

*Jessie Homer Bankston,
Sr.*

Oct 7 1907 - Nov 25 2010

AAFA #1003

Jesse Homer Bankston Sr.

Jesse Homer Bankston passed away at home in Baton Rouge on Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010. Jesse was 103, having been born in Mount Hermon on Oct. 7, 1907. He attended LSU, where he received his B.A. degree in 1933 and his M.A. degree in 1936. He completed his course and residency requirements for his Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina in 1939. Upon his return to Baton Rouge, he served as a management consultant charged with reorganization of Louisiana government. In 1942, he became an organizational specialist in the Civil Service Department. He moved to the state Department of Institutions in 1944 as administrative assistant and became director of the department in 1947. After serving as the director of the state Hospital Board from 1948-1952, he left state government to open his health-care consulting firm, Bankston and Associates. In 1956, Gov. Earl K. Long recruited Jesse to return to state service as director of the newly created Department of Hospitals, where he served until 1959. Returning to his consulting practice, he received national and international recognition for his work with over 200 health-care organizations in the U.S. and Central America. Jesse was elected president of the American Academy of Healthcare Consultants and president of the International Institute of Hospital Consultants. Jesse continued his consulting practice until 1990. He was passionate about improving education in Louisiana and was elected to the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in 1968, where he served for 28 years. During his tenure he served as secretary and chairman of the board. He also was the longest serving member of the Louisiana Democratic State Central Committee, having served for 51 years until his death. During his term on the State

Central Committee, he served as secretary and chairman. In 2002, he was inducted into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame. Information regarding his career is displayed in the Louisiana Political Museum in Winnfield. In 1948, Jesse assisted in the formation of the Louisiana Hospital Association and served as its first secretary until permanent staff was hired in 1956. In addition to his health-care, education and political pursuits, he also served as president of the Baton Rouge YMCA, Young Men's Business Club, Mental Health Association and Tuberculosis Society. He was a founding member of LSU Lagniappe Studies and The Sons and Daughters of the Providence and Republic of West Florida. He wrote and published several genealogical references, a book about Gov. Earl K. Long and, more recently, a memoir entitled "Memories of a Country Boy," chronicling his boyhood life in Washington Parish. He also served on the boards of Louisiana Public Broadcasting, Boy Scouts of America, Salvation Army, Camp Fire and the United Way. Jesse was a member of Masonic Lodge 52 Jerusalem Temple, Shrine Club, Gen. Philemon Thomas Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, American Hospital Association and Louisiana Hospital Association. He was a member of the Broadmoor Baptist Church, where he served as a member of the Board of Trustees. In 2007, Jesse was awarded the inaugural T.J. Jemison Race Relations Award by Mount Zion First Baptist Church in Baton Rouge. The presentation noted that "Mr. Bankston has spent his life working to bring people together regardless of their race, ethnicity or religious backgrounds." The family would like to note our appreciation for the loving care given to Jesse by Mrs. Sue Burton and Ms. Ella Lollis and the steadfast friendship of Paul Duell. He was preceded in

