Goos named for settler

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Goos Street, named for Captain Daniel Goos, runs from Broad Street to Interstate 10. It begins again two blocks south of Opelousas Street and continues north to Pintzreuler Road.

A pre-1900 map of the city shows the northern section of the city as "Goosport," named for the early settler, but does not show any street bearing his name. It is not known just when the street was named.

Captain Goos was born on the island of Schleswig-Holstein. At the age of 20 he came to America, remained for a short time in Philadelphia, Pa., then moved to New Orleans where he met and married Katherine Moelling of that city.

He came to Lake Charles with his family, goods and servants in the fall of 1855 and set up in the northern part of the city, Gooseport. His charitableness began with the Indians. His fleet of schooners became blockade runners. When two boats of wounded and sick men of both the north and the south were brought to Lake Charles, some residents objected to the landing of the sick federal men, but the physician would not have the ill men separated. Captain Goos had every man - "Yankee" and "Rebel" taken to his home where a long and cool room was cleaned and whitewashed and beds were placed in rows.

There friend and foe lay side by side and were cared for by Mrs. Goos and the other women of the house. When the men could be moved, it was the captain's money which paid for their transportation.

In 1872 the population of Lake Charles was increased when Capt. Goos brought to the city about 50 German immigrants. A special event in the small town of Lake Charles was a dinner party given by the captain on his 54th birthday. One of the guests who signed his name "Calkasse" wrote the following which appeared in the local newspaper:

"Mr. Editor: Together with some dozen others, I had the pleasure of attending last Thursday, a dinner party given by our old and universally respected citizen. The dinner, the wines, the elgairs, the music by his accomplished daughter and the general hospitality and friendly feeling which gave this so much relief, made the occasion one of the happiest of my life and that was the verdict of all the guests."

"A visit by the entire party after dinner to the captain's monster saw mill with its six saws in motion, cutting logs, sawing slabs... afforded us much interest and impressed us more than ever with the sense of dignity of labor. This mill is said to be one of the best in America."

"The dark, the Negroes were treated to the best of living: whiskey and each in turn gave a toast in honor of the day. Some of these toasts were de- cidedly original and some of them could not be equalled."

"One of the Negroes named "Redhead" spoke nearly as follows: Ladies and gentlemen, I am not accustomed to giving toasts and you have taken me off my guard, but I'll do the best I can, according to my mind. Here's health and happiness, neither riches nor poverty, but a sufficiency of the good things of life to make it happy. Tip your hats down she goes, to my lips and down she slips."

Capt. Goos died in 1898 leaving a large tract of land which ran from Calcasieu River south to Louisiana Western Railroad, east of and adjoining Nix and Lyons subdivision. This tract became Moelling subdivision with streets bearing the names of his wife and some of the dozen children they had.

Goos' generositty continues even today. The catalog of McNeese State University lists as one of the scholarships available at the university the following "Goosport Gravensport Endowment. All descendants of Daniel Goos are entitled to receive $15 per month while attending McNeese State University and maintaining averages necessary for graduation."

Northern section of Goos Street