

# Public Meeting Summary

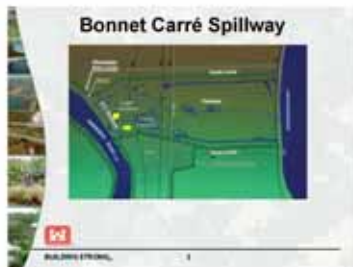
## Long Term Management of the Bonnet Carre Spillway Historic Cemeteries February 8, 2012

<b>Location</b>	St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Borromeo Room 13396 River Road, Destrehan, LA
<b>Time</b>	Open House 6:00 p.m. Presentation 6:30 p.m., followed by a discussion
<b>Attendees</b>	Approx. 60
<b>Format</b>	Open House Presentation
<b>Handouts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kenner cemetery landscaping plan</li> <li>• Kugler cemetery landscaping plan</li> <li>• Bonnet Carre Spillway Fact Sheet</li> </ul>
<b>Facilitator</b>	Rachel Rodi

**Louisiana State Senator Gary Smith:** I'd like to thank everyone coming to the meeting tonight and I'd like to thank the Corps for making this meeting happen.

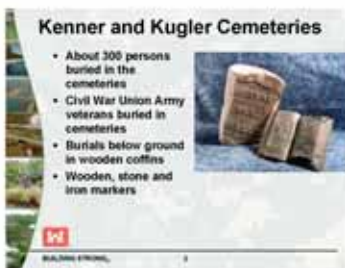
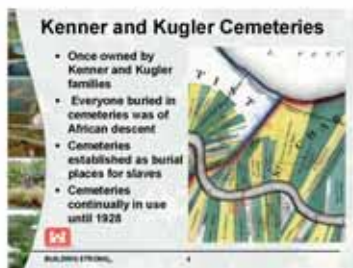


**Chris Brantley:** Thanks again for coming tonight. I'm Chris Brantley and I am the Project Manager for the Bonnet Carre Spillway. The Bonnet Carre Spillway's main function is to reduce the amount of water flowing to downstream communities. You've seen it operate over the years and even as recently as



last year, in 2011, it was opened to relieve pressure of the flood water coming in to the Mississippi River. Since 1936 we have had ten openings.

In addition to its flood control purpose, it has other functions. We have 8,000 acres of property where we have fish stocked, we have fishing, crawfishing and outdoor recreation. We also have two cultural resources out there. The first resource is the spillway structure. It is



eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and we are working on getting it listed. In addition we have the Kenner and the Kugler cemeteries.

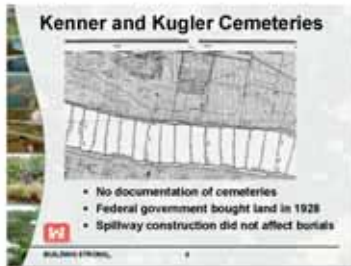
They were once owned by the Kenner and Kugler families and everyone that we know of that is buried there was of

African descent. It was a burial place for enslaved workers from the plantations and was in continuous use until 1928 when they were still receiving burials.

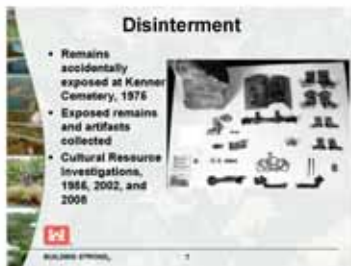
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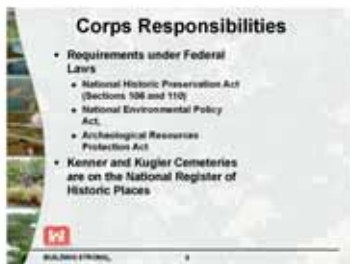
We know more about the Kenner cemetery than about the Kugler cemetery but we estimate there are about 150 people buried in each cemetery. We also know there are several Union Army veterans buried there. You can see that a headstone was inadvertently removed from its place at the cemetery. This is Sanders Ray's US Army issued headstone. All the burials were below ground in wood coffins and also some wooden and iron markers on the burial sites were disinterred.



From all the old maps we've gathered we noticed that the early maps don't document the cemeteries at all. There are maps through the years when the cemeteries were in use and even through 1934 where we still can see where there might have been the cemetery but it's hard to see them. They are also hard to see in the photos we've gathered. The construction of the Spillway didn't affect the cemeteries because the spillway is on the river and the cemeteries are further away from the construction efforts.



After the 1975 opening of the spillway is when we found the remains. Equipment was used to drain water from an area near the spillway and the equipment inadvertently went into the cemetery and exposed some of the caskets and remains. In 1975 the St. Charles Parish Coroner and Sheriff Department office took over the remains because they were concerned they may have been from a body that was dumped near there. They collected a lot of information and the remains resided in St. Charles Parish for about 10 years. Then in 1985 there was a cultural resource study done. After going through a bunch of paperwork it was realized that they might have a cemetery and people buried in this area. There are probably people in this room tonight that were contacted as part of the study because the descendants let them know there was also the Kugler Cemetery. There was a lot of information gathered during interviews with descendants in 1985 and 2002. The interviews also brought out oral history and gave us information about who was buried in the cemeteries as well as a lot of the early history about the area. Finally in 2008, after the opened the spillway again we had another investigation done where they re-surveyed the area to determine the boundaries of the cemeteries. We found a scour hole and using equipment were able to backfill it with an archeologist to make sure the scour hole wouldn't get worse. We checked the area again after the 2011 spillway opening to make sure the cemeteries were okay. There is nothing above ground, the caskets and burials are under now under the sentiment brought in by the river.