death by his wife of 59 years, Ruth Paine Bankston; his mother and father, Leon V. and Allie Magee Bankston; and 10 siblings, Zula Dean Swetman, Albert Roland Bankston, Carl Leon Bankston, Cecil Noel Bankston, Theresa Louisa Powell, Roy Van Bankston, Jacob Magee Bankston, Mildred Willeana Garrett, Marie Allie Scoggins, and Leo Victor Bankston. He was also preceded in death by his great-grandson, Graham Gibbs Bankston. He is survived by his four children, Shirley Newsham and husband Thomas D. Newsham, Dale L. Bankston and his wife Rebecca Sanders Bankston, Larry Bankston Sr. and his wife Lynn Naebbers Bankston and Jesse H. Bankston Jr. He is also survived by 12 grandchildren, Amy Newsham Scroggs, Cathleen Newsham Korpics and husband John Korpics, Jennife Newsham Keeler and husband Dr. Tim Keeler, Dr. Bradley Bankston and wife Christina Kleiner Bankston, Kevin Bankston Matthew Bankston and wife Leah Star Bankston, Dr. Larry "Chip" Bankston Jr., Lauren Bankston Petty and husband Michael Petty, Benjamin Bankston, Kendall Krielow Ashlyn Krielow, and Hunter Bankston; five great-grandchildren and a great-great grandchild. Pallbearers will be Paul Bankston, Hunter Bankston, Dr. Larry "Chip" Bankston, Benjamin Bankston, Kevin Bankston, Matthew Bankston, and Dr. Bradley Bankston. Honorary pallbearers will be Walter Bankston, Paul Duell, Judge Frar Foil, Judge James Brady, Victor Bussie and John Mmahat. Visitation will be Thursday, Dec. 2, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday, Dec. 3, from 8 a.m. until service at 10 a.m. Greenoaks Funeral Home, 9595 Florida Blvd. The Rev. George Haile will preside. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Volunteers of America or a charity of your choice.

Subj: **JESSE BANKSTON, AAFA #1003**
 Date: 12/18/2006
 To: jimbob35@mindspring.com, mralford@swbell.net, johncharlessmith@verizon.net,
janiceandjohnsmith@verizon.net, ebalford@swbell.net

*I did not keep
 a copy -*

Jim/Sue,

In one of my recent mailings to you was a news clipping about honors for AAFA #1003 Jesse H. Bankston on his 99th birthday.

Under the circumstances, I expect we will be doing an "In Remembrance" piece on him before long.

I just want to get on record that I have a letter from Jesse written in 1998 with which he sent a booklet on the 1976 50th anniversary of the Mt. Hermon, LA high school 1926 class reunion.

The general chairman of the reunion was my own aunt, Gussie Alford Fortinberry. There are several pages of autobiography of Jesse along with some photographs. I'll scan these and get them to folks as needed for publication, but I'm a tad busy at present on Mississippi Alfords.

Please call for it when you want it and help me remember it is in the Louisiana Misc binder. There is increasing information here and decreasing memory ability so I'll probably need your help.

Jesse was not an Alford but he said he was with and around them so much of his life that he felt like one and he wanted to be a member of the association.

.. Gil

SECTION **E**

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 17, 2007



**TERRY
ROBINSON**
Faith
Matters

Bankston 'blessed'

Age and medical issues have finally slowed 99-year-old Jesse Bankston Sr., who led an active work, political and civic life for many years.

For his role in helping "bridge the racial divide in the community," Bankston will be honored during a Brotherhood and Race Relations service at 11 a.m. Sunday at Mount Zion.

The Rev. Burn Page of First Baptist Church of Baton Rouge will be the guest speaker.

Bankston's career included working as a hospital administrator, consultant and with Gov. Earl Long. He served in the state's Democratic Party and the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

"He obviously was a man who worked very hard for the races and the betterment of the community," Sterling said.

Bankston will be the recipient of the first T.J. Jemison

Award. Jemison served as the pastor of Mount Zion for more than 50 years before retiring in 2005.

Bankston said he met Jemison in 1950 when Long asked Bankston to deliver a ham to the "new" pastor at Mount Zion.

"Jemison has been a friend of mine since then," said Bankston, who celebrates his 100th birthday on Oct. 7.

Bankston has been a member of Broadmoor Baptist Church for more than 40 years.

Handwritten notes in the right margin, including "A" and "1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100".

Jesse H. Bankston

925-2543
9526 Southmoor Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

Mr. Gilbert K Alford Jr.
P. O . Box 1538
Florissant, MO,63031

Dear Gilbert,

I feel that I personally know you because I knew your father , Lora, Lexie and Gussie. I also know so many of your relatives in this area and where I grew up. And I look forward to meeting you in October .

