

THE ELIJAH L.--IRENE M. FOGLEMAN FAMILY

In 1890 Dock C. Lord married Ella Eva Fogleman, eldest daughter of Elijah Louis (Lige) and Irene Montgomery Fogleman.¹

The Foglemans were of German origin (the name meaning Birdman in that language) and some of them came to Pennsylvania in the German migration to that colony in the eighteenth century.² From Pennsylvania some of the Foglemans moved south and southwest. George and Sarah Hoozers Fogleman, the grandparents of Elijah Louis,³ had lived in Pennsylvania, Virginia and probably North Carolina before settling in Louisiana. They moved into Louisiana at least by 1805, the year in which Louis Fogleman, the father of Elijah, was born.⁴

George Fogleman settled on and claimed 160 acres of United States government land on the west bank of the Atchafalaya River in St. Landry Parish. He cultivated some of this tract about 1808-09, but apparently moved to another place without taking further steps to establish ownership of it. George Fogleman and his son John were soldiers in the War of 1812.⁵ In 1817 George cleared and cultivated about five acres of a 640-acre tract on the west side of Calcasieu River about two miles above Charles Lake. His claim to this land was rejected on evidence that he had abandoned it in February, 1819. The George Fogleman family had in the meantime been living in St. Landry Parish.⁶ At some time they settled in the vicinity of Holmerville, a village on Bayou Boeuf near the southwest Avoyelles Parish border with St. Landry Parish, a few miles down the bayou from the present town of Bunkie. For years afterward members of the Fogleman family continued to live in that area, in both St. Landry and Avoyelles Parishes.⁷

1 Lists of births, deaths and marriages.

2 Ralph B. Strassburger and William J. Hinke, Pennsylvania German Pioneers (Norristown, Pa.: Pennsylvania German Society, 1966), Vol. I, pp. 244, 245, 418, 454; U. S. Census, Pennsylvania, Northampton County, Salisbury Township, 1790, p. 179.

3 Marriage licenses of Thomas Shaw-Elizabeth Fogleman (1819) and Louis Fogleman-Clarissa McDaniel (1833), Office of Clerk of Court, St. Landry Parish, Opelousas, La.; Clarissa McDaniel Bible record; Ella Fogleman Lord to the author, Mar. 22, 1950.

4 Marriage licenses of James Armstrong-Sally Fogleman (1816) and John Fogleman-Sally Sandifer (1819), St. Landry Parish; U. S. Census, North Carolina, Orange County, 1790, p. 95; Louisiana, Avoyelles Parish, 1850, Vol. 1, p. 138, John Fogleman family, St. Landry Parish, 1850, Vol. 9, p. 33, Louis Fogleman family. George and Sarah Fogleman are known to have had at least one other son, John, two daughters, Sally and Elizabeth, and possibly other children (Marriage licenses, St. Landry Parish; U. S. Census, La., Avoyelles Parish, 1820, Microfilm roll No. 31, p. 11).

5 Conveyance Records, St. Landry Parish, Aug. 19, 1820, Vol. E, p. 314; Edward E. Hill, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D. C., to the author. Sept. 20, 1972; Marion J. B. Pierson, Louisiana Soldiers in the War of 1812, p. 46.

6 Asbury Dickens and James G. Allen (eds.), American State Papers, Documents of the Congress of the United States in Relation to the Public Lands (Washington: 1859), Vol. IV, p. 138, No. 256; Marriage licenses of James Armstrong-Sally Fogleman and Thomas Shaw-Elizabeth Fogleman, St. Landry Parish.

7 Solomon Northup, Twelve Years a Slave, edited by Sue Eakin and Joseph Logsdon (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968), pp. 115, 117.

