

Shed Road marker erected

Written by Ann Middleton
Wednesday, 06 February 2013 09:14 -

In its January 22, 1961 issue *The Bossier Tribune* covered the erection of a marker commemorating Shed Road.

“A marker depicting the history of the nine-mile Shed Road, one of the most unusual covered toll roads in Louisiana and the nation, was dedicated at ceremonies staged by the Louisiana Society of the Daughters of the American Colonists Wednesday.”

“The metal marker, mounted on a large concrete block, is located at the intersection of Airline Drive and Shed Road here.”

“Shed Road played a vital part in opening up commerce between Shreveport and Bossier City and settlements to the east. Prior to construction of the road, a nine-mile stretch through the lowlands between Red Chute and Bossier City remained a quagmire during the winter and spring months.”

“Cotton farmers were unable to traverse the lowlands. Mules sank in the brown muck up to their waists and wagons bogged down.”

“Judge John R. Watkins of Minden secured the permission of Congress to build a covered road through the stretch, a project begun and completed in 1874. The coming of the railroads in 1886 spelled the end of the road erected on an embankment thrown up by Irish immigrant workers.”

“The toll road was an outstanding financial success. Profits totaled \$20,000 a year or more during the life of the unique road which required a minimum of maintenance.”

“Three grandchildren of Judge Watkins journeyed from Minden to attend the ceremonies. They are Miss Flora Glenn Watkins, Mrs. Lynetta Watkins Toadvin and John R. Watkins.”

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“Two eighth grade classes from Shreveport’s Youree Drive Junior High School also attended the event. The 58 students taught by Mrs. Hugh Walmsley and Miss Evelyn Gibson, are currently studying the history of the Shed Road.”

“Guest speaker at the event was V. V. Whittington, president of the Bossier Bank and Trust Co. Mrs. A. D. Strange-Boston, DAC state chaplain, delivered the invocation and benediction and Mrs. Grady Nelson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.”

Mrs. Dorf Bean, DAC state regent and Mrs. Donald Dickson unveiled the marker. Bossier Parish Police Jury President Boyd Montgomery accepted the marker on behalf of the parish.”

To find out more about Shed Road and other Bossier Parish landmarks, visit the Bossier Parish Library Historical Center.

Ann Middleton is Director of the Bossier Parish Library Historical Center. She can be reached at (318) 746-7717 or by e-mail at amiddlet@state.lib.la.us