*AWFA
1054*

At the direction of Jerry Alford, I am sending a copy of the William Magee publication under separate cover. Both, my father and mother are descendents of Willliam Magee and Mary Margaret James. You may be interested to know this was the first family approved for display at the Fair. It possibly has 5,000 Alford's in it, and possibly as many Bankstons. Jerry is the Treasurer of our William Magee Committee who put this publication together.

*I return
it as I
already
had a copy
I bought*

I do not have a good publication on the Bankstons. I had a book on the Rambo family. One of my ancestors , shortly after arriving from Sweeden to the Sweedish settlement in what is now Philafdelphia, married a Rambo. This publication has as many Bankstons as it does have Rambos. It has been taken by someone and I have not discovered who took it. I am now trying to work on the Bankstons and need more information. I do know all my ancestors namaes are for the last 9 generations in America. If I am successful I will share my information with you.

I am am looking forward to attending the Alford Reunion in October. Right now I am having some serious health problems and hope I improve in health to make if possible for me to attend.

*He did not
make it*

I look forward to meeting you and attending the Reunion.

Sincerely

*Jesse
2/27/04*

BANKSTON ASSOCIATES

CONSULTANTS IN MANAGEMENT
AND HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION

JESSE H. BANKSTON

2431 SOUTH ACADIAN THRUWAY, SUITE 620
BATON ROUGE, LA 70809 TELEPHONE: 928-6828

RESIDENCE: 9526 SOUTHMOOR DRIVE
BATON ROUGE, LA 70815
TELEPHONE: 925-2543

4/13/1994

HAF
II 0657

Wendall B. Holmes M.D.
300 Marion Avenue
McComb, MS. 39648

Dear Dr. Holmes,

While I have known the Jeptha family all of my life, I feel that the best source of information is his grandson, Gilbert K. Alford, Jr., 1403 kingsford Drive, Florissant, MO. 63031-2422, telephone (314)831-8648. He has done a great amount of work on the Alford family, and I believe he is the head of the Alford Family Genealogical Association.

I believe that the John Seaborn Alford you are showing as Jeptha Alford's father is his grandfather. Jeptha's father remarried a Candacy Bankston and had 3 children by his 2nd marriage, and was still living until about 1930. I went to school with his son Jacob Alford by his second wife and went to school with his daughters Lexie and Gussie by his first wife. I finished high school with Gussie Alford.

Jeptha Alford's first wife was Fannie Purvis. I think she and her child died of child birth and he married Laura Jane Warner b. 3/8/1871, d. 3/11/1939. She was the 4th child of David Cornealious Warner, b. 1/1/1833, d. 6/1/1907, married Laura Drucilla Holmes b. 2/9/1842, d. 3/11/1895. She was the granddaughter of Thomas Coulter Warner. She was probably one of your distant relatives.

I presume that Gilbert Alford Jr. can give you information on the Jeptha Alford who married Fannie Ophelia Bankston. I knew Alonzo and Iddo Alford all of my life but dont have information of their parents. The only thing I can remember, they used to call my father Cousin Leon. I presume it was through the Bankston connection, but I am not sure.

Thank you for your comment on the William Magee Publication. I had a committee of 12 people to help on its preparation. It was a 3 year task. We are now getting ready to perpare a supplement to take care of the information we are now receiving.

Please give my regards to Dr. Verner Holmes. I had the pleasure of going to a football game with him, his wife and Dewey and Betty Ott. My wife and I enjoyed the occasion.

Sincerely,

Jesse

letter I was telling
you about over

BANKSTON ASSOCIATES

2431 SOUTH ACADIAN THRUWAY, SUITE 620
BATON ROUGE, LA 70809 TELEPHONE: 928-6828

Jhb
CONSULTANTS IN MANAGEMENT
AND HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION

JESSE H. BANKSTON

RESIDENCE: 9526 SOUTHMOOR DRIVE
BATON ROUGE, LA 70815
TELEPHONE: 925-2543

January 14, 1988

Mr. Gilbert K. Alford, Jr.
1403 Kingsford Drive
Florissant, MO 63061

RE: Gilbert K. Alford, Jr. Family

Dear Mr. Alford:

The Geneological Chart you entered in the June 1983 Louisiana Geneological Register and your request for additional information prompts me to give you some help.