George Fogleman's son Louis married Clarissa, a daughter of John McDaniel, in March, 1833. Elijah Louis (Lige) Fogleman was born to this union, April 22, 1841.⁸ Louis and Clarissa Fogleman had another son, who was killed in being thrown from a horse. The mother, Clarissa, also died while Lige was in young boyhood.⁹ Shortly before Lige was nine, his father married a widow, Ann Bell, with three children ranging in age between eight and twelve. This union was probably followed by family friction, for Lige apparently did not continue to live in the home. He roamed around and lived part of the time with Indians, who trained him to hunt.¹⁰

Although German in name and ancestry, Elijah Louis Fogleman was more Irish than German in features and temperament, and was said to have been one-fourth Irish. His Irish blood probably was derived from both his mother and the O'Quin family to whom the Foglemans were related. Lige Fogleman was small in stature with reddish brown hair and (in maturity) red mustache and beard, a man of fiery temper and keen sense of humor.¹¹

In June, 1861, at the age of twenty, Elijah together with his cousins Isaiah and George Fogleman enlisted in Company F, 8th Louisiana Infantry Regiment, at Camp Moore in St. Helena Parish for service in the Confederate Army.¹² The 8th Regiment with others served in Virginia and together made up the Louisiana Brigade. Under the command of General Richard (Dick) Taylor the Louisiana Brigade was distinguished for its fighting in "Stonewall" Jackson's famous Shenandoah Valley Campaign,¹³ and as a part of the Army of Northern Virginia took part in the major battles of the war.¹⁴

131 note; U. S. Census, La., St. Landry Parish, 1850, Vol. 9, p. 33, 1860, Vol. 9, pp. 933, 967; Avoyeles Parish, 1820, Microfilm roll No. 31, p. 11, 1830, Microfilm roll No. 44, p. 203, 1850, Vol. 1, p. 138, 1860, Vol. 1, p. 393.

8 Marriage license of Louis Fogleman-Clarissa McDaniel, St. Landry Parish; List of births and deaths; Roberta Lord Bergman, Corrigan, Texas, to the author, Feb. 8, 1938.

9 Statements of Ella F. Lord. Elijah's brother was riding John Shaw's horse while John walked home with his girl friend. The horse became frightened, threw, and killed the boy (account given by Ella F. Lord).

10 U. S. Census, La., St. Landry Parish, 1850, Vol. 9, p. 33, Louis Fogleman family; Marriage license of Louis Fogleman and "Barbery Ellen Richardson, widow of Grimbel Bell," St. Landry Parish; Lois Fogleman Gordon, Morrow, La., to the author, June 19, 1971. Elijah Louis Fogleman's name was not included in the census enumeration of the family in 1850 nor in that of any other household of St. Landry or Avoyelles Parish in 1850 and 1860 (Sadye Giller, Washington, D. C., to the author, April 19, 1971).

11 Statements of Ella F. Lord and Louis Fogleman; Recollections of the author.

12 Andrew B. Booth (compiler), Records of Louisiana Confederate Soldiers and Louisiana Confederate Commands (3 Vols.; New Orleans: Commissioner of Louisiana Military Records, 1920), Vol. II, p. 879; John D. Winter, The Civil War in Louisiana (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1963), p. 22.

13 G. F. R. Henderson, Stonewall Jackson and the American Civil War (2 vols.; New York: Longmans, Green and Co., 1926), Vol. I, pp. 309, 311; John Esten Cook, The Life of Stonewall Jackson (New York: Charles B. Richardson, 1863), pp. 188-190.

14 War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate

"Little Lige," as he was called in the army, was wounded in the left arm at Marye's Hill, May 4, 1863, in the Chancellorsville Campaign, and was captured at Rappahannock, November 7 of that year, but was exchanged back into the Confederate forces in March, 1864. Lige may have made a trip home in the spring and summer of 1864, for he was absent without leave from April 20 to August 31. He was paroled at Washington, Louisiana, June 21, 1865.¹⁵

Nothing is known of Lige Fogleman's activities after the war until his marriage, but he was probably engaged in farming either on his own or for someone else, and in timber and other job work. He was nearly twenty-nine when he and Irene Montgomery married in January, 1870.¹⁶

Irene Louvillia Christina Montgomery was about ten years younger than Elijah Louis Fogleman. She was the youngest child of John and Emilie Gay Montgomery, born January 25, 1851, near Whiteville in St. Landry Parish, some miles down Bayou Boeuf from Holmesville. John Montgomery and wife were natives of Georgia and were of the Southern planter class, in 1860 owning real estate valued at \$16,000 and personal estate, \$8,000, consisting mainly of fifteen slaves.¹⁷ Irene Montgomery Fogleman was a woman of above average intelligence and became a stabilizing influence in her family. Like many women of her time, she dipped snuff.¹⁸

