mississippi and Lake Maurepas, opposite the mouth of the Amst,</td>
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<td>13. Government of Baton Rouge, including all the settlements between the Iberville and the line of demarkation,</td>
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<td>14. Point Couppee and False River behind it, 50 leagues from Orleans, on the West side of the Mississippi,</td>
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<td>15. Atacapas, on the rivers Teche and Vermillion, etc. to the west of the Mississippi, and near the sea,</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Opelousas adjoining to, and to the North East of the foregoing,</td>
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17. Ouachita on the river of the same name or upper part of the Black river, which empties into the River Rouge.

18. Avoyelles on the Red river about 18 leagues from the Mississippi.

19. Rapides on the Red river about 75 leagues higher up.

20. Natchitoches on the Red river about 75 leagues from the Mississippi.

21. Concord, an infant settlement on the banks of the Mississippi, opposite Natchez. (number unknown.)

Note: Reference has already been made to the doubts of the Authors of the ACCOUNT relative to the inaccuracy of their estimates of population.
TOTAL POPULATION OF PARISHES: 1810 to 1930

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TOTAL POPULATION OF PARISHES: 1810 to 1930 (continued)

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<th>Ouachita</th>
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TOTAL POPULATION OF PARISHES: 1810 to 1930 (continued)
## TOTAL POPULATION OF PARISHES: 1810 to 1930 (continued)

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**NOTE:** The numbers in the table represent the population for the respective years in the indicated parishes.
### Total Population of Parishes: 1810 to 1930 (continued)

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Part A

Acts of Legislature in order of citation by decades

1805-1810

1. Orleans Territory Acts of 1804-05, 1st S. of 1st L.
   Approved April 10, 1805, Chap. 25, p. 144 (Creation of
   the twelve counties of 1805)

2. Orleans Territory Acts of 1807, 2nd S. of 1st L.
   Approved March 31, 1807, Chap. 1, p. 2 (Creation of
   the nineteen parishes of 1807)

3. Act of the Legislative Council for the Territory of Orleans,
   Approved February 17, 1805, Chap. XII (Boundaries of the
   city of New Orleans)

   Approved March 20, 1809, Chap. 30, p. 80 (More accurate
   delimitation of Orleans-Plaquemines-St. Bernard parishes)

   Approved March 18, 1809, Chap. 22, p. 54 (Northern
   boundary of Concordia)

   Approved March 16, 1809, Chap. 16, p. 40 (Boundary
   between Ouachita and NatfWhitchees)

7. Orleans Territory Acts of 1808, 1st S. of 2nd L.
   Approved March 23, 1808, Chap. 10, p. 30 (Creation of
   Catahoula)

8. Orleans Territory Acts of 1810, 2nd S. of 3rd L., Ordinance,
   p. 210, Approved December 7, 1810 (Creation of county of
   Feliciana)

   p. 210 Approved December 22, 1810 (Territory
   between the Pearl and the Mississippi divided into four
   parishes)

    Ordinance, p. 214, Approved January 26, 1811 (Creation
    of Belozy and Pascagoula Parishes)

12. Orleans Territory Acts of 1811, 2nd S. of 3rd L., Approved April 24, 1811, Chap. 28, p. 2120 (Division of county of Feliciana into six parishes)

13. La. Acts of 1812, 1st S. of 1st L., Chap. 1 Approved August 4, 1812 (Florida Parishes made part of Louisiana by State Legislature)


15. Orleans Territory Acts of 1811, 2nd S. of 3rd L., Chap. 10 p. 34, Approved March 20, 1811 (Creation of Warren)


17. La. Acts of 1812, 2nd S. of 1st L., p. 134 Approved March 20, 1813 (To explain division of county of Attakapas)


21. La. Acts of 1812, 2nd S. of 1st L., p. 4 Approved December 14, 1812 (Limits determined between Pointe Coupee and Baton Rouge)

22. La. Acts of 1812, 2nd S. of 1st L., p. 168 Approved March 24, 1813 (Limits of Catahoula defined)


24. La. Acts of 1815, 3rd S. of 1st L., p. 50 Approved January 31, 1815 (Boundary to be run between Feliciana and East Baton Rouge)

26. La. Acys of 1817, 1st S. of 3rd L., p. 66
   Approved February 7, 1817 (Boundaries between Opelousas and Attakapas counties)

   Approved March 6, 1819 (Washington Parish created)


   Approved March 16, 1820 (President of the U. S. requested to mark the northern boundary of Louisiana)

