**EARLY EDUCATION**

Public education was apparently unknown in Louisiana prior to the Louisiana Purchase. Between 1803 and 1813 there were only two public schools established in Pointe Coupee Parish, but instruction was generally by tutor for the wealthy and in church schools for the less-well-to-do.

In the Constitution of 1812 there was no mention of education, and what money there was it was used to subsidize private schools.

In 1826 three public schools were established in Garfield Parish. In 1833 the title of State Superintendent of Education was added to the Secretary of State.

The General School Act of 1847 is sometimes referred to as the beginning of public education in Louisiana. It provided for a full time State Superintendent of Education, for a parish superintendent to be elected by the people, and to be paid up to $300 per year.

The school fund was made up of the proceeds of a one mill tax, and all the poll taxes and the proceeds of sales of sales of school lands.

In 1835 the office of parish superintendent was abolished because the legislators claimed the cost of paying them took too much of the school funds.

**TEACHER EDUCATION**

Up until this time there had been no provision for teacher education, but in 1835 a school was established to educate teachers. This was suspended during, the Civil War. Public education made no progress during the war and the reconstruction years. All the money went for the officials so none was left to support the schools.

In 1867 forty schools were reported in New Orleans. This ended in 1876 for the schools' funds had been stolen, and very few students reached with instruction.

Later the Normal School turned out some good: young teachers who were enthusiastic, and preached the gospel of tax supported education as the right of all.
EDUCATION IN BAYOU CHICOT - 1903 - The Building in this picture is the first such structure built specifically for a school in the area, prior to that time classes were held in various unused buildings or a room of someone's home.

Shown are ancestors of many of the present-day residents. Left to right, first row are: John Forman, Alfred Forman, Wilson Whittington, Garnett Murphy, Charlie Murphy, William R. Walker, Massie Whittington, Susie Erlich, Walter Murphy, Herbert Murphy, and Charlie Wolff.

In the second row are: Joe Hawkins (on the horse), Robert Walker, Henry Erlich, Robert Murphy, Flora Forman (the only one of the group still alive), Frances Walker, Grace Lawson, Irene Walker, Eva Whittington, Ora Wall, Adrienne Wolff, Rosie Wooley and Vince Leyser.

Mrs. Della Newell, teacher, is shown behind Massie Whittington and Susie Erlich and in front of Irene Walker and Eva Whittington.