Lyons Family Oak

Upper Bayou Lil Caillou
4128 Hwy 56,
Chauvin, LA

“Rose and George” the two live oaks located on Hwy 56 in Upper Little Caillou, frame the white ranch-style home of the former George (1898-1963) and Rose Bordelon Lyons.

George Dewey Lyons was the son of Captain Joseph Lyons (1862-1920) and possibilities exist that the trees were planted by his father, Joseph Lucius Cincinnatus Pitt Lyon (1823-1894) who was an overseer on the Semple & Shields Plantation and the first of the Lyon family to come to Louisiana. The rest of his family moved to DeKalb, Illinois. Lucius’ cousin George married Emily Davis Semple of Terrebonne Parish around 1840 and lived on Semple Plantation located near Bisland Cemetery on Bayou Terrebonne. Lucius Lyon, pioneer and progenitor of the Lyon family moved to Louisiana and lived and worked with his cousins, George and Henry around 1849. At right picture of Joseph Lucius Lyons from Lori Lyons family research.

In the 1860 census of Terrebonne Parish, LA, Mr. LCR Lion is age 38, working as an overseer. He was born in New York and his wife, Jane is age 22 and was born in Virginia. They owned no real estate nor had any value for personal possessions. They were family # 417. Then on March 21, 1862, Lucius enlisted in the Confederate Army, Company H, 26th Regiment and on July 14, 1866, after signing an oath of allegiance to the United States, he was released. He was wounded and captured at Vicksburg, but survived and returned to Little Caillou. According to Lori Lyons’ family history, “records show that Semple Plantation was subdivided about 1900. George and his family did not stay in Louisiana long, but left the state for California during the Gold Rush. Lucius stayed behind, however, and worked as an overseer on Woodlawn Plantation in Terrebonne Parish for the Cage family.”

At one time the Woodlawn Plantation included the property where the Lyon’s oaks live today and therefore the trees could have been planted by the Cage Family. At Woodlawn, Lucius met his first wife, Elizabeth Drumwright of Virginia, a friend of the Cages. They settled on upper Little Caillou adjacent to the Catholic Chapel on Little Caillou. He died on October 16, 1894, and is buried at St. Elie Cemetery on Little Caillou.

Historically, the family name changed from Lyon to Lyons over the years. Allowed to drape the by George Lyons in the late 1950s. This home is privately owned. – Story written by Laura Browning.

Lyons Family Tree
Louisiana gumbeaux by L.Kyons

Photos by Trudy Voisin Hebert