Weltenhall Warner

Md in S.C. on July 29, 1766 to Elizabeth Cargill, b February 4, 1749. She was named for Elizabeth Daniel, wife of her grandfather, Cornelious Cargill (1690-1763). They were the parents of Thomas Cargill Warner.

Thomas Cargill Warner

B April 8, 1772, d August 25, 1833. Md October 23, 1794 to Tabitha Cargill, b October 27, 1776, d December 26, 1854. Their fourth child was Thomas Coalter Warner, b January 23, 1800, d June 20, 1870, md December 25, 1825 to Jane Smith b October 9, 1805, d 1846. He was a Methodist minister and circuit rider. He was the father of eleven children by his first wife. Upon the death of his first wife, he married Martha Ann Seals, b June 22, 1811. By this union, they had two children. He died of cancer.

Laura Jane Warner

B March 8, 1871, d March 31, 1939. Md May 12, 1897 to Jephtha Martin Alford, b July 22, 1862, d May 26, 1948.

Mr. Gilbert K. Alford, Jr.
January 14, 1988
Page Two

→ A AFA
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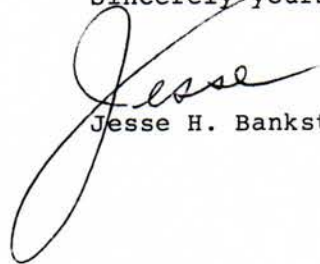
This is information from Kinsman All, by Russ Williams, Jr.
It has much information about your ancestors.

Thomas Cargill Warner is also my ancestor.

I finished high school with your Aunt Gussie, and saw her
on the first Saturday in May, 1987. Also a brother and sister
finished high school with your father and Lora. I know many
of your relatives in Washington Parish.

I hope this information will be helpful to you.

Sincerely yours,


Jesse H. Bankston

JHB/skh

Jesse H. Bankston

~~926-8828~~
~~9526 Southmoor Drive~~
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

925-2543
9526 Southmoor Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

8/21/98

Mr. Gilbert Alford
Alford American Family Assn.
P. O. Box 1586
Florissant, Mo. 63031-1586

Dear Mr. Alford;

After much inquiry, I have finally identified all the individuals on the picture you sent me about a month ago.

The individuals are:

- Standing; Ruven Smith, , Franklinton, La. Owner and operator of Tractor Company.
- Alton Porter, Ruby, La. High school Teacher
- Durward O. Wilkes, Baton Rouge, La. An executive with Exxon . Worked in several countries while employed.

Seated: Lexie Alford Schaffer, Tucker Ga.
Lucille Smith Graves, Franklinton, La.

Ruby Burch Welch, Franklinton, La.
Edna Earl Bickham Cook, , Covington, La.
Ontee Alford Magee, Mt. Hermon, La.

Lucille Smith Graves and Lexie were first cousins. I believe that Ruby Birch and Lexie were also first Cousins. Their mothers were Warrens. Ruby Burch's father was Weston Burch and his wife was a warner.

This picture is of the members of the 1925 Graduating Class of Mt. Hermon High School. and was taken at the Golden Graduates meeting in 1974.