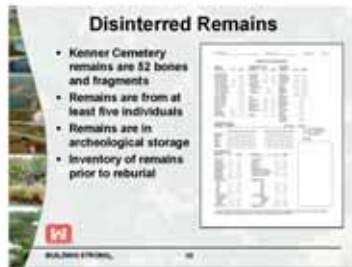


The Corps has responsibilities for the cemeteries. We have to follow the National Historic Preservation Act, National Environmental Policy Act and the Archeological Resources Protection Act. Both of these cemeteries were already placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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We coordinated with the descendants to get to this point of the process. This picture was taken at the Kenner Cemetery and you can see it looks like a grassy field and you can't see anything at this time. Our agency is obligated to consider feedback from descendants and in the past, several people in this room have been interviewed to help determine what action we should take. The consensus was to keep the people who are buried in the cemeteries in place and the remains that have been disinterred would be placed back into the Kenner Cemetery so we want to continue descendant coordination and the meeting tonight is to continue the plans we have for both cemeteries.



Currently there are 52 bones and fragments in archeological storage. They are from at least 5 individuals and before reburial we'd like to inventory those remains.



The purpose of the meeting tonight is to solicit some feedback on our plan. You'll see in the back we've put up a few ideas. Those are by no means final. They are there for the descendants and for people who have an interest in this part of history to let us know that we are headed in the right direction. We have three important things to mention. This is for the long term preservation of these sites. We'd like to provide some improvements and we'd like to identify where the sites are so the public knows where the Kenner and Kugler cemeteries are. Then there is an interpretive plan, which consists of panels at the sites to tell the story of the cemeteries. The interpretive plan includes a

commemorative booklet that has been developed after researching these areas. Finally we have a plan to rebury the exposed remains.



In the back there are displays showing the site improvements. We are proposing some landscaping and access improvements to both the cemeteries. The Corps would like to put something in to identify the sites but we also don't want it to catch debris during a spillway opening. Fences can collect debris and can cause scouring. We had debris that caused scouring so we want to have minimal type things like trees and low lying vegetation and concrete boundary markers and tree plantings so people who go to the site would recognize there are panels there.

This could be a Friends of the Spillway project. We're lucky to have State Representative Miller and Councilwoman Ms. Schexnaydre as part of the group already.

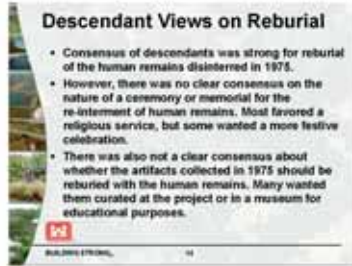


This is a non-profit that can make improvements out there. Not just at the cemeteries but they would be able to do additional landscaping in the spillway. For example we have a model airplane club and they keep the area mowed. We would like to approach the Friends of the Spillway and possibly a sponsor to help with upkeep in the areas on a more frequent basis.

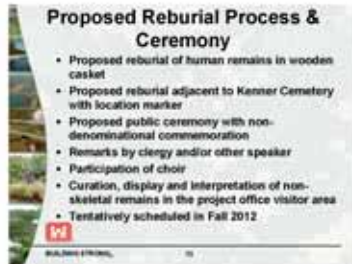
These are samples of the Interpretive Plan display panels that would be placed at the Kenner and Kugler cemeteries. We have those panels for you to look at and we have a draft of a history booklet also. You're

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welcome to look through the booklets and some of the written descriptions and then we'd like to include brochures and the website on them. There are a lot of tours in the River Road area including plantations and cemeteries in St. Charles Parish. People stop to see the structure but there are also these sites and seasonal events that we could tie in.

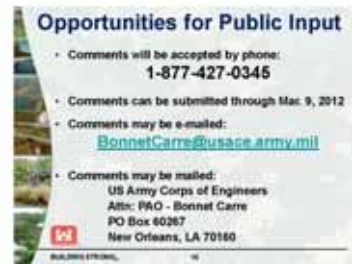


After the oral history was taken the consensus among the descendants is that the human remains should stay where they were resting cemeteries and also to rebury the disinterred remains in the Kenner cemetery but there was no clear consensus about the ceremony. Some descendants wanted a religious service and some wanted a celebration. There wasn't consensus about the hardware either. We recovered a headstone and casket and other hardware. There were grave markers there also but there was no consensus on whether those pieces should be curated or buried.

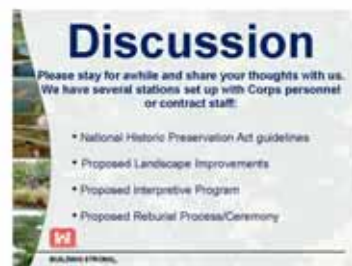


The idea that we have put forward tonight is that the human remains would be placed in a wooden casket adjacent to the cemetery, so we wouldn't disturb it, and we propose a public, non-denominational ceremony. There could be a clergy and a choir there and also we would display the non-human remains. Then after the ceremony the non-human remains would be on a permanent display at the spillway office. We would like to do this, this fall. We're here for feedback but [there are Union Army soldiers buried here and] another aspect is to have a

military ceremony or color guard as part of the ceremony.



You can reach us by phone or e-mail or you can mail us. The comment cards in the back are self addressed. Or you can email us at [bonnetcarre@usace.army.mil](mailto:bonnetcarre@usace.army.mil). And you can look for information on these social networks.



We wanted to take this time to give you some background and then to describe our proposal and now we're listening to you. We have Paul Hughbanks here to talk about Section 106 coordination, Ben Maygarden and Michael Stout are here with me and I'll be here if you want to stay and talk to me.

I appreciate you coming out tonight and we'll take a few questions from the floor.