The wealth of the Montgomerys, as that of other Southerners, was of course largely lost as a result of the Civil War. Louisiana and the other Southern states were now under Carpetbag-Scalawag-Negro governments, supported by federal troops, and many of the Southern white men were banding together in secret organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan to intimidate the Negroes and prevent them from voting. Some Klansmen resorted to acts of violence,¹⁹ and it was reported that hot-headed Lige Fogleman was involved in these activities, and that to escape the federal officers he moved across the border into Texas.²⁰

Armies, Series 1, Vol. 19, Part 1, p. 806; Vol. 25, Part 1, p. 792; Vol. 27, Part 2, p. 285; Vol. 36, Part 1, p. 1023; Vol. 52, Part 2, p. 1216. In 1863 and 1864 Brigadier-General Harry T. Hayes commanded the Louisiana Brigade. In Jackson's Valley Campaign the brigade was a part of General R. S. Ewell's division. Later General Jubal Early was the division commander (Ibid.).

¹⁵ Lois F. Gordon to the author, June 19, 1971, Feb. 15, 1972; Booth, Louisiana Confederate Soldiers and Confederate Commands, Vol. II, p. 879; Henderson, Stonewall Jackson, Vol. II, pp. 462-463. In battle Lige Fogleman was a good soldier. He continued firing his musket for some time after he was wounded (Statement of Henry Rutledge reported by Ernest Fogleman, interview, Nov. 8, 1972).

¹⁶ List of births, deaths and marriages; License and marriage record of Elijah Louis Fogleman and Irene L. C. Montgomery, St. Landry Parish.

¹⁷ List of births, deaths and marriages; Interview with John and Allie Keller Fogleman, Apr. 26, 1972; U. S. Census, La., St. Landry Parish, 1850, Vol. 9, p. 33, 1860, Vol. 9, p. 935, 1860 Slave Schedule, Vol. 4., p. 128. John and Emilie Montgomery had nine other children: Viny, Lucendy, Mary, John, Martha, Thomas, William, Charles and Alfred (Census, 1850, 1860). Either Viny, Lucendy, or Martha was called "Liza" (Recollections of the author).

¹⁸ Statements of Ella F. Lord; Recollections of the author.

¹⁹ John D. Hicks, George E. Mowry and Robert E. Burke, The American Nation, Fourth Edition (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1963), pp. 32-33, 35, 36-37, 39-40.

²⁰ Interview with Ernest Fogleman, Mar. 21, 1974, reporting statements of Louis Fogleman.

Whether of not this was the moving incentive, Lige migrated with his wife and baby daughter Ella Eva across the Sabine River, probably in 1872. It is not known where they at first lived, but later the Fogleman home was somewhat between the village of Geneva, and the Chambers-Lord settlement. About 1896 or 1897 they moved into the immediate vicinity of the Lord and Chambers families.²¹

There were five daughters and two sons in the Fogleman family, born in the following order: Ella Eva, November 1, 1871; Willie I. (Irene?), November 1, 1873; Birta Zada, June 20, 1875; John O'Quin, November 8, 1877; Elijah Louis, April 2, 1880; Emily Clara (Ninnie), September 2, 1882; and Alpha Lillian, March 26, 1885.²²

From the first the family experienced the poverty of the Reconstruction period and never had much, for Lige Fogleman was not a good manager. The children worked hard, not only in their own crops, but also as hired hands hoeing and picking cotton for other farmers. The father worked much of the time on jobs off the farm, such as in stave timber (used in making barrels) and rail-splitting. In winter he liked to trap for the coon and mink, the hides of which were sold for their fur. Lige Fogleman was an excellent marksman and hunted the wild game that abounded in the woods. He is thought to have kept his Civil War musket and had other muzzle-loading guns. He also owned a Winchester that he had got from a sheriff of Sabine County.²³

