People's Cotton Gin in C.P.

Church Point
Settled In 1858

The present corporation lines of the town of Church Point take in portions of seven Spanish land grants: those claimed by Etienne Daigle, Lufroy Latiolais, Jacques Deshotels, Louis Leger, Louis Latiolais and Sylvain Sonnier.

The settlement at Church Point, like others along the length of the bayou, was once known as Plaquemine Brulee. Notice of the public sale of the estate of Marie Josephine Daigle, widow of Lufroy Latiolais, published in the Opelousas Courier of September 4, 1858, situated the Latiolais plantation “in the quarter commonly called Plaquemine Brulee.” The place was also known as Plaquemine Point. The voting place for Plaquemine Point in 1842 was “at the house of the widow Latiolais on Upper Plaquemine Brulee.” The Louis Leger property was described as located “at Plaquemine Point.”

The earliest known settler in the Church Point area was Louis Latiolais, who came in the 1770s. His son, Lufroy Latiolais, married Marie Josephine Daigle, daughter of Etienne Daigle III, in 1811. Both Lufroy and his brother-in-law, Etienne Daigle IV, were prominent in affairs of St. Landry Parish; both served on the grand jury in 1816. Latiolais, with Jean Blaise Lejeune and Bonaventure Martin, was named to a committee to build a bridge over the bayou in his neighborhood, and was authorized to call out the inhabitants of the area to help with the bridge-building.

The nucleus of the settlement began in the 1840s, when two grandsons of Etienne Daigle III, Joseph E. and Theodule Daigle, built homes in what is now the town proper. Other early settlers were the families of Barousse, Bergeron, Breaux, David, Guidry, LeBleu, Leger, McBride, Thibodeaux and Wimberley.