**Larry Franklin:** Considering the proposed barriers and the water I'm concerned about disrupting these grave sites again. I would suggest that the protective wall extend a certain number of feet down below the grave sites to prevent further scouring. I would also suggest covering the grave site with concrete to prevent further scouring. There are sites around the September 11 area where grave sites were found covered over. Another concern I have about the interpretive panels, are they digital?

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**Chris Brantley:** They could be digital but they are a type of plastic right now.

**Michael Stout, MWH:** They are fiberglass blend, it's an image embedded in the material and then that is embedded into metal. They would be anchored into a concrete block but we could unfasten them in advance of a spillway opening or we would let the water pass over them.

**Larry Franklin:** My concern there is I'm part of the community and I have seen other panels that are digital and can read through synthetic speech by those who are blind. I would like to consider having those panels made in such a way that if you can't access the print, might you be able to access them in another way. And they should be accessible by people in wheelchairs that can't reach them. So that people in wheelchairs could access them.

**Margie Richard:** My comment would be, since it has been proven that the descendants are African American, I would say they should call this an African American burial site. That's my comment that the name be changed. The next thing is, since we are here and we have parish officials here, this is the first time I've heard of the Friends of the Spillway. Is it a non-profit?

**Chris Brantley:** Yes, it's a non-profit affiliated with Bonnet Carre Spillway.

**Margie Richard:** I wonder who is the [Friends of the Spillway] open to? If there are going to be Friends of the Spillway, people who are stakeholders should be part of this organization. If they are open for anyone to be members tonight I hope someone would talk to them about educating people [about the cemeteries in the spillway]. I was interviewed in 2002 but we need to educate people about this.

**Chris Brantley:** There was a board that organized it. We got together and thankfully, with help Greg Miller, it's open membership and it would be for several projects. We're looking for representation from all our user groups so anyone with an interest they are welcome to join.

**Margie Richard:** If people don't know about it, it's not that they don't want it. You need to tell them what's on the table because this oral history went on in the 1970's and I was told not to talk about it. I am glad you're doing this. If you have time you should educate young people, they need to have input and listen to what you're doing. We need to move forward and let people know that Friends of the Spillway is open for people.

**Mr. Odinga:** You said these sites are on the National Register [of Historic Places]?

**Chris Brantley:** Yes, they are listed as the "Kenner and Kugler Cemeteries Archeological District."

**Mr. Odinga:** Does the federal government have jurisdiction over it?

**Chris Brantley:** The corps has a stewardship responsibility.

**Mr. Odinga:** So why do we need funds from a corporation?

**Chris Brantley:** There is a certain amount of maintenance we can do, we can mow the grass for example but if we want to do more, to make the area look nice it would be helpful to have a partnership.



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**Mr. Odinga:** There is a ship that's a historical site. And it is above a beautiful site. Did you have to raise funds to do that landscaping?

**Ken Holder, USACE PAO:** Are you talking Pearl Harbor? That's managed by the National Park Service.

**Mr. Odinga:** At what level of responsibility does the Federal government take responsibility?

**Paul Highbanks:** The Historic Register designation allows the Federal government to make sure any project that would maintain its cultural integrity. A historic property could be a home. There are guidelines that come into play but the government doesn't take over the property.

**Ken Holder:** The designation mostly stops other entities from taking over. It prevents a developer from taking over a historic property.

**Mr. Odinga:** If you put up the panel, who would be responsible for maintaining them?

**Chris Brantley:** Our project is responsible but if there are any additional amenities, if the Friends of the Spillway wanted to take on landscaping wildflowers in certain seasons for example they could. The Corps would do operations and maintenance.

**Father Giles Conwell, Xavier University:** I'm remembering they found thousands of slaves in New York City when they were building the new federal courthouse. They found pre-civil war slaves and in a five mile area they had 20,000. My point is, I see the re-internment and the commemoration ceremony but a combination of something religious and military would be appropriate like they so elegantly did for the slaves in New York.

**Carl Galmon:** I'm concerned if a plaque gives proper respect. Slavery ended in 1865 but in 1860 you had citizens. I spoke with the National Park Service and according to the director, they had billions of dollars. I feel the National Park Service should keep this up not the Corps because Louisiana was considered the slave capital of the south and there isn't one site in the state that explains the history of slavery. The Underground Railroad was ignorant of the cemeteries so this is a hidden history that isn't in the textbooks. I feel if we put the proper funding into this project it could be a historic site so just putting something out there and not making it attractive enough to be a site, it won't give it proper respect to its ancestors.

**George Kugler:** If a plaque is erected, I'd like to put a crest on it. I'd like to have the Kugler family crest on it and have it dedicated to the slave population.

**Mr. Leon Waters.** I'd like a minute to share with people. I'm a former member of the African American History Alliance. Seventeen years ago our organization petitioned the Corps to erect and interpret a display to honor the slaves and the heroes of the 1811 Slave Revolt. I want to make this clear this work is a result of people beyond me who signed petitions demanding that this be done. It's not an act of goodwill of the American Government. The African American History Alliance no longer exists because our founder Dr. Margaret Barros convinced us of a need to open a museum to focus on hidden history. Dr. Barros started a documented museum and was responsible for starting 40 museums. We lost her two years ago and I want to read a statement of our vision of what we think is needed. We don't see this written in stone, we believe in an engagement process with the River Parishes, with representation from up and down the road. There has to be an engagement process with universities and activities and