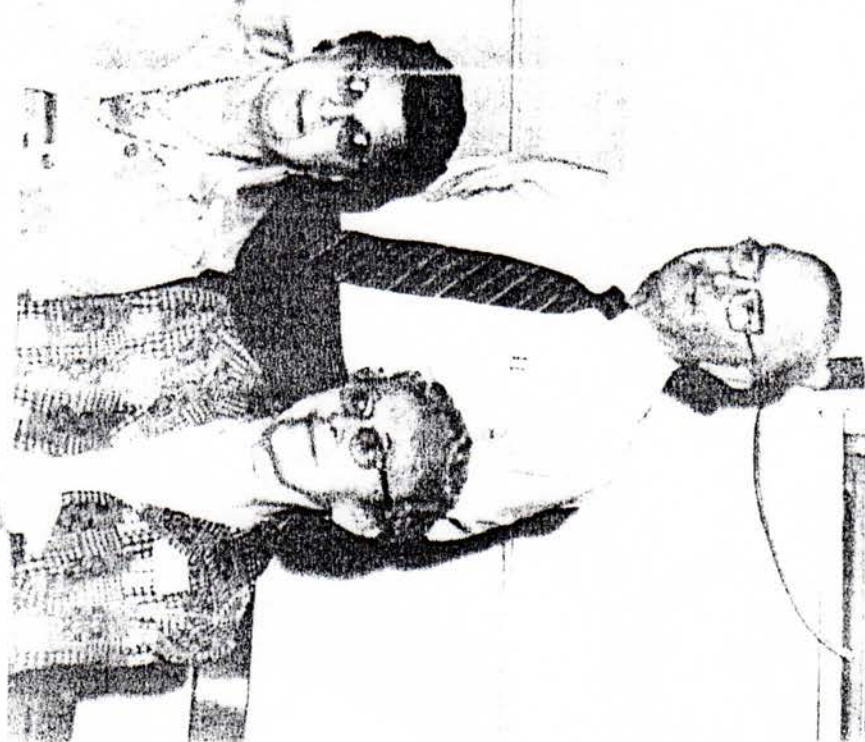
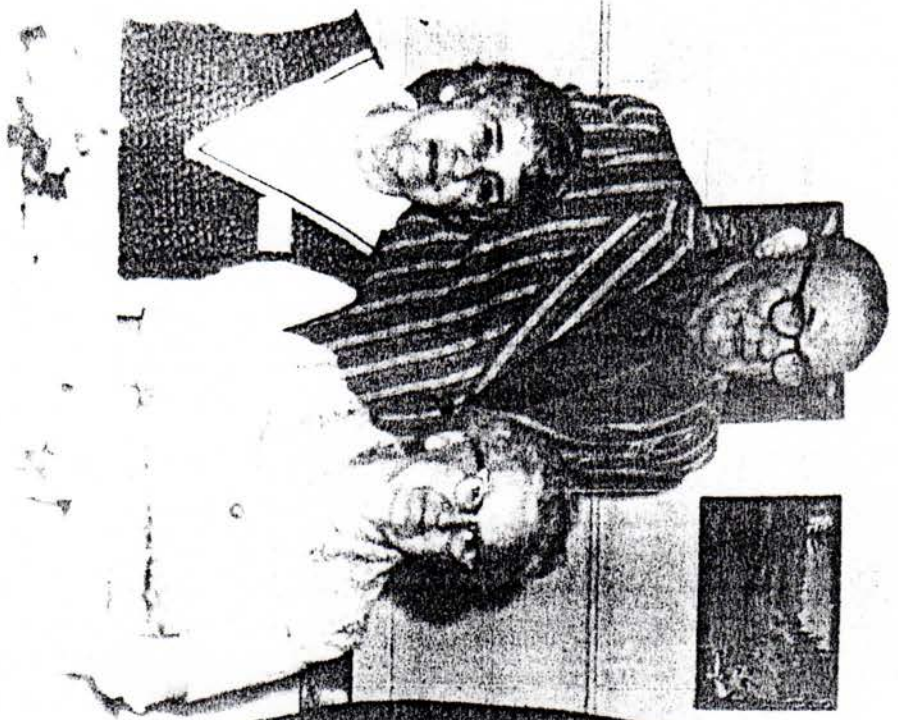
I graduated in 1926 with your aunt Gussie Alford, and her first Cousin Aubrey Burch. I am enclosing a publication we prepared for our 50th. Anniversary in 1976. It includes all the graduates for the first 10 years of the High School at Mt. Hermon. It lists your father and several of your relatives.

