

Matters of Fact

Madison Parish is located in northeast Louisiana in the Mississippi Delta on Interstate 20 and Hwys 80 and 65. The Madison Parish port provides access to the Mississippi River. The Delta Southern and Kansas City Southern railroads also service the parish. Geographically, the parish is within a 500 mile radius of: New Orleans (247), Nashville (441), Memphis (273), Houston (363), Dallas (341), Birmingham (302) and Atlanta (455).

Tallulah (pop. 7,335) the parish seat is located 60 miles east of Monroe, 18 miles west of Vicksburg, MS and 60 miles west of Jackson, MS and intersected by Hwys 80 and 65. Delta (birth place of Madame C. J. Walker, first Black self-made female millionaire in U.S.), Mound, and Richmond are the three other incorporated areas in Madison Parish, all of which are next to the interstate, railroad and Vicksburg-Tallulah Regional Airport.

The economy of Madison Parish (pop. 13,728) is agriculturally based, though farming is not a major employer due to advances in farm technology and machinery.

The Madison Parish Public School District, the Louisiana Transitional Center for Women, Great Day Inc., Complex Chemicals, Terral River Services, health care facility providers, and retail business are the largest employers in the parish.



Tallulah of Madison Parish *Fests and Fun*

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade
Legal Holiday

Teddy Bearfest
2nd Saturday in October

National Hunting and Fishing Day
3rd Saturday in September
Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge

**Bayou Christmas Tree Lighting
Parade and Fireworks**
1st Saturday in December



For information on lodging, food and gaming activities call 1-888-774-8410



**Madison Parish
Tourism Commission**
305 Dabney Street
Tallulah, LA 71282
318-574-8519

Tallulah of Madison Parish *Crossroads of the Delta*



**Compliments of
Madison Parish Tourism Commission**

Things to do and See

Tallulah was founded in 1853. It is the parish seat for Madison Parish. At one time the parish seat was Richmond. When Richmond was destroyed, it was moved to Delta in 1877 and then to Tallulah in 1887.



Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge



and visitors center is open to the public and boasts a nationally recognized environmental and educational programs and wildlife museums. A forest of bottom land and hardwoods once covered a million acres in the Mississippi Valley. Today there are more than 5 million acres. The 10,000 acres within Tensas River National Refuge is the largest remaining tract of forest. The refuge provides food and shelter for more that 400 species of wildlife, including: Louisiana Black Bear, bobcat, wild turkey, wood duck, otter, raccoon, mink, squirrel, white-tail deer and alligator. The Refuge is home to the black bear killed by Teddy Roosevelt in 1907.

Grant's Canal is at the foot of the Vicksburg Bridge between U.S. 80 and I-20. This was one of four attempts to change the flow of the Mississippi River to land lock and neutralize the city of Vicksburg during the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln said: "Vicksburg is the key supply route. This war can never be won until we halt that key." Brig. General T. Williams began work on a canal to divert the Mississippi River and by-pass Confederate Batteries in Vicksburg in 1862. Major General Ulysses S. Grant resumed work on the canal in January 1863. Rapid progress was made until a sudden drop in the Mississippi left the canal above river stage. The canal was dug deeper. However, an equally sudden rise in the river collapsed the dam and filled the canal with sediment and backwater. Grant abandoned the canal in March. The Union Forces finally cut the Confederate supply route and Vicksburg fell July 4, 1863.



The Battle of Milliken's Bend played an important role in our nation's history. In the spring of 1863 it became the focal point of the Civil War. Major general U. S. Grant had concentrated a large army along the Louisiana side of the Mississippi river in preparation for his movement against the Confederate Bastion of Vicksburg. One of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War that was fought by a Black Infantry, out numbered and ill-trained for battle, the Black Soldiers fought diligently and valiantly, but failed to overcome the Confederate Forces.

Scott Field is historically significant as the oldest general aviation airport in the State of Louisiana. The building was



In early 1920, the United States Experimental Station was established at Scott Field to eradicate the boll weevil which threatened the cotton industry. Former World War I pilots were enlisted to drop a powdered poison on the boll weevil from the air, or dust the cotton crops - crop dusting was first practiced in Madison Parish from Scott Field. One of the pilots was Col. Bert Coad. After flying people to other locations during his free time, he decided to start a small airline passenger service at Scott Field. That small passenger service became Delta Airlines. The present owner of Scott Field is pilot Steve Gustafuson. His stunt-pilot father was the world famous Merle Gustafson, who was also a Colonel in the Confederate Air Force and Hollywood stunt flyer.

Crescent Plantation is one of three plantation homes remaining in Madison Parish. It is estimated that as many as 70 plantation homes of Greek revival style existed before the Civil War.



Hermione Museum serves as a depository for the parish's history and it is listed as one of the sites on Louisiana's African American Heritage Trail showcasing the life and times of Madame C.J. Walker who was born in Delta, Louisiana and became the first female and African American self made millionaire in the U.S.