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people who are involved. We're working to popularize the hidden history of our ancestors. Before the spillway there were two and several hundred African were enslaved in what is now the Bonnet Carre, it was after the defeat of the Confederate Army. The cemeteries were used until 1929 and then the spillway was built. And 17 years ago an organization called the African American History Alliance petitioned the Corps to recognize it. Since then the Corps has agreed and produced a pamphlet in answer to our petition. I want to encourage people that they should take the time to read and study what has been proposed. Basically our position is that it appears as though there is an apology for slavery and the actual language in our opinion is incorrect, it blurs the truth and the word "residents" is used to describe people as opposed to a word describing a "captive" people. Residents get to choose where they live, these were not "residents." That same type of language is being used. In addition sometimes the reference is "African American." That's incorrect, we weren't Americans until after the 12, 13, 14 and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments. The references should be "African" and "people of African descent." This level of scholarship is needed in the pamphlet also. The Corps can't get this kind of understanding because they've been under-educated on this. So what do we want? We want to preserve and honor and learn and the way we have to do this is with new identification of the site. It should no longer be Kenner and Kugler because it is no longer private property. It should have a name that is more appropriate. We think it should be the African and African American Historical Site but it can't be Kenner or Kugler. We would like to have discussion on this question. We propose the site be designated as a memorial coming out of the African burials in New York and similar situations. The Federal government has various labels for various situations. It's already historic, if it were a memorial it would have to meet certain criteria and other labels. It should be a memorial because it should serve as an outreach and publicity tool. It should have a visitor's center. This can be done above the spillway and could be done just like in Chalmette to get people acquainted with the battle that shouldn't have been fought. And use a digital technology that can be duplicated so people could learn about who these people were and build on that and tie in to a heritage trail because there is tremendous history up and down the river. This is not the only cemetery; there are other cemeteries on the former Ormond Plantation that is set up like a park. It's not a park if you go on our tour you'll know that. Also a black civil war ceremony [inaudible], we are in the process of confirming that. So we think it should be a historic designation and should have a visitor's center and an interpretive display and an area where people can park cars and pay homage. And there should be a process to ensure there are more engagement activities. This should be set up at Southern University, they have a museum program and Linda Hill heads it up. There should be a process and it should be connected with the Treme Museum and the librarian who is the director would open her arms to the general public. They could put up the same signs in St. James and Laplace and the Destrehan libraries. Then you could reach out with the scholarly community and connect with activists and connect with those who are generally concerned and same process every step of the way until we get the kind of memorial that we most desperately have earned.

**Rachel Rodi:** We're going to break out now. We have post-its in the back of the room and we appreciate to collect more of your comments so please stick around and write on a post-it and share your ideas with us. Thanks for coming and we appreciate your comments.

## **Summary of Concerns/interests expressed during the open house before and after the presentation:**

- Re-naming of cemetery sites
- Scouring of cemetery sites
- Accessibility of interpretive materials (visually impaired)
- NPS administration/participation
- Elevation of significance designation to memorial or landmark status



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- Museum or visitor center
- Forensic/DNA testing of the remains
- Additional public meetings and outreach activities
- Revision of interpretive material content

## **Open House Portion of Meeting with one-to-one discussions**

### A. Comments Received by Dr. Chris Brantley - General

I had several people prior to the presentation and again afterwards thank me for having the public meeting. They had no comments on the landscape plan, the interpretive displays or the re-burial ceremony, but were largely interested in the subject of the spillway cemeteries. This included all 3 public officials that were present, the Sanders Royal descendants present, Mr. Vic Buccola (who served on the St. Charles Parish Citizens Advisory Committee for the Spillway in the 1990s), and a gentleman whose name I did not catch, but fishes regularly in the spillway.

No one approached me with any feedback on the landscape plan or interpretive displays, but I know there were several ideas put forward to the group during the question/open mike period after the presentation.

As to the reburial plans, one person asked me if it was possible to positively identify the individuals that would be re-buried, either through dental records or DNA testing.

Another individual commented to me that the re-burial ceremony should include the religious ceremony, the choir and color guard, and the festive atmosphere and I think another person mentioned this as well during the question period.

I also had some additional discussion with Ms. Margie Richard and Mr. Leon Waters about giving the presentation to other groups including at SUNO and the Treme Cultural Center. I don't have any problem about presenting to any group the proposed plans, but would like to continue working this towards completion. For instance we have already received Mr. Waters comments on the interpretive panels and the booklet and suggest those items be marked up showing suggested changes. For the re-burial ceremony, possibly we can target a date for the fall, with a proposed agenda for the ceremony for further feedback.

### B. Comments Received by Ben Maygarden – Reburial Process/Ceremony Table

I was stationed at the rear table to answer questions and take comments about the reburial and ceremony.

No one commented to me on the reburial or ceremony proposals.

A lady did ask about the possibility of DNA testing of the remains. I stated that as far as I knew the USACE had not ruled it out but that the USACE did not have a proposal resolving various issues, namely the opinion of the LSU forensics lab that the remains were not good candidates for DNA analysis because of likely contamination by modern DNA. I also stated that DNA testing was destructive of the samples tested and a proposal for DNA testing would have to be the subject of consultation with the descendant community.

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No one commented to me on the interpretive displays, which were on easels around the table where I was standing.

I had a general conversation with Margie Richard about the cemeteries and the major concern she expressed to me was that information be accessible to educators and students concerning the general African-American history of the region and the history of the cemeteries. She examined the booklet with interest and took it to her table for a while. She did not give me any specific verbal comments on the booklet other than to say "this is good" in general reference to it presenting African-American history in the locality and particularly the history of Civil War soldiers and veterans.

Several people examined the booklet at length with evident interest, but none other than Ms. Richard commented to me on the content. One person asked how it would be distributed and I said it would be available for free to the public, schools, and libraries, and would also be available online.

The reporter from L'Observateur asked me a number of historical questions about the sites, remains, and artifacts.

One gentleman whose name I did not get asked several questions about the current condition of the cemeteries and the safety of the cemeteries from scouring. He asked if the USACE was sure that the proposed landscaping plans would not endanger the cemeteries by creating conditions for scour. I stated that this was a recognized concern and the USACE would look carefully at this potential problem as landscape design went forward.