Sincerely,

Jesse

My Aunt's Mother of AAFSA # 0149

Sent Pam the letters & pages from booklet Told her she could have if wanted -



BANKSTON, RUTH PAINE A native and resident of Baton Rouge, she died Saturday, Nov. 29, 1997, at Baton Rouge General Medical Center. She was 79. Visiting at Greenoaks Funeral Home, 9595 Florida Blvd., 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday and after 8 a.m. Monday. Religious services at the funeral home chapel at 10 a.m. Monday, conducted by Dr. John W. Goodwin. Interment in Greenoaks Memorial Park. Survived by husband of 59 years, Jesse H. Bankston; a daughter, Shirley Newsham; three sons, Dale L. Bankston, Larry S. Bankston and Jesse H. Bankston Jr.; two sisters, Eloise Paine and Margie Larson; a brother, Walter R. Paine Jr.; 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Pallbearers will be Robert Buck, Paul Duell, Phillip Garrett, Thomas Hollimon, Tommy Newsham and Winston Riddick. Honorary pallbearers are members of Oriental Brushwork Society. She was a member, officer and patroness of Volunteers of America Auxiliary for more than 40 years, a member of Art League, Baton Rouge Area Foundation, a founding member of Romney and served as an officer of the Oriental Brushwork Society, Dixie Decorators and Polonaise. She was a member of the East Baton Rouge Parish Democratic Executive Committee and was a delegate to two Democratic National Conventions. She attended Broadmoor Baptist Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to Volunteers of America Auxiliary, 3765 Government St., Baton Rouge, Broadmoor Baptist Church Building Fund, 9755 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge, 70815, or to a favorite charity would be appreciated.



Re Jesse Banks

Class Reunion

**Mt. Hermon
High School**
May 22, 1976

1926

1976



J. H. Bankston
1935

JESSE H. BANKSTON

Being aware that I am a tenth generation Bankston in America, and knowing that for at least four generations all of my ancestors lived in Southeast Louisiana, is my excuse for feeling an unusual attachment to this area, and to possibly taking false pride in my heritage. However, knowledge of the lives of my ancestors has been a source of inspiration and strength to me. It has caused me to feel that I must not accomplish less, and should exhibit that same courage and tenacity that is reputed to have been so characteristic of their lives. My greatest pride and inspiration is in my immediate family. The rare fortune of having married Ruth Paine on October 21, 1938, and having outstanding children is ample reward for me. Ruth and I have truly been partners in all of our endeavors. In adversities we have shared our anxieties, and we have equally enjoyed the fruits of our accomplishments.

Our daughter and three sons are each highly intelligent, endowed with an abundance of energy, a high sense of ethics and an eagerness to succeed. I am confident that each will be successful in his chosen field. Mrs. Thomas (Shirley) Newsham, lives in Mons Belgium, is the mother of Amy, Cathleen, and Jennifer. Dale L. Bankston, married to Elizabeth Maggio, lives in New Orleans, is Administrator of St. Charles Hospital, and has two sons Bradley and Kevin. Larry S. Bankston, married to Jane Vance, has his first job after being admitted to the Bar as Administrative Assistant to Judge Frank Foil of the 19th Judicial District Court. Jesse H. Bankston, Jr. is a junior at L.S.U. in the College of Business Administration.

I am the son of Leon V. and Allie Magee Bankston, born at Mt. Hermon, October 7, 1907. I am the seventh in a family of eleven children, who are Zula Swetman, now living in West Virginia; Roland, Cecil, Leo, Mildred Garrett and Marie Scoggins, living in Baton Rouge; Carl and Roy living in Franklinton; Theresa Powell living in Port Arthur, Texas; and Jake living in

Alexandria, Louisiana.

