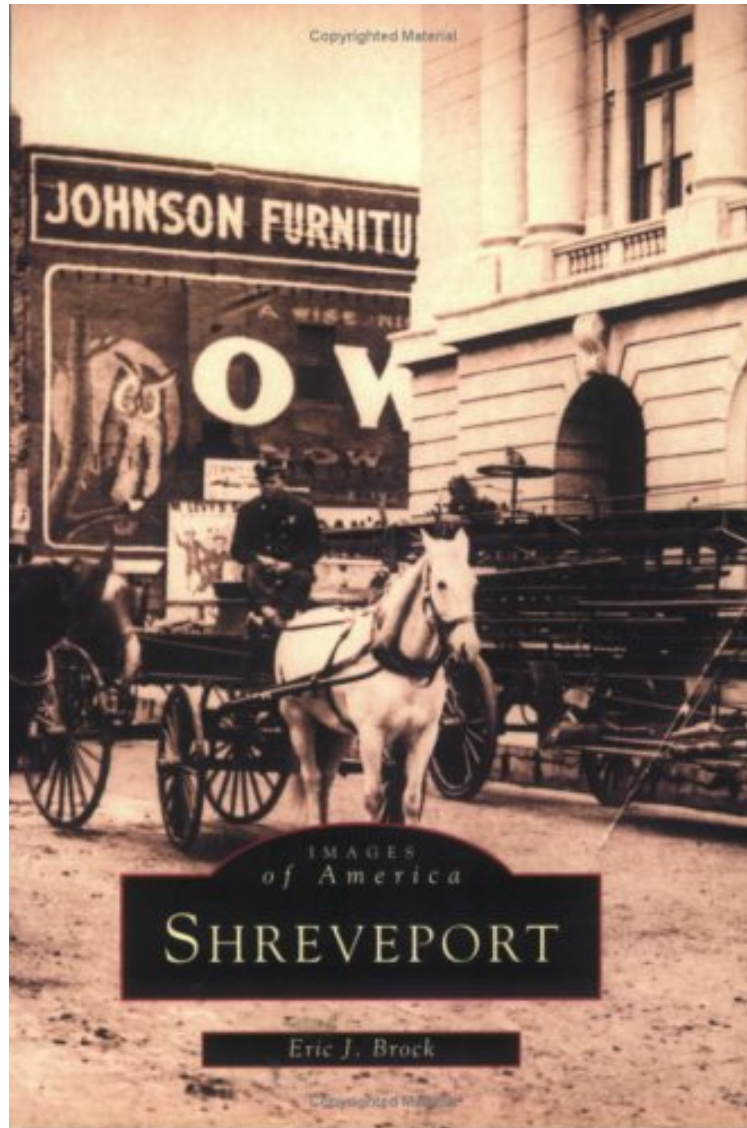


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## Shreveport

*Eric J. Brock*

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#4497227 in Books Arcadia Pub 1999-03 Original language: English 9.50 x 6.75 x .501, #File Name: 0752412450128 pages | File size: 65.Mb

**Eric J. Brock : Shreveport** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shreveport:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Shreveport ImagesBy SuzThis was an interesting book. There were lots of pics but not as much written info. as I would have liked.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A photographic history of my hometownBy Judy K. PolhemusMention Eric J. Brock's name in Shreveport and almost anyone can identify him as "the history guy." Local history has been his passion since he was a child, so compiling this book of photographs detailing the history of Shreveport for the Images of America was a work of love."Shreveport