In the 1890's, a few years after Ella Fogleman and Dock Lord had married, they gave twenty acres of their place to Ella's parents,²⁴ and the Fogleman family, with the help of neighbors, erected a single-pen log house with a back shed room built on. There were spaces between the wall logs that were later covered with slats. The log kitchen was separate and set several yards from the remainder of the house to lessen the danger of loss of the entire dwelling by fire in case the kitchen burned. The ground served as the floor for the kitchen. In the summer they often cooked out in the yard. For inside lighting at night they used long pine splinters stuck in the mud chimney fireplace. Hand-made pine boards were used for roofing, and when Lige Fogleman started to roof his kitchen, he nailed the boards first along the highest point (the comb), but when he started his second line of boards Lige saw that the water would run from above under the boards. Exclaiming, "Ah, that infernal thing!" he started anew, beginning along the eave of the roof. "Infernal" was his cuss word. The family was always poor. When John graduated from the school at Geneva in the 1890's he was to wear a white shirt, but his parents could not afford to buy even the cloth, so his mother made the shirt from a bed sheet. In June, 1906, it was reported to the church that the Fogleman family was in need. A collection was taken for them, which amounted to \$7.46.²⁵

Willie, the second daughter, had married at about the age of fifteen, despite her parents' efforts to prevent it. She "run away" with Bill Neal, a widower much older than she, and the marriage was not successful. Bill

21 Statements of Ella F. Lord and John Fogleman; Recollections of the author.

22 Lists of births and deaths.

23 Interview with John Fogleman, Oct. 30, 1970; Statements of Ella F. Lord and Louis Fogleman; Recollections of the author; Lois F. Goadon to the author, June 19, 1971.

24 Statements of D. C. and Ella F. Lord.

25 Statements of Louis Fogleman reported in Lois F. Gordon to the author, Nov. 11, 1971; Interview with Louis Fogleman; New Hope Church Records.

was said to have mistreated Willie and the family brought her back home. Once when Neal came to see Willie, her father with gun in hand stopped him at the yard gate, saying he would shoot if Neal came inside. He never came in. The girl died, October 30, 1889, in giving birth to a son, who was perhaps injured at birth and was abnormal, though he could partially take care of himself. He was named Willie (Will), after his mother.²⁶

On one occasion two men had a disagreement with Lige Fogleman and threatened him with a gun. He was unarmed and grabbed up a pine knot telling them to come on. They did not attack. Lige was usually good-humored and not one with whom it was difficult to deal, but when aroused he was furious and fearless.²⁷ The mother of the family, Irene Montgomery Fogleman, was a capable and conscientious woman, and all the family were members of the Baptist Church. Ella was much like her mother, but with a tincture of her father's humor and temper. Birta was tender-hearted and self-sacrificing. John, serious and studious, became a successful school teacher and preacher. Louis was wild and reckless, given to foolishness and joking, but nevertheless developed good management and leadership qualities. Had he been in west Texas, Louis would have been an outstanding cowboy and ranchman; in the army, he would have been a dashing cavalryman. Ninnie had an impediment in speech, due to an abscess or ulcer in her throat. She was not sent to school, and never learned to read or write. Thus, with an inferiority complex, Nin became dependent on other members of the family. Alpha, the youngest, had a voice and ear for music, and later led the singing in church services. On once hearing a song, Alpha could remember the tune and Birta could recall the words, so at work on Monday they would practice the new song they had heard in church Sunday. They and Louis also knew and sang many of the old love songs and other folk melodies that circulated through the country.²⁸

Alpha, like Willie, married contrary to her parents' wishes. In 1904 she ran away with Robert, a son of T. S. ("Bud") Brittain. Robert was unfaithful to Alpha, becoming involved in an affair with Fannie Dorsey, a daughter of John and Winnie Dorsey. This broke up the marriage.²⁹

Meantime, by the late 1890's Lige Fogleman was losing some of his former strength, and perhaps not feeling well when one day he told John not to do something. John, who was now a grown young man, nevertheless went ahead and his father became enraged and threw a chair at him. He left home and went to South Louisiana, probably to some relatives of the family.³⁰ John returned after some months and later he and Louis went to Louisiana together.

26 Statements of Ella F. Lord and Louis Fogleman; Recollections of the author.

27 Account given by Louis Fogleman; Statement from John Fogleman.

28 Statements of Ella F. Lord and Irene Lord; Recollections of the author. Alpha, Birta, Louis and their friend June Smith sang two or three "Weeping Willow" songs, "The Red River Valley," "The Prisoner's Song" and many others. "Oh, bury me 'neath the weeping willow, 'neath the weeping willow tree; And when he [or she] knows that I am sleeping, Oh then perhaps he'll think of me" (Recollections of the author).