Summary of concerns/interests expressed to me during comment period:

- DNA testing of the remains
- Accessibility of interpretive material (booklet)
- Scouring of cemetery sites

## C. Comments Received by Michael Stout – Landscape Improvements Table

All comments received in one-on-one discussions of the proposed landscape designs were general in nature and overwhelmingly positive. Several persons echoed the concerns expressed in the open comment period that nothing be placed in the areas of the cemeteries that could lead to harm through erosion or other unintended negative impacts.

One individual commented to me that the re-burial ceremony should include African tribal ceremonies and asked if we had information on the tribal origins of the persons buried in the cemeteries. I responded that we did not have such information.

## D. Comments Received by Paul Highbanks – Section 106 Coordination

The same gentleman who spoke publicly asking who pays for the care of the cemeteries and the proposed landscaping spoke to me afterward and was interested to know what role public input has in regards the National recognition and care given to some properties. I told him that public input was very important and influential, but the challenge comes in channeling that input and that there are still many "rules" in place about what can happen. He seemed satisfied to know that if he can channel the comments, he may get more recognition for the cemeteries and the histories reflected therein.



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One woman spoke to me about her desire to find unmarked cemeteries, using remote sensing technologies. I encouraged her attempt, but said that every situation offers its own challenges.

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# Long Term Management of the Bonnet Carré Spillway Historic Cemeteries

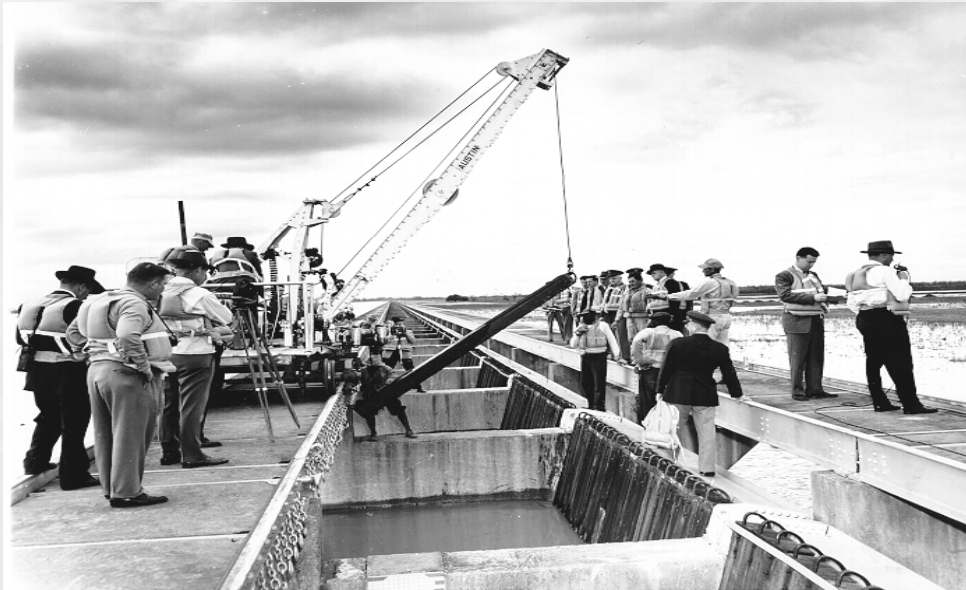
St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church  
Feb. 8, 2012