1820-1830

   Approved March 22, 1822 (Creation of Terrebonne)

   Approved March 7, 1824 (Lafourche Interior delimited)

   Approved February 7, 1823 (Creation of Lafayette)

   Approved February 17, 1824 (Creation of East and West Feliciana)

   Approved April 8, 1824 (Definition of boundaries between Iberville, West Baton Rouge, and Ascension)

   Approved February 4, 1825 (Pointe Coupée delimited)

   Approved April 7, 1826, (To determine the Southern and Western boundaries of West Baton Rouge)

   Approved April 25, 1826 (To postpone act establishing southern and western boundaries of West Baton Rouge)

   Approved March 24, 1837 (Iberville and West Baton Rouge delimited)

   Approved March 24, 1827 (Iberville and West Baton Rouge delimitation delayed)

41. La. Acts of 1827, 1st S., of 8th L., p. 156
Approved March 22, 1827 (An act amending an act establishing boundary between Assumption and Lafourche Interior)

42. La. Acts of 1820, 2nd S. of 9th L., p. 64
Approved March 15, 1830 (Chenier Caminada annexed to Jefferson)

Approved, February 22, 1826 (Boundaries determined between St. Tammany and Washington)

44. La. Acts of 1828, 2nd S. of 8th L., p. 70
Approved March 15, 1838 (Creation of Claiborne)

Approved March 4, 1830 (Established boundary line between Catahoula and Ouachita)

1830-1840

46. La. Acts of 1832, 3rd S., of 10th L., p. 20
Approved February 10, 1832 (Creation of Livingston)

47. La. Acts of 1832, 3rd S. of 10th L., p. 130
Approved March 30, 1832 (Livingston delimited)

Approved March 7, 1832 (Boundary defined between East Feliciana and East Baton Rouge)

49. La. Acts of 1833, 1st S. of 11th L., p. 28
Approved February 15, 1833 (Lines drawn between St. Martin and St. Mary)

Approved February 23, 1837 (Act to fix boundaries between Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, and St. Mary, Assumption)

Approved February 23, 1837 (Pointe Coupee delimited)

52. La. Acts of 1838, 2nd S. of 13th L., p. 21
Approved February 12, 1838 (Boundaries of Pointe Coupee modified further)
   Approved March 14, 1832 (Creation of Carroll)

   Approved March 10, 1834 (Boundary change between Ouachita and Catahoula)

   Approved March 28, 1835 (Western boundary of Catahoula established)

   Approved March 6, 1838 (Creation of Caldwell)

   Approved January 19, 1839 (Division of Concordia)

58. La. Acts of 1839, 1st S. of 14th L., p. 82
   Approved March 14, 1839 (Part of Carroll annexed to Madison)

   Approved March 13, 1839 (Creation of Union)

60. La. Acts of 1839, 2nd S. of 13th L., p. 11
   Approved January 16, 1839 (Creation of Caddo)

61. La. Acts of 1840, 2nd S. of 14th L., p. 72
   Approved March 24, 1840 (Creation of Calcasieu)

   Approved March 20, 1845 (Police Juries given power to define parish boundaries)

   1840-1845

63. La. Acts of 1843, 1st S. of 16th L., Act 33, p. 17
   Approved February 25, 1843 (Creation of Bossier)

   Approved March 14, 1848 (Creation of Bienville)

   Approved March 7, 1843 (Creation of Franklin)

   Approved March 11, 1844 (Amendment to act creating Franklin)

   Approved February 24, 1848 (Reannex a portion of Ouachita)
Approved March 17, 1843 (Creation of Tensas)

Approved May 29, 1846 (Limits of Madison extended)

70. La. Acts of 1847, 2nd S. of 1st L., Act 98, p. 74
Approved April 5, 1847 (Boundary fixed between Madison and Carroll)

Approved March 25, 1844 (Creation of Morehouse)

Approved April 16, 1847 (Changed boundary between Ouachita and Morehouse)

73. La. Acts of 1845, 1st S. of 17th L., Act 33, p. 16
Approved February 27, 1845 (Creation of Jackson)

Approved February 6, 1841 (Addition of territory to Jackson)

75. La. Acts of 1845, 1st S. of 17th L., Act 111, p. 68
Approved March 10, 1845 (Reannex territory to Catahoula)

76. La. Acts of 1846, 1st S. of 1st L., Act 179, p. 159
Approved June 1, 1846 (Changes in Jackson-Boundary line fixed between Ouachita, Union, and Jackson)