After graduation from high school, it was not possible for me to immediately enter and continuously remain in college. In spite of having the usual part time jobs college students had in those days, it was impossible for me to complete my college education without interruption. It was necessary for me to drop out and work for two years as a pipefitter helper in the Gulf Refining Company at Port Arthur, and later interrupt my graduate work and serve as a teacher at Mt. Hermon High School for one term. After the high school teaching assignment, I was fortunate in being awarded fellowships and instructorships in Political Science for three years.

When I entered college I fully intended to become an agricultural teacher or county agent. But these original plans were suddenly changed in my sophomore year when I became utterly fascinated with an elective course in Political Science. My original goal gave way to a new interest and ambition to become a college professor in Political Science.

An A. B. Degree in 1933, and M. A. Degree in 1936 from L.S.U., and completion of residency and course requirements for a Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of North Carolina in 1939 were obtained, but the goal of being a college professor was never realized. I am thankful for not achieving this specific goal, because my work since completing my university studies has been far more challenging and rewarding than any teaching assignment could ever be.

Since leaving college I have had rare opportunities to be continuously engaged in some type of challenging and exciting employment, where I sincerely feel that I have been the instrument for changes and improvement in both public agencies and in voluntary organizations. Each new assignment has seemed to present me with greater opportunity to give leadership and make some contribution to my state and my com-



Cecil N. and Jesse Bankston - Oath of Office, State Bd. of Education, 1968.



Family on Leon V. Bankston's 98th birthday. Front row: Zula Swetman, Cecil, Leon V., Roland, Leo. Back row: Mildred Garrett, Roy, Marie Scoggins, Theresa Powell, Jake, Carl, Jesse.

munity. My work has been of such a nature that I could always look forward each day to some new and interesting challenge. The occasions of boredom in my work have been exceedingly rare.

My college training helped me to obtain my first permanent position with a management consultation firm engaged in the reorganization of the Louisiana state government. I was responsible for a personnel inventory of all state agencies and for general consultation with health and correctional agencies. This work gave me an excellent insight into the operations of all state agencies and an intimate knowledge of the Louisiana health and correctional institutions.

This was followed by two years with the then new State Civil Service Department. I served as administrative assistant and organization specialist with the responsibility of designing the administrative structure, writing procedures and preparing the forms during the period of its organization. This work gave me an additional opportunity to work with each state agency, and become more familiar with their services.

An appointment as Administrative Assistant to the Director of the State Department of Institutions in 1944 was an even greater opportunity to serve in an influential position in a major state agency. The first statewide inventory of health services, the first policy manual for a major state department, and the first training program for several health disciplines were initiated under my directions.

My responsibilities and authority quickly increased and in 1947 I became Director of Institutions. In this capacity I was instrumental in greatly expanding the training programs for several health professions and completely reorganizing the operations of hospitals for the mental and acutely ill. Alcoholism programs, mental health clinics, nursing home licensing, and rotating residency and internships for physicians were initiated during my tenure as Director of Institutions or in a succeeding office as Director of the State Hospital

Board from 1948 to 1952. Possibly my most significant contribution was the design and initiation of a residency and internship program that extended to all hospitals for the mental and acutely ill. This program has been considered one of the best training programs for physicians in the entire country. It is gratifying to see a program which I designed continue and expand.

In 1956 Governor Earl Long asked me to accept appointment as Director of the newly created State Department of Hospitals. I accepted and served in this capacity until June 1959, when I was removed from that office by the lieutenant governor because I refused to supersede the decision of the psychiatrists and discharge the governor from Southeast Louisiana Hospital. It was within my power to supersede the decision of the physicians and discharge the governor who had been committed to the institution by a coroner. I was given the choice of releasing the governor or removal from my position. I took the advice of physicians and refused to issue the release, and the lieutenant governor removed me from office. This was an exceedingly difficult decision. However, I have never regretted my decision. I have received commendation from throughout the country for this agonizing experience and the decision to refuse to release this man who was in need of medical care. Governor Long asked me to return to my position, but I declined the offer and remained in private consultation work.

