Louisiana Places

Smoke Bend

Smoke Bend is the name of a small community located on the outskirts of Donaldsonville. Smoke Bend had its own post office for more than fifty years. It was discontinued in 1953.

Tradition gives us several accounts of the manner in which this settlement acquired the appellation Smoke Bend, one of them being: The village is located just below a large bend in the Mississippi River. It is said that the campfires of the Indians inhabiting this region emitted an unusually large amount of smoke. The eye of one descending the river, or "making" this bend, being here greeted with columns of smoke caused the early travelers and boatmen to acclaim this section "Smoke Bend," which title it has retained to this day.

Source: Sidney Marchand's "The Story of Ascension Parish."

—Clare D'Artois Leeper