Cecilia once known by many names

The town of Cecilia was named for a bend in the bayou long before it got the name of a person.

It was originally known by the Spanish as La Punta, because it is situated on a deep bend in Bayou Teche. This was translated by the French into La Grande Pointe, a name that was used by many people until modern times.

A chapel was established at La Grande Pointe sometime after the Civil War, probably in the early 1870s. It was probably named for St. Etienne, but there are differing stories about that.

In January 1889, the Rev. Antoine Borias of Breaux Bridge wrote that la chapelle de la grande pointe originally was about midway between the Four Corners and Grand Anse area, but later was moved closer to what is now Cecilia.

St. Joseph church parish was created in 1890 and the Rev. Augustin Blanc became the first pastor and remained there 38 years. St. Rose of Lima Church was established there in 1944.

The community was also known as La Place at one time.

According to the legend, one of the early settlers was looking for a quiet and peaceful place to live when he happened upon the area. He fell in love with the beauty of theeland and, the legend says, lifted his eyes to the sky and proclaimed, “Ca c’est la place!”

There are several stories about how the town got to be named Cecilia. The one most believed is that Mrs. Andre Lastrapes, the first postmistress, gave the town its new name after postal authorities began to confuse it with Laplace in St. John the Baptist Parish. She was said to be a great lover of music and so named the place for St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music.