29 Statements of Ella F. and D. C. Lord; Recollections of the author; Conveyance Records, Sabine County, Vol. 8, p. 210. Soon afterward Fannie was washing at a spring and a tree fell and killed her. This was regarded by some as the judgment of God for her part in the affair (Recollections of author)

30 Account given by Alpha F. Shuff to Irene Lord; Interview with Ira Chambers, Aug 12, 1966,

In 1899 John married Allie Keller, sixteen-year-old daughter of Willie Keller of Big Cane, St. Landry Parish, after a courtship of a few months.³¹

Louis and Allie's sister Lula fell in love a little later, but Mr. and Mrs. Keller objected because they regarded Louis as too wild. He would sometimes take a drink, race his horse up and down the road and shoot off his pistol. Louis and Lula, now about sixteen, planned a run-away wedding in 1901. Dressed in his wedding suit, Louis went to the home of his brother John to borrow a buggy, but no one was at home and just as he was knocking at the door a big mad dog ran up on the porch (gallery") and attacked him. With his bare hands Louis fought the beast jumping at his throat for what seemed a terribly long time, and finally with a desperate shove got the dog turned away from him to run off in another direction. Louis's wedding suit was badly torn and his skin pinched in numerous places. The skin, however, was not broken anywhere and the doctor, who was consulted later, thought there was no danger of him taking hydrophobia, which the dog was found to have had. Shortly after this encounter with the dog, John had Louis burn his clothes and bathe, and loaned him a suit. He went on, met Lula and they were married.³²

Perhaps Louis was uncertain as to just when his and Lula's run-away wedding could be arranged, for he had made a date with a girl at Whiteville. So he decided he should fill this date, and a week after he was married went to see the girl. It is not known what he told her or whether he told Lula anything! Always full of his humor, Louis told some amusing stories of his and John's early experiences in Louisiana. Once while travelling and desperately hungry they stopped at a barn to rest their horses. Both of them spied a raw sweet potato at the same time and in the wild scramble for it John got the potato. Again on short rations, John borrowed the last nickel Louis had to buy him some cakes, and since he would pay the five cents back, John didn't give Louis any of the cakes! As Louis told it, he never got his nickel back. En route to Texas in 1902, they were pursued one night along a woods road by a group of Redbones. Finally a rainstorm intervened and they found refuge in a barn.³³

Within the first years of the new century the mother of the Fogleman family became increasingly crippled with rheumatism (rheumatoid arthritis), and soon had to begin using a wheelchair.³⁴ The father of the family also continued to wane in strength. Their sons John and Louis were now living in Louisiana, and Ella, Dock Lord and children moved to that state about the first of 1902. So, with the family ties in their native state increasing and dependence on their children also increasing, Lige and Irene Fogleman went back to Louisiana, probably near the end of 1906.³⁵ About the time he was

31 Account given by John and Allie Fogleman.

32 Account given by Louis Fogleman; Allie K. Fogleman to the author, Jan. 18, 1971; Lois F. Gordon to the author, June 19, 1971. It was a bulldog belonging to Jack Pickett and had got out of a chicken coop into which Pickett had put it. The bulldog strikes for the throat of its prey rather than other parts of the body, so Louis did not have his flesh torn (Lois F. Gordon to the author Jun. 19, 1971).

33 Lois F. Gordon to the author Nov. 11, 1971; Experiences related by Louis Fogleman. The Redbones are a mixed-blood people, supposed to have generated through intermarriage between Indians, mulatto Negroes and lower-class whites (Thomas Lynn Smith and Homer L. Hitt, The People of Louisiana [Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1952], p. 45; Brewton Perry, Almost White [New York: MacMillan Co., 1963], pp. 27-28; Newsweek [Dayton, Ohio], Mar. 30, 1953).

34 Interview with Allie K. Fogleman, Apr. 26, 1972; and with Irene Lord, July 14, 1972; Photograph of Fogleman and D. C. Lord families, 1902, p. 40.

35 Recollections of the author and of Irene Lord; John and Allie K. Fogleman to the author, Jan. 18, 1971; Conveyance Records, Sabine County, Vol. W, p. 631.