During the three years as Director of Hospitals, mental health programs were expanded, three new hospitals were constructed, licensing of nursing homes was reorganized, and training programs for several health disciplines were greatly expanded. Funds were established to provide scholarships for students who chose to train for work in the state health services.

In 1952, Ruth and I organized Bankston Associates, and began consultation work in the field of management and hospital administration. Professional consultation has been far more rewarding than public ser-

vice, both financially and through self-satisfaction. We feel that we have made a distinct contribution to the improvement of health facilities and health organizations in this region. We have worked as consultants in planning over 200 hospitals in the South and Southwest, and have provided general management consulting services to numerous hospitals and health organizations. We have found the operation of our own business far more demanding than being in the employ of another. A 40 hour week has not been a part of our lives for many years.

While there have been as many lean as bountiful years, the operation of Bankston Associates must be termed a reasonable success. We have become known as the top hospital consultation firm in the South and enjoy an excellent reputation in the health field. It has been possible for the firm to be continuously engaged in major projects and to survive adversities and competition. In recognition of our firm I have served as President of the Academy of Health Consultants and am now Vice-President of the International Institute of Hospital Consultants.

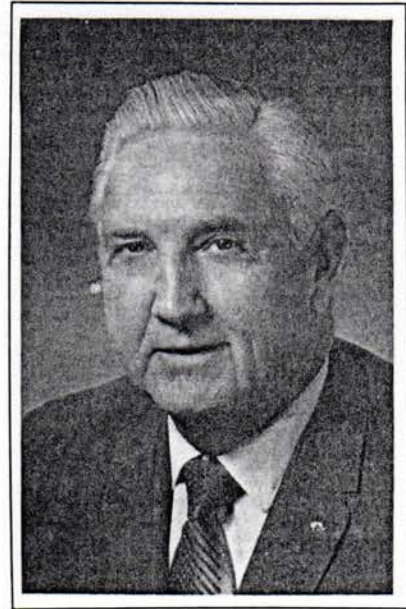
Politics has been an absorbing and fascinating part of my life. I have been an interested observer, active political worker, candidate for Congress, campaign manager for a candidate for governor, a Democratic Party advocate, an elected member of the Democratic State Central Committee, and now the State Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee. I look on my political activities as an extension of community services. I believe that every person has a duty to become active in support of political candidates and causes to assure that we have efficient, honest and effective governmental institutions. There have been miserably few financial rewards in politics, but the ability to work in behalf of others and to influence public service programs is adequate compensation for all of time and energy devoted to political activities.

Participation in numerous civic and community service activities has perhaps given me greatest satisfaction and has certainly helped me to develop into a more understanding citizen and neighbor. Each assignment with a civic or community activity has made it possible for me to share my energies and contribute something to my community. I have had the good fortune to serve as President of the Y.M.C.A., the Young Men's Business Club, the Mental Health Association, the Tuberculosis Society; as an active member of the board for Boy Scouts, Salvation Army, Camp Fire Girls, an orphanage, United Givers and several others; and to be an active member of numerous civic and community organizations and activities. I am also a member of East Gate Masonic Lodge No. 452, Jerusalem Temple, Baton Rouge Shrine Club and am a member of Broadmoor Baptist Church and served as member of its Board of Trustees.

While I have always seemed to be engaged in more activities than I could reasonably cope with, I am possibly busier today than at any time in my life. As a member of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education I am involved in several exceedingly important phases of elementary, secondary and vocational education. This public office could absorb all my time if I should permit it. The chairmanship of the Democratic Party in Louisiana is equally demanding, particularly at this time when we are in the process of nominating a president. Additionally, I am presently serving in two fund raising campaigns; serving on advisory committees in health, fund raising, city planning and alumni affairs; and on the Board of Directors of Baton Rouge Bank. Fortunately, my professional consultation work has continued with reasonable success in spite of my continuing religious, civic and political activities. Involvement in community and public affairs continues to be exceedingly exciting and challenging.



Ruth Bankston, 1976



Jesse H. Bankston
1976