Cankton -- Its Origin

By Mrs. L. A. (Cank) Guidry

Turning back the pages of time we see a little barefoot, country boy by the name of Louis Aristide Guidry, always carrying a gun and duck call, roaming the then sparsely populated Coulee Croche section of St. Landry Parish. Ducks and other game were very plentiful in the "good old days" (and no game wardens).

After each hunt, as he neared his home, he would give the signal that he was back by using the duck call. "Cank, cank, cank!"

His folks would say, "Cank et revenu!"

Therefore, he kept the name of "Cank."

When Cank Guidry finished high school at St. Stanislaus in Bay St. Louis, Miss., he went to Tulane University in New Orleans to study medicine. After receiving his Doctor of Medicine degree, there seemed to be no other place in the world in which to practice than in his old stomping ground, Coulee Croche. He was then known as "Dr. Cank."

He married the former Cecile Durio of Opelousas and there they settled in Coulee Croche. Besides the doctor's home a few more homes and one-room schoolhouse were built. Later a church was erected.

As the little hamlet grew someone suggested giving it another name than Coulee Croche, as Coulee Croche comprised such a large territory that was still not yet inhabited. Different names were suggested, but none seemed more suitable than Cankton, for the Dr. Cank whom everyone turned to for counsel. Thus the name of Cankton originated.

The late Louis Aristide Guidry, M.D., citizen was always proud of his little town.

ONE OF THE FEW old places left at Leonville of the eighteenth century by a family of free men of color of the Leonville section.

A giant live oak shelters the house, which is of panelled walls and doors. Cypress weathered shakes these houses, the single roof has been covered with red tiles of the late 1800's.

Dated January 15, 1854.

IN TYPE made many years ago of old Homel Durio home in Prairie Ronde.

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BY THE LATE MR. LEON

Shown above is the late Mr. Leone's old gin, which he built in 1854.