Cloutierville is located on Cane River about 20 miles southeast of the town of Natchitoches in Natchitoches Parish. The population is 225, according to the 1960 census.

Cloutierville was founded very soon after Natchitoches but it was not incorporated until 1822. In 1817 Alexis Cloutier donated the site for the Catholic Church which was built during that year. Shortly after the town was incorporated there was a movement to divide Natchitoches Parish, and to make Cloutierville the capital of the new parish, but this was never done. The most famous citizen of Cloutierville was Kate Chopin, who came to Cloutierville in 1880, with her husband Oscar Chopin. She lived in Cloutierville from 1880 to 1883, after the death of her husband. It was during these three years that she collected the material and absorbed the atmosphere for most of the charming stories which she wrote and which are collected in her two books, “Bayou Folk” and “A Night in Acadia.”

Estant Prudhomme described Cloutierville life in 1850 in his diary. Kate Chopin’s daughter Leila, who was born there, described Cloutierville as “A rambling little French village of one street, with the Catholic church at one end and our plantation at the other, and the Red River flowing through everybody’s backyard.” (Cane River was the bed of Red River until the 1830s when it jumped its track.)

Source: N. S. Berry’s Place-Names of Natchitoches Parish

—Clare D’Artois Leeper