Old Brand Book Given to SLI Indicates Cattle Industry Started in Louisiana

BY ALTON BRODHEAD

Lafayette, La.--The dean of the Southwest Louisiana Institute has just been furnished with the Old Brand Book which recently was discovered in the family archives of the famous cattle industry of the Lone Star State. The book, which is the property of Mrs. Grace M. Cochrane of Calcasieu parish, is the widow of the late Douglas W. Cochrane, also was branding officer.

A book of early Louisiana cattle brands is shown by Mrs. Gladys Cochran to Profs. Clyde Rougeau (left) and T. J. Arceneaux of Southeastern Louisiana Institute, to which book has been given.

The book is apparently the oldest record of brands known in Louisiana. It contains 27,000 recorded brands from 1798 to 1888. It was the only book of brands,appendix officers who maintained the Central Brand Code for the territories of Opelousas, Lafayette, Vermilion and Iberia. Other parishes were later carved into parishes of St. Landry, Iberia, Lafayette, Vermilion, etc. Many brands were not recorded from these parishes until the Central Brand Code was established, 1888.

John Garand, a junior, branded his animal "A." jointed to a heart. Honore Arceneaux in 1827. "SOS" was the brand of Adrien Vuilleumet and was recorded by J. Louis Arsenault in the old book brought here by Mrs. Cochrane.

The Louisiana cattle industry, the dean points out, was without trail drivers starting operation in the new state of Texas. The West as a land of cowboys and life on the range was written in the early days of the prairies of Louisiana. Practically all early settlers had registered brands, and these were inherited by their sons and daughters. These brands, appointive officers who maintained the Central Brand Code for the territories of Opelousas, Lafayette, Vermilion and Iberia. Other parishes were later carved into parishes of St. Landry, Iberia, Lafayette, Vermilion, etc. Many brands were not recorded from these parishes until the Central Brand Code was established, 1888.

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