77. La. Acts of 1846, 1st S. of 1st L., Act 179, p. 159
Approved June 1, 1846, (Annex territory to Jackson)

Approved March 7, 1845 (Creation of Sabine)

Approved March 7, 1843 (Creation of DeSoto)

Approved March 8, 1845 (Change in boundary line between Caddo, and DeSoto)

Approved May 12, 1846 (Change in boundary between Natchitoches and Rapides)

Approved February 10, 1842, (Part of Avoyelles transferred to Catahoula)
83. La. Acts of 1847, 2nd S. of 1st L., Act 153, p. 113
Approved April 24, 1847 (Change in boundary between Rapides and Avoyelles)

Approved March 16, 1848 (Defined the Avoyelles boundary)

Approved February 3, 1841 (Ascension boundary fixed)

Approved March 8, 1841 (Ascension boundary changed)

Approved March 27, 1842 (To determine limits of Assumption)

Approved April 14, 1847 (Phelp's line to be Ascension-Iberville boundary)

Approved March 12, 1850 (Maurepas Island transferred to Livingston)

90. La. Acts of 1847, 2nd S. of 2nd L., Act 130, p. 95
Approved April 15, 1847 (Boundary defined between Iberville and St. Martin)

Approved January 12, 1842 (Boundary drawn between Plaquemines and St. Bernard)

Approved April 20, 1847 (Change in Orleans Parish Boundary)

Approved March 21, 1850 (Amendment to Orleans Parish boundary change)

Approved March 25, 1844 (Creation of Vermillion)

Approved April 28, 1847 (Boundary between Lafourche and Assumption)

Approved March 13, 1850 (Boundary between Lafourche Interior and Terrebonne)
   Approved March 13, 1850 (Dugdemonia Parish proposed)

   Approved March 1, 1850 (Iberia Parish proposed)

   Approved February 24, 1853 (Creation of Winn)

     Approved March 4, 1852 (Natchitoches Parish restricted
         to area west of Red River.)

     Approved March 16, 1854 (Minor change between
         Natchitoches, Sabine, and Bienville)

     Approved March 2, 1857 (Line changes between Bienville
         and Natchitoches)

     Approved March 4, 1852 (Boundary drawn between St.
         Landry and Rapides)

     Approved March 15, 1852 (Boundaries defined between
         Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, and Iberville)

     Approved March 11, 1859 (Effort to end the uncertainty
         over the region between Iberville and West Baton Rouge
         parishes)

     Approved March 15, 1859 (Change the boundary line
         between the parishes of Iberville and Pointe Coupee)

     Approved February 23, 1852 (City of Lafayette merged
         with city and parish of Orleans)

     Approved March 11, 1852 (Creation of Richland Proposed)

109. La. Acts of 1858, 1st S. of 4th L., p. 185 (Definition
     of line between Carroll and Morehouse)

     Approved March 9, 1858 (General act to establish parish
         boundaries)

     Approved March 23, 1852,(Name of Lafourche Interior
         changed to Lafourche)
1861-1870

   Approved February 21, 1861 (Boundary alteration between
   Pointe Coupee and Iberville)

   Approved March 20, 1861 (Boundary between Morehouse
   and Carroll)

   Approved March 20, 1861 (Minor change between Madison,
   Tensas, and Morehouse)

   Approved September 29, 1868 (Creation of Richland)

   Approved April 5, 1870 (Portion of Tensas annexed to
   Franklin parish)

   Approved March 23, 1867 (Transfer from Claiborne to Union)

   Approved March 21, 1861 (Proposed parish from Rapides)

119. La. Acts of 1869, 2nd S. of 1st L., Act 82, p. 79
   Approved March 4, 1869 (Creation of Grant)

120. La. Acts of 1867, 2nd S. of 2nd L., Act 123, p. 239
   Approved March 27, 1867 (Boundaries defined between
   Orleans and Jefferson)

   Approved March 16, 1870 (Change in limits of Orleans)

   Approved October 30, 1868 (Creation of Iberia)

   Approved March 6, 1869 (Creation of Tangipahoa)

   Approved March 15, 1870 (Creation of Cameron)

1871-1880

   Approved, February 27, 1871 (Creation of Webster)

   Approved March 2, 1871 (Creation of Red River Parish)
Approved July 1, 1872 (Change in boundary of Red River Parish)

Approved March 11, 1878 (Additional change in the
boundaries of Red River parish)

Approved March 30, 1871 (Creation of Vernon)

Approved February 27, 1873 (Creation of Lincoln)