was born about the same time as photography," is the first sentence, but Brock laments the lack of early photographs. The ones that make up this book come largely from his own collection, which began with several early photos shot by Bill Grabill of Grabill Studios, founded by his father in 1918. History has a way of beginning auspiciously. Capt. Henry Miller Shreve, one of the most influential navigators of the 19th century, invented what he called a snagboat which broke up logjams. The Red River in the 1830's was beset by a 180-mile logjam. Once this jam was opened, the area now known as Shreveport was right on a crosshairs path for prosperity: located where the area meets the old Texas Trail (roughly Interstate 20 today) and Red River, then as now open to river traffic to New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico. Capt. Shreve and his company established the westernmost city in the United States in 1836 with Shreve Town, later renamed Shreveport. Shreve himself never lived here, choosing St. Louis instead. As Brock points out, Shreveport has always been a city of contradictions, e.g., a city of many religious structures, but home to the largest (and legal) redlight district in the nation in its time. In addition to a number of photographs of the logjam, an early photograph shows the first mayor, John Octavius Sewall in 1839. His significance is for a friend through who lives in Maine. Yes, Linda, Sewall was a Maine native and our first mayor! Exemplifying Shreveport's early religious diversity is a photo showing parts of St. Mary's Convent, B'nai Zion Temple, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and First Methodist Church. Only the convent is no longer in existence. If you ever go through one of the museums in New Orleans depicting the cotton and paddleboat industry, you will see something similar to this photo of men standing over their cotton bales (c1880), waiting for their transfer to steamboats to New Orleans. Caddo Parish was the largest producer of cotton in Louisiana during the 19th century. An early engraving shows tar being burned to fight the yellow fever plague of 1873, during which time the city's population was reduced by 25 percent. A photograph marks the grave of Mary Doal Cilley Cane, "the Mother of Shreveport," the first white woman who set foot in Shreveport. She founded Cane City, later renamed Bossier City, just across Red River from Shreveport, and was married to two of Shreveport's founders, William Smith Bennett and James Huntington Cane. Brock includes an impressive array of old, most now demolished, a few still standing, imposing residences built in downtown Shreveport. One which caught my eye is the E.B. Herndon house located at 947 Jordan St., site of my school, St. John Berchmans Catholic School. The original Herndon House was built in 1875, remodeled in 1897 with a second story addition, then demolished and St. John's built. Truman Capote's father, Arch Persons, lived in Shreveport, and is shown with little Truman Persons on his lap. The writer later took his stepfather's name. Another person of note is Van Cliburn, one of the nation's premier pianists, shown in concert with adoring female fans hugging the stagetop. A very historic photograph is this one: the roof garden of the Washington-Youree Hotel in 1924. Perry Como made his radio debut from here. In its heyday the hotel took up three-fourths of a city block, had seven restaurants and a multitude of other shops and amenities. The hotel was imploded in 1980. The final two photos show Brock's vision of Shreveport. One is a 1920s view of Betty Virginia Park, typifying "the natural beauty" of Shreveport, its "beautiful, lush foliage and tranquil scenery." The other is modern-angles and verticals of buildings downtown, which Brock calls, "the heart of Shreveport both spiritually and economically."

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent pictorial journey  
By James S Walker  
Mr. Brock has gathered from many sources to compile this history of an oft-forgotten great city of the South. From clearing log jams and beginnings of settlement in the 1850's, to the casino playground of the 1990's, this work provides a glimpse into the transformation of a rural port into a thriving center of commerce.

Shreveport, Louisiana, is a town with a history as fascinating as it is long. From the settlement of the area at the start of the nineteenth century, through the city's founding in 1836, to Shreveport's role as state capital during the Civil War, up until its present-day role as one of Louisiana's leading cities, figures ranging from snagboat operators to Huey P. Long have worked, lived, and played in this city by the Red River.

About the Author  
In Shreveport, well-known regional historian and author Eric J. Brock has compiled over 200 images, many of which have never been published, largely from his own private collection, and coupled them with illuminating text which vividly brings to life the town's rich heritage. Mr. Brock, writer of the local history column *The Presence of the Past*, gives the reader profiles of such prominent citizens as Captain Henry Miller Shreve, for whom the city was named, as well as detailed information on the city's civic heritage, commerce and residential life, and culture and entertainment. Whether one is a lifelong resident familiar with all the history Shreveport has to offer, or a newcomer to the area looking to discover the heritage of this grand old city, Shreveport has something for everyone.