Louisiana Places

Castor Springs

In a sketch of Catahoula Parish written in 1860 by New Orleans newspaperman J. W. Dorr, only two communities are described in detail — Harrisonburg, the parish seat, and Castor Springs.

Dorr locates Castor Springs as being thirty-five miles north-west of Harrisonburg and lists it as being one of the ten post offices in the parish at that time. His description of Castor Springs continues:

“These Springs are, comparatively, a recently opened place of resort for invalids, extensive and comfortable improvements having been made during a season or two past. For a score of years, however, the neighborhood people have been in the habit of getting their dyspepsias, rheumatisms and liver complaints cured by imbibing the unusually strong red and white sulphur waters which boil up copiously from the earth. From what I have learned it seems certain that the waters are an unfailing dead-shot for the first two named disorders, and are frequently efficacious in the last. Many almost miraculous cures have been effected by them. This summer a crowd of visitors are in attendance at the Louisiana watering place, which supplies healing waters, conveniently furnished right in our own State, that would render unnecessary in many cases an expensive tour to the far off Sulphur Springs of Virginia. Three or four miles from the Castor Springs is a remarkable well called 'The Sour Well,' the waters of which are said to have a strongly marked and peculiar acid flavor, and to be a specific in dyspepsia. Thirty-five miles south of the Castor Springs are the 'Buffalo White Sulphur Springs.'"

The records of the Post Office Department in the National Archives show that a post office was established at Castor Springs, Catahoula Parish, Louisiana, on January 30, 1958. It was discontinued on June 22, 1866.

A post office was established at Castor Sulphur Springs, Catahoula Parish, Louisiana, on March 3, 1875. Its name was changed to Olla on January 23, 1892. This office is still in existence. Olla is in LaSalle Parish now, since it was located in that part of Catahoula out of which LaSalle was created in 1908.

With modern roads Olla is only twenty miles distant from White Sulphur Springs and twenty-six from Harrisonburg.

—Clare D'Artois Leeper