Bossier Parish was carved out of the Great Natchitoches District on February 24, 1843. It was named after General Pierre Everiste John Baptiste Bossier, descendant of an early settler and a member of Congress when the parish was formed.

General Bossier received his title as a general of the Louisiana militia. He was born in Natchitoches on March 27, 1797, of a Creole family, which was among the first to settle within the present boundaries of the parish.

Early in the nineteenth century came the first settlers from the eastern seaboard. Among them were the Gilmer Brothers, James Blair and George Ogilthorpe, who established a large plantation which they named Plain Dealing. Part of this plantation includes the present site and from it came Plain Dealing's name.

Bossier Parish contained but a few hundred settlers until 1804. From 1804 to 1850 Bossier Parish's population increased from a few hundred to 2,407 whites. The slave population increased from zero to 4,457 during the same period.

The early settlers of Bossier Parish were a sturdy and strong type of people, most of them interested in farming, and for many years Bossier Parish was the leading cotton-producing area of North Louisiana.

They were also intensely interested in education, and the parish boasted two outstanding educational institutions—Cottage Grove Seminary and the Bellevue Academy Association.

Rocky Mount is one of the earliest settlements of the parish. Most historians in North Louisiana credit Fillmore with being the oldest settlement in Bossier Parish, antedating the Civil War period by many years.

Other early settlements in the parish were Cane City, which later became Bossier City; Benton, the parish seat since 1888; and Plain Dealing, established in 1888.

The first parish government was established at Fredonia; later the name was changed to Society Hill, and finally before the end of the year, to Bellevue. Bellevue continued as the parish seat until 1888, when Benton, which had been incorporated by an act of the legislature in 1876, was selected as the parish seat because of its central location.

The first Bossier Parish Police Jury meeting was called on June 19, 1843. It handled business affairs of the newly formed parish, with William Burns presiding. First term of parish court was opened by Judge William K. Beck on September 25, 1843.

In proportion to its population, Bossier Parish sent more soldiers into the Confederate Army than any parish in the state. Some of the troops of volunteers to fight in the Civil War from Bossier Parish were the Bossier Rangers, Bossier Volunteers, Minute Men of Bossier Parish, Randolph's Volunteers, Vance Guards, Robin Greys of Bossier, Bossier Cavalry, Thirteenth Louisiana Battalion of Cavalry, the Marks Guards Company B, Bossier Volunteers Company D.

Fort Kirby Smith was one of four forts and eighteen batteries which formed the Confederate defenses of Bossier City (then Cane City) and Shreveport from 1864-1865. Bossier Parish restored the fort in 1936. The completed park was dedicated on June 9, 1936, during the National Confederate Veterans' Reunion. The Ladies' Military Aid Society of Bossier was presided over in 1861 by Jennie Hancock.

The Bossier Times was the first newspaper and was issued in 1857. The Bossier Banner succeeded the Times, July 1, 1859, and has been published continuously since that date. Others following were the Bossier Sentinel, the Plain Dealer, succeeded by the Plain Dealing Progress, and Bossier City's two current newspapers, the Bossier Tribune and Bossier Press.

North Bossier boasts one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world, and though reduced to diminutive size as mountains go, they still afford awe-inspiring sights common to more rugged terrain. Geologists refer to the Bossier Hills as the Ozark Spur, having been born of the same upheaval that produced the peculiar mountain range in the middle of the Mississippi Valley.
According to the 1960 official U. S. Census, Bossier City is a city of 32,691 inhabitants, the fastest growing city in Louisiana, and ranks sixth largest in the state. Bossier City is more appropriately known as the "City of Champions" because of the many honors and awards won by local groups in the community.

Industrialists look to Bossier City as a center of cattle raising, cotton and oil. It is a city that grew by leaps and bounds and not by continuous growth.

The construction of Barksdale Air Force Base on the eastern edge of the city is the main reason for Bossier's growth, and the ever-increasing population of neighboring Shreveport has caused Bossier to be flooded by newcomers and retired Air Force families.

The name Bossier came from a famous Creole general named General Pierre Everiste John Baptiste Bossier. When Bossier Parish was formed in 1843, General Bossier was a Congressman from this district. The pronunciation of the city is "Bosure." Prior to 1900 Bossier City was just a couple of buildings built across the river from Shreveport, and was known as Cane's Landing or Cane's Plantation.

As the Red River divides Bossier City from Shreveport, so does it split Caddo and Bossier Parishes. A parish in Louisiana is the same thing as a county in the 49 other states in the U.S. Bossier City was incorporated as a village in 1907, chartered as a town in 1923, and its status was changed to a city in 1950.

That, today, is Bossier City, in a metropolitan area of 280,000 inhabitants, the home of Barksdale Air Force Base - one of the world's largest air force bases; Eurlyne Howell, who became "Miss U.S.A." of 1958; and the world-famous Bossier High School Band, three-time winner of the Lion's International Championship award for marching and playing, and the only high school band to ever be invited to participate in a Sugar Bowl Classic halftime show.

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE

The base was named after Lieutenant Eugene H. Barksdale, a World War I ace who died while flight-testing an observation plane at McCook Field near Dayton, Ohio, in 1926. He was buried among other American heroes in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. Actual construction work began in March, 1931, and the base was officially dedicated on February 2, 1933.

The Air Training Command Headquarters was located at Barksdale following the war, but with the rapid expansion of the Strategic Air Command after the outbreak of the Korean conflict, it became one of SAC's key bases. The first SAC planes fly out of Barksdale were the B-29 Super-Fortresses, but in July, 1953, the change-over began to a newer and faster jet medium bomber, the B-47 Stratojet. After the B-47 came the KC-97 Stratotanker, SAC's flying filling station, now gradually being replaced by KC-135. The B-47 is now succeeded by the B-52.

