

# **CAJUNS, CREOLES, PIRATES AND PLANTERS**

*Your New Louisiana Ancestors Format*

Volume 3, Number 49

**GREAT BOOK:** Sue Eakin and Joseph Logsdon wrote an introduction to *Twelve Years a Slave*, and their documentation is one of the best you will find in connection with a previously published book. The introduction is followed by a copy of the original edition cover, which in itself tells the story that is about to unfold in the following pages.

TWELVE YEARS A SLAVE.  
—  
NARRATIVE  
OF  
SOLOMON NORTHUP,  
A CITIZEN OF NEW-YORK,  
KIDNAPPED IN WASHINGTON CITY IN 1841,  
AND  
RESCUED IN 1853,  
FROM A COTTON PLANTATION NEAR THE RED RIVER,  
IN LOUISIANA.

—  
AUBURN:  
DERBY AND MILLER.  
BUFFALO:  
DERBY, ORTON AND MULLIGAN.  
CINCINNATI:  
HENRY W. DERBY.  
1853.

Title page of the original edition

*Twelve Years a Slave* should be on all reading lists for both the younger generation and adults who have not read it before. It's a book that deserves a place on all library shelves. Only in accounts such as this can an understanding be made of the

true nature of the period of time that we are constantly reminded of especially in the Deep South.

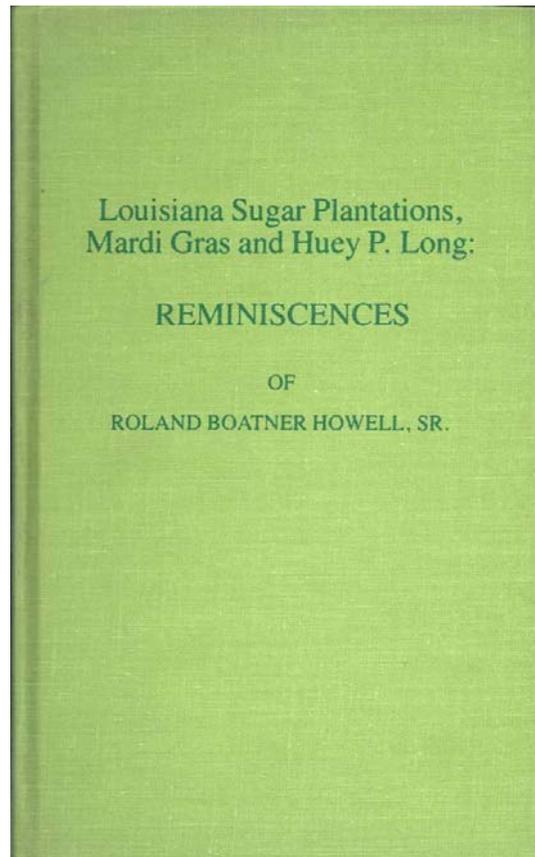
This is the story of Solomon Northup, which was first published in 1853. It is a somewhat unique story in the way it all came about, but it was such an unjust happening that it can amaze you and bring you to tears.

Even though this bizarre and almost unbelievable story was told and made available to the public years ago, it still offers an outstanding look at this period of our history. No other slave has left such a lasting impression as one finds in this book by Northup.

You can order a copy through any major book store. It is a publication from Louisiana State University Press.

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**INTERESTING BOOK:** *Louisiana Sugar Plantations, Mardi Gras and Huey P. Long: Reminiscences of Roland Boatner Howell, Sr.* is a volume that can be enjoyed by anyone – general readers, genealogists, historians, and avid researchers.



This book was published by Claitor's in 1969 and still furnishes readers with a look at earlier Louisiana history. The introduction was written by Sam H. Jones, Governor of Louisiana 1940-1944. Jones was a friend of Howell.

What stood out for me in reading this book was the sincerity to inform and educate rather than compile a book to become a best seller. It comes across as an accurate picture of life in Louisiana at this time, and it stands as a nice picture of preservation of a heritage through the stories told here.

