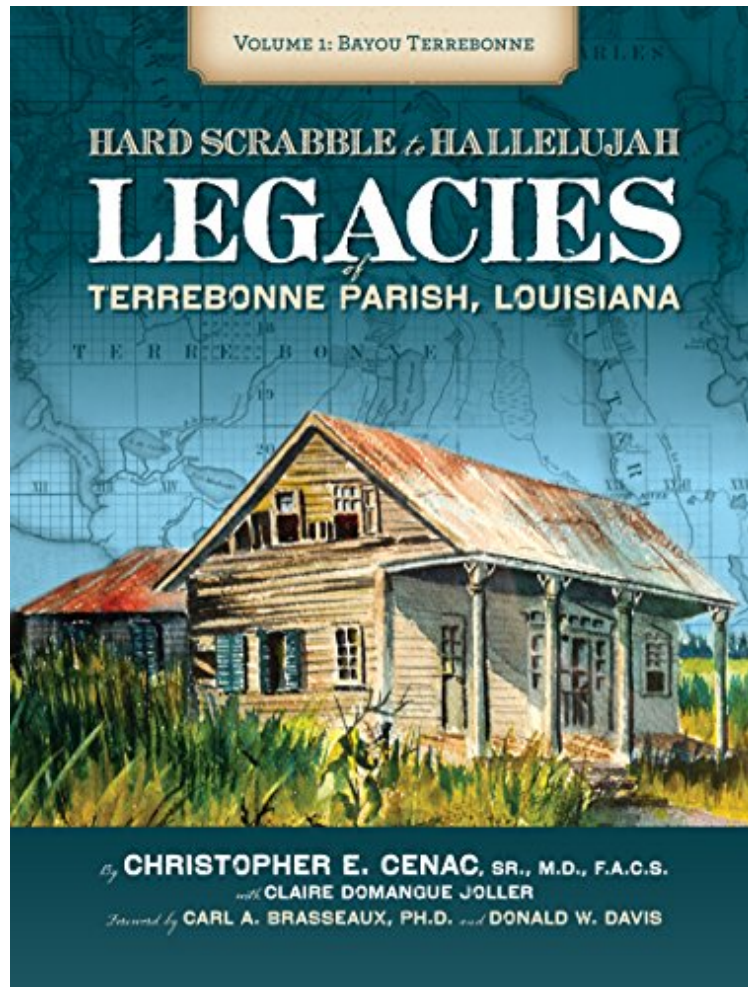


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Hard Scrabble to Hallelujah, Volume 1: Bayou Terrebonne: Legacies of Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana (America's Third Coast Series)

Christopher Everette Cenac

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Christopher Everette Cenac : Hard Scrabble to Hallelujah, Volume 1: Bayou Terrebonne: Legacies of Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana (America's Third Coast Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hard Scrabble to Hallelujah, Volume 1: Bayou Terrebonne: Legacies of Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana (America's Third Coast Series):

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If ever there was a comprehensive and massive compilation of information on the true culture and history of Terrebonne Parish, it is this book. Dr. Cenac celebrates the area's ethnic, economic, geographic and cultural diversity with carefully tooled words and rich images, bringing it to life in a way I have never before witnessed. The complexity of the region, its people and structures are addressed head-on, and not told but shown, unmistakably stark and honestly reflective in manner. This is not an inexpensive volume; its value is undeniably apparent and it begs to be savored over many leisurely sittings. It is without doubt a masterpiece.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. who developed estates that would become our great sugar plantations

By Beks Langus

Hard Scrabble to Hallelujah by Christopher Everette Cenac, Sr., M.D., F.A.C.S. has been published by the University Press of Mississippi and includes over 1,370 black and white and color illustrations. The illustrations enhance the text and offer readers a unique and historically accurate glimpse of the history and historical figures of Terrebonne Parish. Dr. Cenac is well-versed in the history of this parish as a resident, knowing the home of his ancestors, and as the author of two other books about Terrebonne: *Eyes of an Eagle: Jean-Pierre Cenac, Patriarch: An Illustrated History of Early Houma-Terrebonne* and *Livestock Brands and Marks: An Unexpected Bayou Country History 1822-1946, Pioneer Families: Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana*. The stories included about the first settlers to this area, who developed estates that would become our great sugar plantations, are uniquely fascinating. Equally noteworthy are the descriptions of the geography and the unique conditions that made this area appealing to these settlers. The details included in this book reinforce the notion that Louisiana has always been and remains unlike any other place in the world: beautiful, mysterious, wild and welcoming to strangers. As a former resident of Terrebonne Parish and a lover of Louisiana, I found myself constantly going back to the photographs to study the details, going back in time in my mind to what things might have been like for the settlers along the magnificent Bayous of South Louisiana. The names and the places left behind from this historic time are our lasting reminder, as is this book. I'm so grateful that Dr. Cenac, Sr. wrote a book that adds so much to the collective memory of the great State of Louisiana. It is a beautiful tribute to his hometown and his ancestors, but also to Louisiana herself, a state that is both complicated and simple at the same time. *Hard Scrabble to Hallelujah* is the first in a four volume series that studies the history, geography, and culture of Terrebonne Parish and those dwelling along Bayou Terrebonne. *Hard Scrabble to Hallelujah* is a beautifully crafted book and would enhance anyone's collection on the history of Terrebonne parish and its peoples. It has also been nominated to be the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Book of the Year for 2016. It is important to note that *Eyes of an Eagle: Jean-Pierre Cenac, Patriarch: An Illustrated History of Early Houma-Terrebonne* was the selected book of the Louisiana Bicentennial Commission and *Livestock Brands and Marks: An Unexpected Bayou Country History 1822-1946, Pioneer Families: Terrebonne Parish* was the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Book of the Year for 2014.

This book represents the first time that the known history and a significant amount of new information has been compiled into a single written record about one of the most important eras in the south central coastal bayou parish of Terrebonne. The book makes clear the unique geographical, topographical, and sociological conditions that beckoned the first settlers who developed the large estates that became sugar plantations. This first of four planned volumes chronicles details about founders and their estates along Bayou Terrebonne from its headwaters in the northern civil parish to its most southerly reaches near the Gulf of Mexico. Those and other parish plantations along important waterways contributed significantly to the dominance of King Sugar in Louisiana. The rich soils and opportunities of the area became the overriding reason many well-heeled Anglo-Americans moved there to join Francophone locals in cultivating the crop. From that nineteenth century period up to the twentieth century's side effects of World Wars I and II, *Hard Scrabble to Hallelujah, Volume I: Bayou Terrebonne* describes important yet widely unrecognized geography and history. Today, cultural and physical legacies such as ex-slave-founded communities and place names endure from the time that the planter society was the driving economic force of this fascinating region.