Barksdale Air Force Base is located in Bossier Parish and encompasses an area some five miles wide by nine and a half miles long. One of the largest of its kind in the world, this sprawling 22,000 acre installation has both command and operational roles.

Barksdale today is the home of Headquarters, Second Air Force, one of the three numbered commands in SAC. Fourth Air Division is located here with its 4238th Strategic Wing, among other organizations such as Headquarters, 4238th Air Base Group; 301st and 913th Air Refueling squadrons. Other specialized support organizations are also based here.
MINERALS consist of iron ore, salt, brown coal and black marl (fertilizer).

CHIEF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS are cotton, cattle, grain and hay. Other basic products are corn, pecans, melons and vegetables.

GAS AND OIL WELLS account mainly for recent further importance assumed by industrial payrolls in the parish.

TOWNS AND CITIES located in Bossier Parish are Alden Bridge, Allentown, Antrim, Atkins, Benton, Bolinger, Bossier City, Bellevue, Haughton, Plain Dealing, Rocky Mount and Vanceville.

Bossier Parish is the center of one of the greatest oil producing sections of the world. It is also a great cotton-growing country and lumber production is important. The wealth of the parish lies in and beneath its soil rather than in its industrial establishments. The parish is located in the uplands section of Louisiana from 200 to 300 feet above sea level. Its soil is a gray or sandy loam, which is fertile, but subject to erosion. The subsoil is deep, sandy clay, which retains fertilizer well.

The hills are rich, productive and timbered with hardwood and pine. They produce grains and grass of all types. Bossier's timber supply is largely oak, pine, cypress, walnut and gum, with all smaller growths intermixed.

In addition to its rich farm lands, growing industries and wealth of natural resources, Bossier Parish enjoys the unique distinction of having Barksdale Air Force Base, "one of the largest air bases in the world." The field occupies an area of 22,000 acres and is situated just outside of Bossier City.

Bossier has a meandering river frontage of approximately 180 miles. Bodcaw Lake and Bayou, Cypress River and Lake Bistineau, which form part of the eastern boundary, and water the uplands of the parish. Excellent fishing and hunting and other recreational facilities are available in the Bayou, Bodcaw and Lake Bistineau.

Two of Bossier Parish's natural attractions and recreational areas are the Dogwood Trail located in Plain Dealing, and Lake Bistineau, formed early in the 19th century by an earthquake.
BOSSIER PARISH

Population - 64,519 (1970 Census)
Land Area - 863 Square Miles
Parish Seat - Benton, Louisiana

TITLE
CONGRESSMAN
STATE SENATOR (26th Dist.)
REPRESENTATIVES

JUDGES (26th Dist.)

DISTRICT ATTORNEY (26th Dist.)
1st Assistant
2nd Assistant
3rd Assistant

SHERIFF & EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR

ATTORNEY TO ASSIST THE INHERITANCE TAX COLLECTOR

CLERK OF COURT
ASSESSOR
CORONER
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS
President
Member
Member Ex-Officio

JUDGE - City Court
MARSHAL - City Court

NAME
Joe D. Waggonner, Jr.
John W. Montgomery
Ford E. Stinson
Walter O. Bigby
Monty M. Whyte
Ends C. McClendon, Jr.
Li. H. Padgett, Jr.
John B. Benton, Jr.
Rogers M. Prestridge
A. M. Wallace, Jr.
Graydon Kitchens, Jr.
W. E. Waggonner
Rogers M. Prestridge
Miss Wila Marby
George G. Nelson
C. H. McCuller, M. D.
William T. Johnston
F. D. McKellar
Neil J. Huckabee
Registrar of Voters

ADDRESS
Plain Dealing
Springhill
Benton
Bossier City
Benton
Minde
Bossier City
Minde
Bossier City
Benton
Mind

CITY COURT - WARD 2

President
Louis Lyons
Bossier City

Vice-President
Victor Stassi
Bossier City

Secretary-Treasurer

Patrick Engineer

Members: Ward 1
Ward 2
Ward 2
Ward 2
Ward 2
Ward 2
Ward 2
Ward 2
Ward 2
Ward 2
Ward 2
Ward 2
Ward 2
Ward 3
Ward 4
Ward 5
Ward 6

FIRE JURY

Wayne Keith
A. R. Teague
Mrs. Cecile K. Boggs
James B. Ramsey
Ruben E. White
Wesley D. Burdine
Jimmie P. Cascio
Fred S. Jones
Wayne Keith
Boyd Montgomery
A. R. Teague
E. E. Cater, Jr.
Jackie W. Martin
Jesse C. Deen
W. S. Swindle

ADDRESS

Plain Dealing

Bossier City

Bossier City

Plain Dealing

Haughton

Bossier City

Bossier City

Bossier City

Bossier City

Bossier City

Bossier City

Bossier City

Benton

Haughton

President

G. C. Adkins
G. C. Adkins
S. H. Boggs
J. Murray Durham
S. H. Johnston
David A. Montgomery
H. L. Barker
James J. Roberson
S. M. Wise
John W. Bass
I. E. Tyner

Vice-Plaintiff

James J. Roberson

SCHOOL BOARD

Plain Dealing

Bossier City

Plain Dealing

Boonville

Bossier City

Bossier City

Bossier City

Bossier City

Bossier City

Bossier City

Bossier City

Plain Dealing

Plain Dealing

Plain Dealing

Haughton