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# Bonnet Carré Spillway

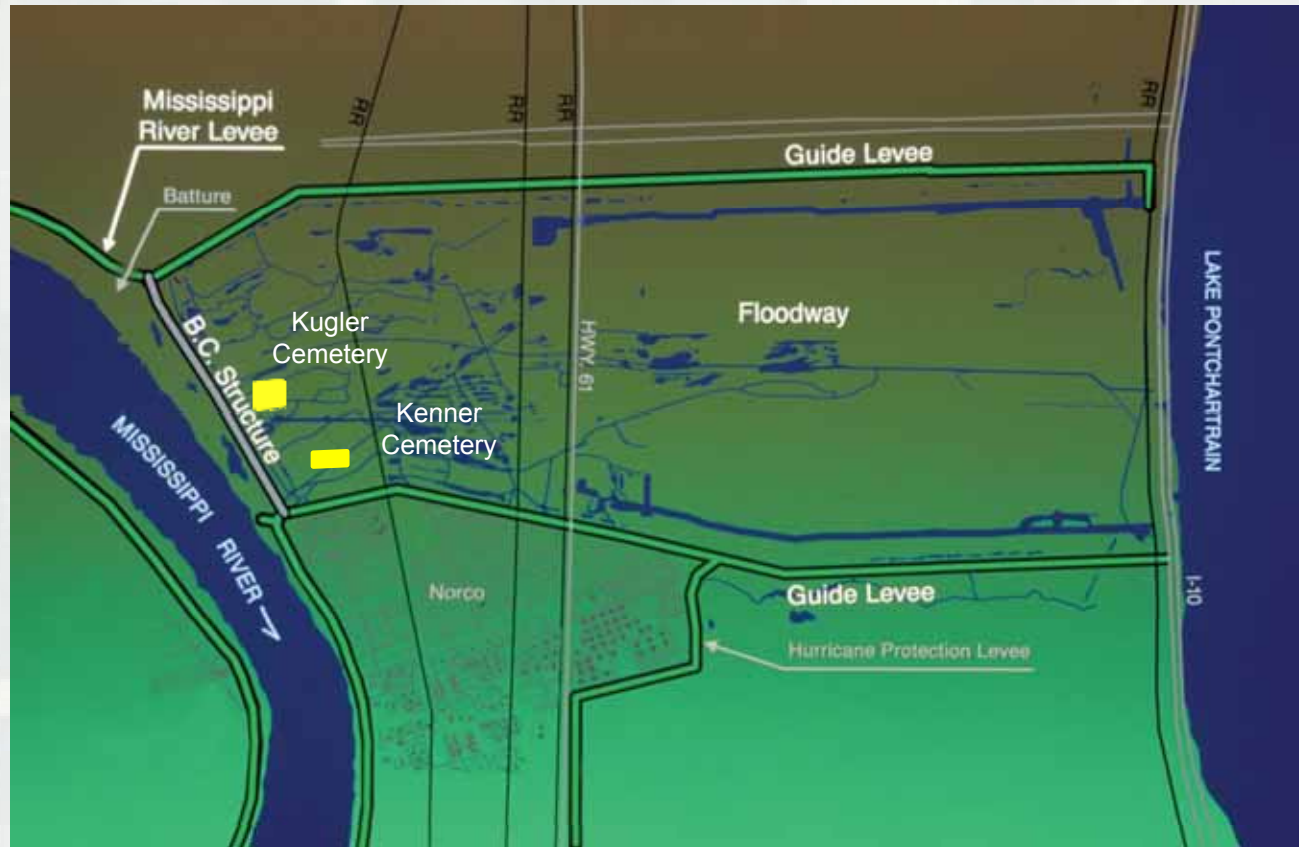


Authorized after the Great Flood of 1927, the Bonnet Carré Spillway structure is a historical engineering landmark, eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

- **Project purpose is flood risk management along Mississippi River**
- **Component of the Mississippi River & Tributaries Project, authorized in 1928**
- **Constructed between 1929 and 1936**
- **Reduces risk to downstream communities by diverting flood waters from the Mississippi River to Lake Pontchartrain**

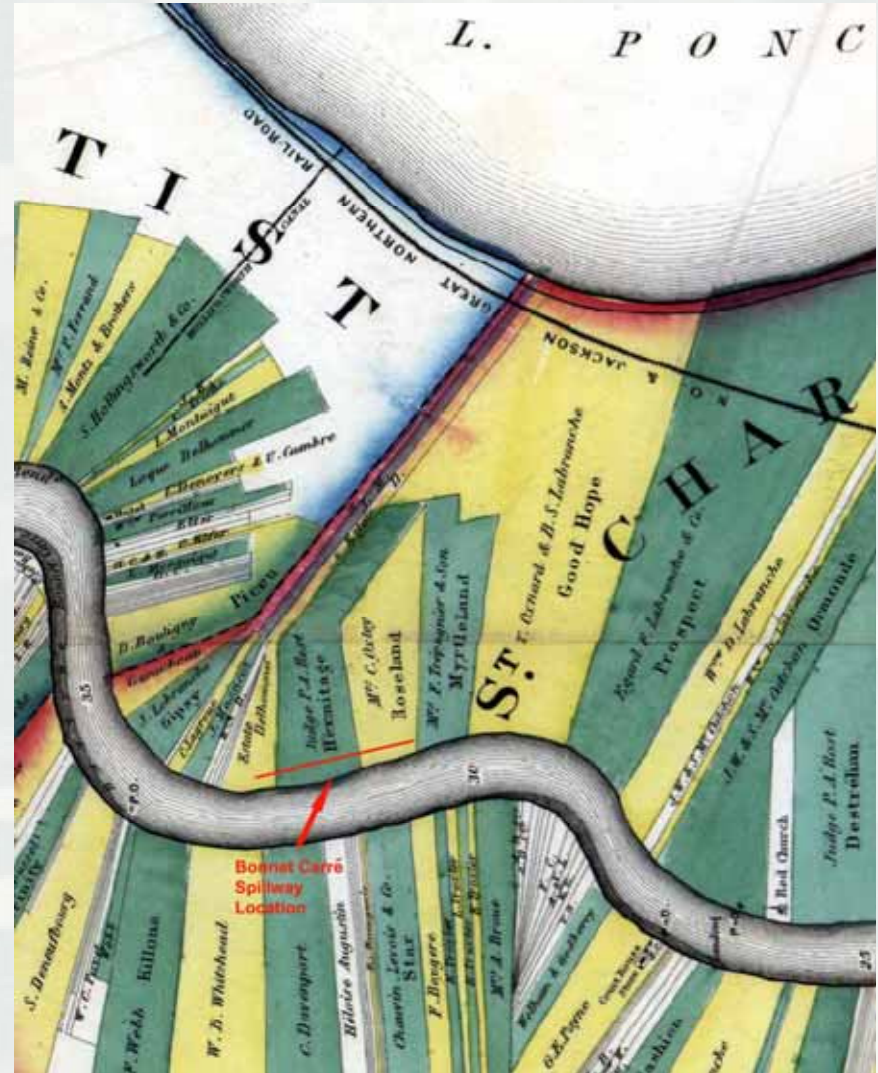


# Bonnet Carré Spillway



# Kenner and Kugler Cemeteries

- Once owned by Kenner and Kugler families
- Everyone buried in cemeteries was of African descent
- Cemeteries established as burial places for slaves
- Cemeteries continually in use until 1928

