Inside of Guidry Home Finished Years Later

Theodulé Guidry was the son of Thélesman Guidry and Herména Daigle. He was named for his grandfather, Théodule Daigle, who with his brother, Joseph, built, around 1843, the first houses in what was later to become the town of Church Point. Théodule Daigle’s house was built with “mud between posts” walls (bousillage). It was to this house that Théodule Guidry brought his wife, Lula Savoy, to live around 1902. Théodule Daigle had moved in with his daughter Hermina and Telemes because of illness. He died there in 1907.

Théodule and Lula’s first child, Lucille (Mrs. Paul “Joe” McRide) was born in the old house. She remembers her mother saying she (Lucille) ate the mud off the walls when she was a baby. In 1910, Théodule built a new house closer to the front of the property. He was a jack-of-all-trades and one of his trades was carpentry.

He built the outside of the house, but left the inside mostly unfinished because of a lack of funds. For the following six or seven years, he worked on completing the house whenever he had extra money to buy the materials he needed. The picture of the house taken in 1942 shows the outside still unpainted and the fence half painted.

Théodule was the manager of the Guidry’s 100 acres of farmland. He also had a small store in the front of the house. The store had a tin roof and a wooden door that could be slid open. The store was used to sell groceries, clothing, and hardware.

Inside the house was a wide central hall with a living room and bedroom on the left side. The kitchen, dining room, and two porches formed a T-shape across the back. Baths were taken in wash tubs on the end of the porch. The water was hauled in buckets from a well which was near the porch.

Mr. Guidry built some of his furniture. Lucille described a round lazy Susan table that revolved. Someone would always try to hold certain foods at their place. One time Lucille and her brother Melvin were having a tug of war over it and when one of them let go, the food flew all over the place. Lucille doesn’t know what has happened to that table. She presumes it was sold along with all the other furniture when her parents moved to the West for reasons of health. They only stayed gone a few months, and when they came back they had to find all new furniture for their house.

Some of Mr. Guidry’s other trades were a farmer, an inventor, and a glasser.

HE FARMED land near where Earl Hanroud lives. His main crops were cotton and sweet potatoes. He also planted a cotton in a field near his home. That land was later sold and Bertrand Barouche moved his cotton gin there.

Lucille can recall the wagon loads of cotton lined up on the street in front of the house waiting to get to the gin. Some people would start lining up late at night so they could be first in the morning. Ginning was a slow process with the steam powered machines. Mr. Guidry managed that gin for a while.

In the book “La Pointe de l’Eglise” on pages 50 and 51, an ad from the 1909 newspaper, The Democrat, is reprinted. A story about the Double Bales Hay Press invented by Théodule Guidry. “What do you pay for a bale of Hay? Perhaps you are paying too much. The hay bales that were sold by Guidry were usually sold by the ton. The hay bales were usually sold by the ton. The hay bales were usually sold by the ton and in 1900, Guidry sold hay bales in the early 1900’s. The bandleader was Albert Guidry and seven of the twelve members were Guidrys. The band played for political campaigns, at fish fries and barbecues, parties, and church functions. Mrs. Dewey Harmon, the former Lina Guidry, whose father Pierre (Théodule’s brother) also played in the band, remembers the band leading funeral processions.

There was a bandroom built in Albert Guidry’s yard. His house was where Mr. Francis Bertinot now lives. The band would practice there every Monday and Friday night. People would come over to listen to their practice, even though you could not hear the music all over the town. There were no traffic noises and not many houses in the path of the sound waves.

The Guidry band traveled as far as Baton Rouge and Lake Charles. Mrs. Rose (Guidry) Melancon played slide trombone in the band at one time. Her five brothers all played in the band. Shown in the picture are from left to right: Ben Guidry, Albert Guidry, Jack Guidry, Ignace Guidry, Joseph Guidry, Felix Barouche, and Leo Barouche. Back row from left are: Théodule Guidry, Pierre Guidry, Bertrand Barouche, and Charlie Guidry.

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Higginbotham in their remodeled kitchen. It features wood paneling that was resting to 5 feet high with wall paper above up to the 12 foot ceiling.

Theodulé Guidry is shown in this picture with other members of his family at the home of Telemes Guindry, which stood where Louis Arceneaux now lives on Main Street. This picture was taken around 1902. From left standing on porch: Théodule Daigle, Emile Daigle and his wife, Corrine, Pierre Guidry, Mrs. Pierre Guidry, Théodule Guidry, Mrs. Telemes Guindry, Mrs. Edmund Deville, Edmund Deville. Top step: Dora, Cora, and Etienne Guidry. Bottom step: Ernest Guidry, Louis Guidry, unidentified child.

Theodulé Guidry and Lula’s children took part of the house with them when they left. The back portion of the house, dining room, kitchen, and porch, was moved to their lot and used to build their house.

Eugenie and Floyd Daigle lived with her parents while their house was being built in 1935. Their daughter, Diana, was born there.

Theodulé and Lula provided a home for some of their children and grandchildren after their marriages before they acquired homes of their own.

Melvin and his wife, Lela Sonnier, lived there for seven months after they were married in 1933. Mrs. Lela remembers the coal heater in the bathroom that smoked up the whole house. Heat was provided in the living room by a fireplace, and the kitchen had a wood stove that gave off a lot of heat.

Melvin and Lela took part of the house with them when they left. They built on the back of the house, and built a garage in the back. The back portion became the new house, and the old house became the garage.

The school, which was built in 1927, the old two-story school building was rented to the KC’s to use as the KC Home. The School Board sold it to Rufus Fruge.

Theodulé and Lula married Moise Daigle, Jr. in 1954. They lived with their grandfather. They stayed a short time and then moved away. They later moved back with Tommy and Tessie to the old house and their children Guy, Nancy, and Chad were born while they lived there. They stayed until

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shortly after Mr. Guidry died in 1960. Diane says they have fond memories of that old house.

The house was sold to Albert Elkins in 1963. He and his wife lived there until 1972 when she died. She had died earlier.

Their son, Milton, bought the house and resold it to Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Higginbotham.

Rufus and his wife, the former Belinda Joubert and their daughter, Erica, are continuing the tradition started by Mr. Theodule Guidry - that of fixing up the house a little at a time. They are doing all of their own carpentry work.

In the relatively short time of Higginbotham's lived there, they have completed some major remodeling jobs. The outside of the house has been completely repaired. The electrical wiring and the plumbing have been updated. The kitchen and bathroom have also been completely redone.

The attic has never been finished since the house was built. Rufus is planning to put a bedroom, bathroom, and a studio for himself where he can do oil paintings.

The living room mantle was stripped of its many coats of paint, and a kersey hang cloth used to sit on the shelf because a round burn mark was found above the mirror on a protruding wood facing.

The side front door has a large frosted glass pane with an unfrosted flower motif. The main entrance at the front used to have an identical glass pane but was broken many years ago by a stray baseball from the school which was across the street.

Rufus said the greatest discovery he has made since moving into the house is the timber on which the house is built. They are 12 X 12 inch hand cut cypress beams. He found out that they were part of the Theodule Daigle house which first stood on the property. The timber was pulled by horses from the site of the old house to where Theodule Guidry built his house.

The roots of Church Point can be traced back to this house and property on a street appropriately named Daigle Street.