The life of Mayfield Adam

Mayfield Adam (Crawford), eventually he changed his name to Adam, was born in 1829. He married Marguerite Hebert (daughter of Joseph Hebert and Marguerite Carmelie Landry). He died in Kaplan in 1934, while living with his granddaughter.

Mayfield had children when he left to serve in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. He was discharged in Shreveport. His brother-in-law was killed out of state so Adam asked the C.O. to bury him at the end of the sites, so he could come back later to bring the body home.

Having to walk home after being discharged, the soldiers ate corn from the fields along the way, making the journey in a month's time.

Mayfield returned to the grave with an ox drawn cart and many blankets. He wrapped the body and started home. He said the stench was overwhelming.

He became a "treater" or faith healer. He would heal with prayers and practiced this most of his life. He was very religious. In 1973, an 82 year old woman remembered that he was a prophet of the future. He had told a group of children, to whom he was teaching catechism, that they would live to see flying ships. After he had been home a short while from the war, there were matters to see about, such as baptizing the children. His daughter Azena was four years old when she was baptized.

The farm had flooded one year during the war, so Mayfield looked for another site to farm. They moved to the Gueydan area. There the alligators were so abundant that some had to be killed so Mayfield could raise livestock.

After his wife died, he went to live with a child near Bayou Que de Tortue Bridge, south of Crowley, on the Kaplan-Crowley highway. This was the Bertrand farm, and his son Raymond had married Elize Bertrand and had bought a part of the farm from his father-in-law.

His next move was to the Meaux area between Kaplan and Abbeville. There he lived in his little house and grew fruits and vegetables and treated people. He never lacked companionship and was highly respected. One of the neighbors was a young man who remembered Mayfield and spoke of him with great respect. He said he grew beautiful peaches and melons, and healed people with the Sign of the Cross. Mayfield never smoked, chewed, cursed or drank liquor. He always went to bed early and woke up early. He claimed to have seen the Blessed Virgin Mary three days before he died.

While walking on his way to somewhere, she told him he would die in three days. So he immediately turned and walked back to his home. Three days later he was found dead.

Mayfield had 57 grandchildren, 306 great-grandchildren and 23 great-great-grandchildren at the time of his death.