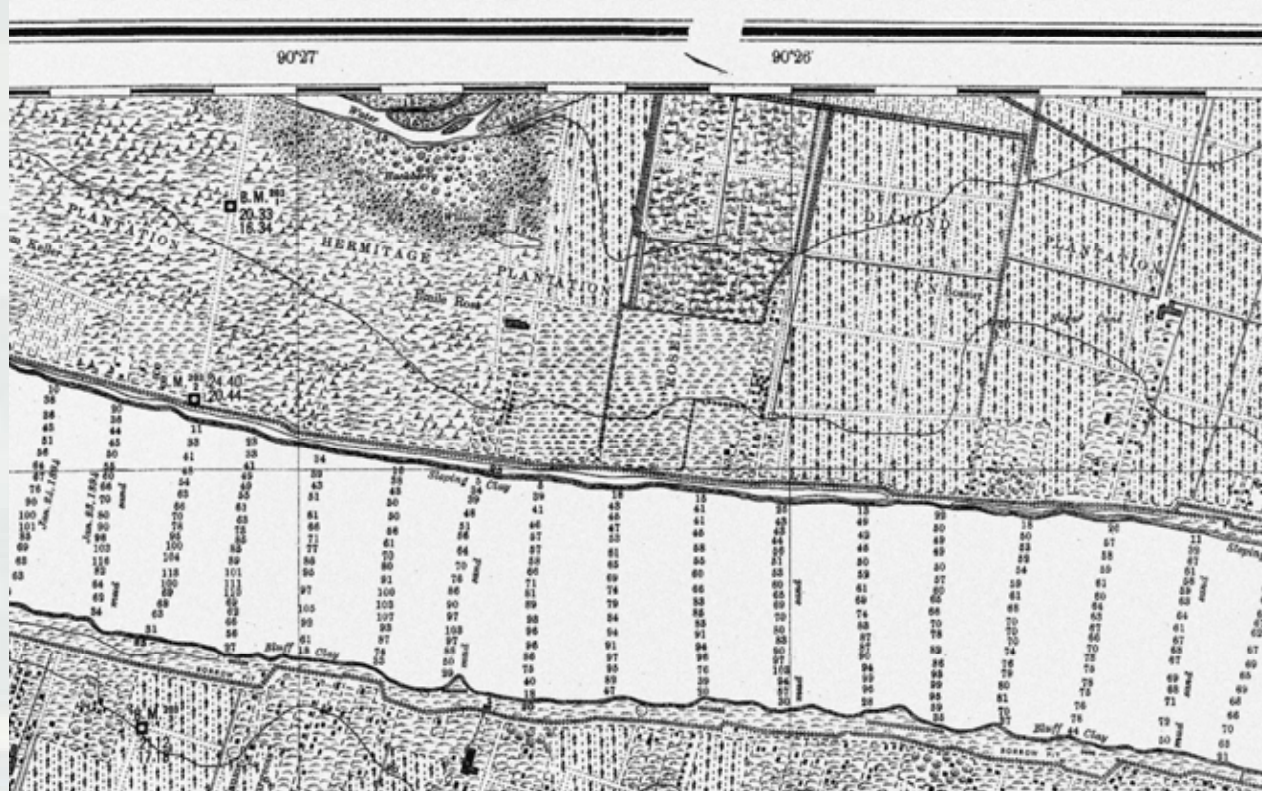


# Kenner and Kugler Cemeteries

- About 300 persons buried in the cemeteries
- Civil War Union Army veterans buried in cemeteries
- Burials below ground in wooden coffins
- Wooden, stone and iron markers



# Kenner and Kugler Cemeteries



- No documentation of cemeteries
- Federal government bought land in 1928
- Spillway construction did not affect burials





# Disinterment

- Remains accidentally exposed at Kenner Cemetery, 1975
- Exposed remains and artifacts collected
- Cultural Resource Investigations, 1985, 2002, and 2008



# Corps Responsibilities

- **Requirements under Federal Laws**
  - ▶ **National Historic Preservation Act (Sections 106 and 110)**
  - ▶ **National Environmental Policy Act,**
  - ▶ **Archeological Resources Protection Act**
- **Kenner and Kugler Cemeteries are on the National Register of Historic Places**



# Descendant Coordination

- Corps is obliged to consider descendant community
- Descendants interviewed concerning future actions
- Consensus of descendants was preservation in place and reburial of the disturbed remains
- Coordination continues with tonight's meeting



# Disinterred Remains

- Kenner Cemetery remains are 52 bones and fragments
- Remains are from at least five individuals
- Remains are in archeological storage
- Inventory of remains prior to reburial

Provenience \_\_\_\_\_ Numeric I.D. \_\_\_\_\_ ASM 82404 Form 1

### SKELETAL INVENTORY

AXIAL	#	cond	APPENDICULAR	left	right	CRANIAL	left	right
element			element			element		
1st Cervical	___	___	Scapula	___	___	Parietal	___	___
2nd Cervical	___	___	glenoid	___	___	Temporal	___	___
3-6 Cervical	___	___	Clavicle	___	___	Zygomatic	___	___
7th Cervical	___	___	rad. epi.	___	___	Lacrimal	___	___
1-9 Thoracic	___	___	sternum	___	___	I. N. C.	___	___
10th Thoracic	___	___	manubrium	___	___	Nasal	___	___
11th Thoracic	___	___	body	___	___	Maxilla	___	___
12th Thoracic	___	___	xiphoid	___	___	Palatine	___	___
1st Lumbar	___	___		___	___	TMJ	___	___
2nd Lumbar	___	___	Ilium	___	___	Mandible	___	___
3rd Lumbar	___	___	auricular	___	___	Frontal	___	___
4th Lumbar	___	___	Pubis	___	___	Sphenoid	___	___
5th Lumbar	___	___	symphysis	___	___	Ethmoid	___	___
Sacrum	___	___	ischium	___	___	Vomer	___	___
Coccyx	___	___	Acetabulum	___	___	Occipital	___	___
Left Ribs	___	___		___	___	Hyoid	___	___
Right Ribs	___	___	Patella	___	___	Thyroid	___	___
						Cricoid	___	___
						Ossicles	___	___