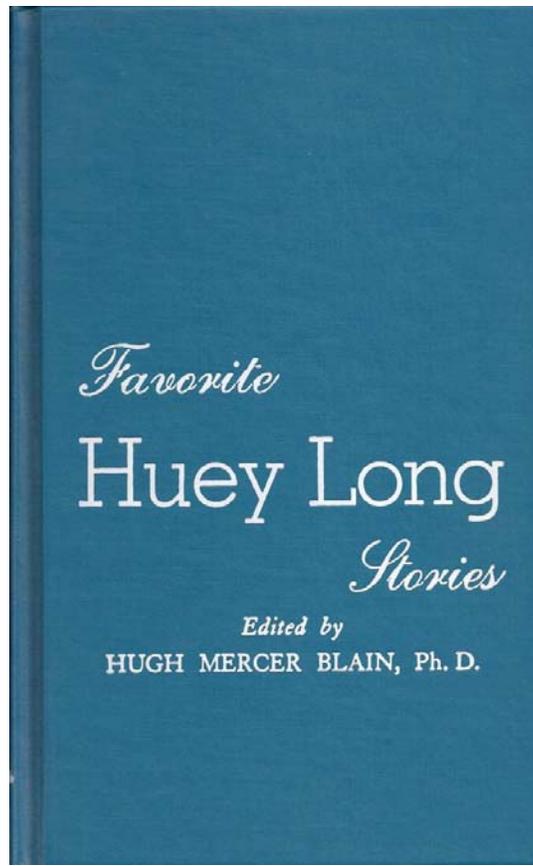
Many books have been written about Louisiana, but this one seems to be one of the most honest approaches I've ever seen. It is an incredible and wonderful way to spend a little time learning about the past, and genealogists will find many family links here. The interest in the period will also be noted and offer a better understanding to life during these years.

Howell was a son of Judge William E. Howell of Waverly Plantation and Thibodaux. Nearby were the plantations of Edward Douglas White, Chief Justice of the United States, Francis Tillou Nichols, the Governor who brought Louisiana out of the darkness of Reconstruction, Braxton Bragg, General of the Confederate Army, Leonidas Polk, a man of God and man of the sword, and scores of others. There are many family ties directly to or residing in the areas where these individuals lived.

Fully illustrated with family pictures, it was my pleasure to have discovered this book in my files, and it will soon be added to the Veach-Foshee Memorial Library Collection at the Mansfield Female College Museum in Mansfield, DeSoto Parish, Louisiana.

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**LONG BOOK:** Another book about to become a part of the DeSoto Parish museum collection is *Favorite Huey Long Stories*, edited by Hugh Mercer Blain and a publication of Claitor's dating to 1937.



The title of this book tells it all. Whether you consider it as a historical addition to your library or just a book to better understand a man and his period of time in Louisiana, you get to know the man a little better. You can forget politics and just sit back and enjoy charming little stories. It is a book that can bring lots of joy to any reader.

This one is a true Louisiana collectible.

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**ELHA MEETING:** The Edward Livingston Historical Society will meet on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Livingston Parish Library in Livingston. Kenny Kleinpeter will speak on the anatomy of a graveyard, re-discovering Highland Cemetery in Baton Rouge.

Kleinpeter, sexton for the 200-year-old Highland Cemetery, will present data collected in his lifelong goal to properly and accurately restore East Baton Rouge Parish's oldest surviving cemetery. He is working in consultation with the State of Louisiana's foremost authority on grave matters, Ryan Seidemann. They work slowly collecting data that tells them where the graves are, who is buried there, and what can be done to restore them as accurately as possible.

**Kleinpeter is a seventh-generation Louisianian and lives next to (if not over) Highland Cemetery with his wife, Antoinette. This program will offer a unique perspective into a unique and very historic old Louisiana cemetery. Guests are welcome.**

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**FREE SERVICE: Correspondence to this column should be directed to Damon Veach, Cajuns, Creoles, Pirates and Planters, 709 Bungalow Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5337. The e-mail address is [ancestorslaveach@cox.net](mailto:ancestorslaveach@cox.net). Queries and book reviews are printed as space permits, and you are encouraged to take advantage of this free service. Claitor's Publishing can serve as a distributor for self-published genealogy titles. Go to their homepage for details on how you can obtain this excellent service.**