131. La. Acts of 1877, 1st S. of 5th L., Act 29, p. 31
Approved March 5, 1877 (Alteration in Lincoln boundary)

Approved March 28, 1877 (Creation of East and West Carroll)

Approved March 28, 1877 (Alteration with regard to
division of Carroll)

Approved May 11, 1877 (Territory of West Carroll given to East Carroll)

Approved February 26, 1878 (Portion of Catahoula attached to Franklin)

(City of Carrollton added to Orleans)

Approved March 10, 1880 (Procedure for (changing parish
boundary lines by Police juries)

Approved April 5, 1875 (Boundary drawn between Orleans and St. Bernard)

139. La. Acts of 1868, 1st S., 1st L., No. 165 (Authorize
compilation of new official map of the State)

1881-1890

140. La. Acts, Reg. S. of 1886, p. 48
Approved June 30, 1886 (Creation of Acadia)

Approved July 10, 1890 (Proposal to create the parish of Troy)
Approved July 14, 1898 (Alteration of boundary between Acadia and Lafayette)

Approved July 12, 1894 (New Official Map of Louisiana)

1901-1910

Approved July 4, 1904 (Attempted transfer from Jackson to Lincoln)

Approved July 8, 1904, (Part of Catahoula given to Caldwell)

Approved July 3, 1908 (Beauregard Parish created)

147. La. Acts, Reg. Sess. of 1908, Act 177, p. 244
Approved July 3, 1908 (LaSalle Parish created)

Approved June 22, 1908 (Proposed creation of Evangeline)

1911-1920

Approved June 15, 1910 (Creation of Evangeline)

Approved June 12, 1912 (Creation of Allen)

Approved June 12, 1912 (Creation of Beauregard)

Approved June 12, 1912 (Creation of Jefferson Davis)

Approved July 2, 1912 (Confirmation of line dividing St. Tammany and Washington)

(Delimitation of Orleans Parish)
1. American State Papers, Public Lands, II, entry no. 366, p. 32.

2. "An Account of Louisiana"

3. "An Account of Louisiana, Appendix"


5. Board of State Engineers, New Orleans, Blue Print in St. Martin Folder.


19. Q. R. Hudson, Clerk, 8th Judicial Court, LaSalle Parish, Letter.

20. Letter from Mr. A. J. Hadnot, Deputy Clerk of Eleventy Judicial District Court, Vernon Parish.
21. Letter submitted to the Board of State Engineers on December 7, 1937.


23. Louisiana Constitution, adopted, 1845, Article 8.

24. Louisiana Constitution, Adopted 1879, (July 23), Articles 249, 250, 251, and 252

25. Louisiana Constitution of 1879, Article 252;


27. Louisiana Constitution of 1913, Article 280.


29. Personal letter from Mr. Z. C. Rabun, Clerk Third District Court, Union Parish, February 18, 1938.

30. Rapides Parish Court House, Conveyance Book 54, p. 618.

31. Letter from Mr. Rhorer, February 18, 1938.

32. St. Mary Parish Ordinance, no. 4084.

33. Mr. H. W. Seal, Personal communication from Clerk of Caldwell.


35. Senate Journal 1848, pp. 146-48, 1st S. 2nd L.


38. T. L. Smith, The Population of Louisiana: Its Composition and Changes,

39. Supreme Court, 34th Louisiana Annual, p. 1230


41. H. L. Zander, Ass't Engineer in Charge of Levees, in a letter to the Chief Engineer of the Orleans Levee Board.
Kyser, John S.

Born in El Paso, Illinois, September 18, 1900. Attended the El Paso Grammar School, and the El paso Township High School until graduated from the latter in June 1918. Entered the University of Michigan in July 1918 and received the B. A. degree in June 1921.

After two years of graduate work at the University of Chicago, teaching employment began at the Louisiana State Normal College in June 1923, and has been continuous save for the following: 1) additional graduate work in the summer session at the University of Chicago in 1926, 2) more graduate work at the University of California in 1929, 3) teaching at Louisiana State University for six months in the session of 1929-30, 4) graduate work and teaching at Louisiana State University for the entire regular session of 1936-37.

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EXAMINATION AND THESIS REPORT

Candidate: John S. Ryser

Major Field: Geography

Title of Thesis: The Evolution of Louisiana Parishes in Relation to Population Growth and Movements.

Approved:

Date: May 14, 1933

Fred B. Keiffer
Major Professor and Chairman

Charles W. Piatt
Dean of the Graduate School

EXAMINING COMMITTEE:

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