APPENDICULAR	left side	right side
element		
Humerus	epi-p/ prox/ mid/ dist/ epi-d	epi-p/ prox/ mid/ dist/ epi-d
Radius	/ / / / /	/ / / / /
Ulna	/ / / / /	/ / / / /
Femur	/ / / / /	/ / / / /
Tibia	/ / / / /	/ / / / /
Fibula	/ / / / /	/ / / / /

EXTREMITIES	#	cond	element	#	cond
Scaphoid	___	___	Calcaneus	___	___
Lunate	___	___	Talus	___	___
Trapezium	___	___	Cuboid	___	___
Trapezoid	___	___	Navicular	___	___
Capitate	___	___	Medial Cuneiform	___	___
Hamate	___	___	Intermediate Cuneiform	___	___
Triquetrum	___	___	Lateral Cuneiform	___	___
Platform	___	___			
Metacarpals			Metatarsals		
1st	___	___	1st	___	___
2nd	___	___	2nd	___	___
3rd	___	___	3rd	___	___
4th	___	___	4th	___	___
5th	___	___	5th	___	___
C. Phalanges			T. Phalanges		
proximal	___	___	proximal	___	___
middle	___	___	middle	___	___
distal	___	___	distal	___	___
Sesamoids	___	___	Sesamoids	___	___

Codes:  
c = >= 75% present  
p = 25% - 75% present  
f = < 25% present

NOTES

This form includes information derived from Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994), Standards for Data Collection from Human Skeletal Remains, Arkansas Archeological Survey, and is used with permission of the publisher.



# USACE Plans for Preservation

The program for long-term preservation of these important cultural resources includes:

- ▶ Site Improvements to provide recognition and public access
- ▶ Interpretive Plan to tell the story
- ▶ Reburial of the disinterred remains



# Proposed Site Improvements



- Proposed landscape and access improvements at cemeteries
- Tree plantings
- Concrete boundary markers



# Proposed Interpretive Plan

*Plantation Life* History of settlement prior to the Spillway 

## Plantations

A plantation is really a large farm that produces a main crop for sale in the market. In Louisiana, plantations developed during the colonial era of the 1700s. About the time of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the plantations in this area began to grow sugarcane. Many sugar planters grew very wealthy in the antebellum era. Most plantations had an owners' "great house," quarters houses for workers, a sugar mill, and livestock barns as well as large fields, pastures, and swampy back lands. The Civil War (1861-1865) transformed plantation life and the Louisiana sugar industry in many ways. Although rice and other crops were grown, sugar cane continued to be the main crop in this area into the early 1900s, when sugar growing moved elsewhere.

The great majority of residents on the Louisiana plantations were African-Americans. On a large plantation, hundreds of people worked the land, while the plantation owner's family was usually in number. The skills and hard work of the laborers were crucial to the survival of a plantation as an economic unit.



## Struggles for Freedom

During the colonial and early American periods, Africans and Creoles (born in Louisiana) were enslaved workers on the plantations. In January 1811, the largest revolt of enslaved people in North America broke out on sugar plantations in the Bonnet Carré area. Hundreds of people defied Louisiana's slave laws, took up arms, and marched along the River Road just this site, towards New Orleans. They were halted in a battle with local militia. Leaders of the uprising were captured and many were put to death.



Following the capture of New Orleans by the Union Army and Navy during the Civil War, a number of former slaves from the plantations in the area enlisted in the Federal army. Most served in the U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery. The Civil War ended slavery, but after the war, economic opportunities and political freedoms were limited for African-Americans, and many stayed on the plantations as wage workers.



## Cultural Resources

A cultural resource inventory of the Bonnet Carré Spillway was completed in 1991. The result was the listing of two properties on the National Register of Historic Places, America's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. One is the Kemmer and Fugler Cemeteries Archeological District, consisting of two African-American cemetery plots which date to the early 1800s. People were buried in the cemeteries until Federal purchase of the property in 1928.



- Outdoor Interpretive panels placed on site (draft final mockups on display tonight)
- History booklet focused on the people who lived here (draft final copies on display tonight)
- Inclusion in the general interpretive program of the project (brochures, web sites, tours, interpretive talks, special events, seasonal events, etc.)



# Descendant Views on Reburial

- **Consensus of descendants was strong for reburial of the human remains disinterred in 1975.**
- **However, there was no clear consensus on the nature of a ceremony or memorial for the re-interment of human remains. Most favored a religious service, but some wanted a more festive celebration.**
- **There was also not a clear consensus about whether the artifacts collected in 1975 should be reburied with the human remains. Many wanted them curated at the project or in a museum for educational purposes.**





# Proposed Reburial Process & Ceremony

- Proposed reburial of human remains in wooden casket
- Proposed reburial adjacent to Kenner Cemetery with location marker
- Proposed public ceremony with non-denominational commemoration
- Remarks by clergy and/or other speaker
- Participation of choir
- Curation, display and interpretation of non-skeletal remains in the project office visitor area
- Tentatively scheduled in Fall 2012



# Opportunities for Public Input

- Comments will be accepted by phone:

**1-877-427-0345**

- Comments can be submitted through Mar. 9, 2012

- Comments may be e-mailed:

**[BonnetCarre@usace.army.mil](mailto:BonnetCarre@usace.army.mil)**

- Comments may be mailed:

**US Army Corps of Engineers**

**Attn: PAO - Bonnet Carre**

**PO Box 60267**

**New Orleans, LA 70160**



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# Discussion

**Please stay for awhile and share your thoughts with us.  
We have several stations set up with Corps personnel  
or contract staff:**

- National Historic Preservation Act guidelines
- Proposed Landscape Improvements
- Proposed Interpretive Program
- Proposed Reburial Process/Ceremony

