Many Stories Told of How Algiers Got Its Name

Same Backgrounds Unite Two Sections of Orleans

Residents Recognize Only Place They Love

By RICHARD REMY DIXON

How Algiers got its name has always been the subject of discussion, almost since that part of New Orleans on the West Bank of the Mississippi River became part of the city during March, 1870.

Stories tell how Algiers got its name are always interesting, as varied as they may be. To natives of Algiers and its older citizens, there is little or no concern about the origin of its name; the only thing that they recognize is that it is a place that they love dearly... and more.

Algiers and the area, hinterlands of New Orleans, had their beginnings about the same time as the main portion of the city. The same historical backgrounds unite both sides of the river.

The Territorial Government of Louisiana, under legislative enactments of 1800, decreed that the river opposite New Orleans was a portion of the Parish of Orleans, which included also Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes.

UNDER POLICY JURY

Prior to 1840, Algiers was under the jurisdiction of a police jury. The state Legislature on March 28, 1840, created a separate police jury for all that portion of Orleans Parish on the West Bank, and other governmental changes were to follow.

When the state Legislature enlarged the power and jurisdiction of this police jury, Algiers found the (powder) magazine surrounded by a hamlet, with guardians of Carondelet still in possession. From the old son of the house, a sailor, a flow of the Guadalupe, at his suggestion the name was given, which has held so tenaciously; not even the recent incorporation and legal change of name was sufficient to obliterate the old name, and it will probably be called Algiers for generations to come. Poor Philip had one of the many victims of the first of the two terrible destructive cholera epidemics of 1832, said to have been brought down from the river on the steamboat Constitution. He died unannounced and unmarked, but lives in history as the Father of Algiers?

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