

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Walter C. Todd**

Mr. Todd comes from a long and distinguished Texas & Louisiana family with ties to the pioneer Bowie brothers & Privateer Jean Lafitte. His maternal great-great grandfather Louis LaBleu was a ship captain for Lafitte and good friends with the Jim & Rezin Bowie. Today, many of his family still reside in Louisiana in the shrimping business.

Walter's parents grew rice and raised cattle. He describes in details the laborious task of growing and harvesting rice. Rather than become a doctor, Walter followed in his father's footsteps as a successful rice farmer.

13 Pages

∥ *Scroll down for Key Words from the Interview.* ∥

Interview Summary

People (in alphabetical order)

Burt Anzel – rice farmer
 Jim Bowie – pioneer & Alamo hero
 Rezin Bowie – planter & mercenary
 Earline Todd Fernandez – sister
 Raoul Fernandez – brother in law
 Sandra Todd Dorr – daughter
 John Hartman – friend
 Ima Hogg – mother’s cousin
 Mr. Mellon – grocery store owner
 Arsene LaBleu – river boat captain
 Coleman LaBleu – grandfather
 Grace Miller LaBleu – grandmother
 Louis LaBleu – great-great grandfather
 Marie Gentils LaBleu – great-great grandmother
 Jean Lafitte – French ship captain and privateer
 Carl Nichols – pilot
 Azelia DeJardin Todd – great grandmother
 Edward Harvey Todd – father
 Edward Harvey Todd, Jr – brother
 Ima Hogg LaBleu Todd – mother
 Kitty Nash – rancher & landowner
 Cody Egon Todd – son
 Juanita Todd – spouse
 Mitchell Brian Todd – son

Ruth Todd – sister
 Timothy Craig Todd – son
 Todd Family – Louisiana farmers & shrimpers
 Walter Coleman Todd, Jr – son
 Walter Todd – grandfather
 William Todd – Scottish great grandfather
 Ada Marsh Yelderman – school friend
 Joe Yelderman – local physician
 Mary Rose Todd Zdunkewicz – sister & mayor of Weston Lakes
 Victor Zdunkewicz – Mary Rose’s spouse

Places / Businesses

Booth Ranch
 Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana
 Canada
 France
 George Ranch
 Kansas
 Kitty Nash Ranch
 Lake Charles, Louisiana
 Mississippi River
 New Orleans, Louisiana
 Richmond High School
 Wessendorff House

Events

Born in 1929 in Lake Charles, Louisiana, Walter shares stories about his maternal ancestors – the LaBleu family. They were originally from France and settled in an area on the Calcasieu River in the early 1700s before there was a United States or a Texas. His ancestors knew Jean Lafitte and the Bowie brothers when they traveled Louisiana.

Walter's paternal ancestors were from Scotland and originally settled in Canada before moving to Kansas and finally Louisiana.

Todd's family were rice farmers and raised cattle. Walter shares stories about his ancestors raising and harvesting rice in Fort Bend County. Instead of medical school, Walter chose rice farming.

He and his wife Juanita raised 5 children.